

**For the Record – Press Statement**

<b>Publication and reporter</b>	Dudley News, Bev Holder
<b>Date of article</b>	12.12.17
<b>Headline</b>	<b>Dudley Group chief exec praises volunteer 4x4 drivers helping to keep hospital running in the snow</b>
<b>Paragraph/s relating to The Dudley Group</b>	<p>Dudley’s hospital chief has praised the efforts of kind-hearted volunteer drivers who have been braving snow clogged streets to transport doctors and nurses to and from Russells Hall Hospital.</p> <p>Big-hearted 4x4 drivers swung into action as appeals were issued on social media as the region was hit by an Arctic blast on Sunday.</p>
<b>Press enquiry</b>	Dudley News asked the Trust how we were coping with the snowy conditions, and asked for a comment on the help we received from big-hearted 4x4 owners who have been transporting doctors and nurses to work.
<b>Trust response</b>	
<p><b>COMMENT FROM DIANE WAKE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</b></p> <p>We are overwhelmed with the amount of support we have received from all the volunteers across the local community who have come forward to help transport our staff to and from work.</p> <p>We have received a huge amount of support from over 70 volunteers with 4x4 vehicles and the West Midlands 4x4 response team following a plea for help on social media. The volunteers are helping to keep our services running by making sure our staff can get to and from work. We are also very fortunate that staff at the Trust have made every effort to come into work as normal and our district nurses have been walking to patients’ homes where necessary.</p> <p>We have advised patients to attend their appointments as normal unless they have been contacted to say otherwise.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>*** ENDS ***</b></p> <p><b>Notes for editors</b> For further information please contact Chace Smith, Communications Assistant for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust via 01384 244403 or email <a href="mailto:communications@dgh.nhs.uk">communications@dgh.nhs.uk</a></p>	