

For the Record – Press Statement

Publication and reporter	Express & Star, Jamie Brassington
Date of article	07.03.18
Headline	NHS demands put trust £5m out of pocket
Paragraph/s relating to The Dudley Group	<p>A Black Country NHS Trust in £5 million in the red as it faces an increased demand on services.</p> <p>Health chiefs say spending on temporary staff at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley has contributed to the deficit.</p> <p>A report by The Dudley Group NHS Foundations Trust, which runs the facility, revealed a deficit of £5m, against a plan of £2m surplus, for the end of 2017.</p>
Press enquiry	<p>The Express & Star contacted The Dudley Group in relation to the Trust’s financial position published in the minutes from February’s board meeting. The minutes stated that the Trust’s year to date deficit was £5m.</p> <p>They asked the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why has the Trust posted a deficit? • Will this have an effect on hospital resources? • How is the Trust aiming to tackle this?
Trust response	
<p>COMMENT FROM DIANE WAKE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</p> <p>The financial target the Trust had agreed with NHS Improvement for this financial year was to end with a £2m surplus. This is now not achievable, in part due to extra demand for our emergency services and the staffing costs associated with providing that care. As at the end of December the trust had a deficit of £5m.</p> <p>The extra demand the NHS has experienced during the winter months meant in January all NHS providers were asked to reduce planned activity to cope with the emergency demand and this has a big impact on the income we received.</p> <p>Extra demand required more staff to look after patients and their safety is always an absolute priority. We always try and cover vacant shifts first from our own staff bank before employing agency or temporary staff.</p> <p>2018/19 will be very financially challenging but we are already putting actions in</p>	

place, including work with our partners across the Black country on procurement and further work on using the most cost effective drugs possible. We are also working to improve theatre efficiency and patient flow to ensure we run our services as efficiently as possible. We have had efficiency programmes that have delivered between £9-12m on an annual basis.

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Notes for editors

For further information please contact communications for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust via 01384 244403 or email dgft.communications@nhs.net