

For the Record – Press Statement

Publication and reporter	Express & Star, Marion Brennan
Date of article	10/03/2018
Headline	1,800 elderly patients discharged at night
Opening paragraph	<p>Almost 1,800 pensioners across the Black Country were discharged from hospital overnight – with many left to make their own way home, it has emerged.</p> <p>The figures show that the practice, criticised by a former NHS England boss, continues despite fears it could be dangerous for vulnerable elderly people.</p>
Paragraph relating to The Dudley Group	<p>The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust released 430 pensioners in the middle of the night – among them 111 who were over 85 years old.</p> <p>A Dudley Group spokesman said they ‘cannot identify if discharged to their home, to a nursing home, care home, rehabilitation, transferred, or whether their relatives were informed’.</p>
Press enquiry	<p>The Express & Star contacted the Trust following a Freedom of Information request in relation to the amount of patients (430) over the ages of 65 and 85 who were discharged from hospital at night between the hours of 10pm and 6am.</p> <p>The Trust was asked the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could the Trust comment on the figures? • Why do you discharge elderly people at night? • Is the Trust taking measures to ensure elderly people are not discharged at night anymore?
Trust response	
<p>COMMENT FROM DIANE WAKE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</p> <p>Patients are only discharged if they are medically fit and if it is safe to do so i.e. their usual place of residence will be assessed as safe and warm.</p> <p>The vast majority of our patients are discharged during the day and it is in exceptional circumstances that we discharge after 10pm. Some discharges are delayed to suit family circumstances.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*** ENDS ***</p>	

Notes for editors

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