

30<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Frailty unit in line for national award**

A seven-day service at Russells Hall Hospital for older people with urgent care needs has been shortlisted for a national award.

The Frailty Assessment Unit will find out on 18<sup>th</sup> November if it has won in the 'Care of Older People' category of the Nursing Times Awards 2020.

The unit was set up in October 2019 in response to the increasing number of older people attending emergency departments and accessing urgent health and social care services. The aim was to provide high quality, rapid, medical and nursing care for frail patients who would not benefit from being admitted as inpatients.

It helps to ensure that patients are seen in the right place, at the right time, by the right professional.

FAU is clinically led by a consultant geriatrician, and supported by a wide ranging multidisciplinary team including nurses, support workers, junior doctors, therapists, pharmacists and discharge co-ordinators. They work closely with the team on the hospital's frailty short stay ward for patients requiring admission into hospital, and also with community colleagues to ensure a seamless discharge back to the patient's preferred place of care.

Chief executive Diane Wake said: "We are so proud of our Frailty Assessment Unit for being shortlisted in this year's Nursing Times Awards.

"The unit delivers an exceptional level of care and compassion to our elderly patients, going above and beyond to ensure that they have a smooth discharge back to their preferred place of care.

"Older people are admitted to hospital more frequently, have longer length of stay and occupy more bed days in acute hospitals compared to other patient groups. Improving care for older people living with frailty is a priority in the national NHS Long Term Plan; identifying and targeting this high-risk cohort provides an opportunity to improve quality of care and optimise outcomes for a vulnerable population."

CAPTION

Members of the Frailty Assessment Unit multidisciplinary team

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Issued by the communications team at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.

Approved by: