

**For the Record – Press Statements**

<b>Publication</b>	The Dudley News
<b>Date of article</b>	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2014
<b>Reporter</b>	Staff reporter
<b>Headline</b>	<b>MP's concerns for orthodontics</b>
<b>First paragraph/s of article</b>	DUDLEY patients who need hospital orthodontic treatment could be sent to Birmingham after the closure of the clinic at Russells Hall.  The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has temporarily closed its service to new patients after being overwhelmed by referrals.
<b>Press enquiry</b>	The Dudley News contacted the Trust after hearing that The Dudley Group has stopped taking new referrals into orthodontic services.
<b>Trust response</b>	
<p><b>COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</b></p> <p>The Dudley Group has temporarily closed our orthodontic service to new patients. However, we would like to assure our existing patients undergoing treatment that their treatment plans will continue as normal.</p> <p>The decision to temporarily close the service to new referrals was taken because of a significant mismatch between demand and capacity: during the period 4<sup>th</sup> January 2013 to 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2014, we received approximately 1,058 new referrals.</p> <p>The service is led by a single consultant and, despite several attempts to recruit a second consultant orthodontist; we have been unable to do so. Unfortunately, this is in line with a national problem recruiting orthodontists.</p> <p>The decision was not taken lightly and the temporary closure of the service to new referrals will enable us to effectively manage our waiting list.</p> <p>Dudley dentists will still be able to refer their patients to other providers across Birmingham, Solihull and the Black Country.</p>	

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**Notes for editors**

For further information please contact Alice Ford, Communications Assistant, The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust on 01384 456111 extension 1419.