

For the Record – Press Statements

Publication	Dudley News
Date of article	16 th October 2013
Reporter	Martyn Smith
Headline	Bosses in dark over closure of physiotherapy services
First paragraph/s of article	Dudley’s Conservative leader has slammed borough health bosses after they admitted not knowing about big changes at medical centres.
Press enquiry	<p>The Dudley News has spoken to Dudley CCG and understands the Trust is proposing to reduce our physiotherapy services at GP practices from 19 to eight sites. They believe our proposal is to move the clinics to a central location.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which GP physio clinics are earmarked for closure? 2. Where would the clinics move to? 3. What would be our response to the suggestion that clinics would be less accessible for people especially those with mobility problems? 4. Can they have more clarification on the likelihood of North Dudley clinics reducing from 8 to 2 clinics? 5. What do we see as the benefits of reducing the clinics?
Trust response	
<p>COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</p> <p>The Dudley Group currently provides community physiotherapy services from 19 locations across the borough. Some of these clinics are only operational one morning or afternoon a week. Patients are currently offered the first available appointment which could be at any one of the 19 clinics.</p> <p>To improve the service we offer our patients, we have carried out a review of physiotherapy services taking into account the demand on clinics and where patients live and travel to attend their appointments.</p>	

As a result the Trust has submitted a proposal to Dudley CCG to reduce the number of locations to eight. This would enable us to offer an improved service with more appointment slots giving patients a choice of times as well as the bringing together of clinical staff with musculoskeletal expertise.

Overall these changes would reduce waiting times for patients and provide a more efficient and clinically-led service.

This proposal has been discussed with Dudley CCG who supports it in principle. The CCG would follow due consultation process before any changes take place.

ENDS

FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DUDLEY NEWS ARTICLE, THE TRUST ISSUED THE FOLLOWING:

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust strongly refutes the inaccurate and misleading claims reported in the press that we no longer provide community physiotherapy services in North Dudley.

We currently provide physiotherapy clinics in the following locations in the north of Dudley: Guest Outpatient Centre, Castle Meadows, Central Clinic, Northway and St James's Medical Practice.

Some clinics have transferred from their locations to the Guest Outpatient Centre for patient safety and environmental reasons. We have tried to ensure patients' treatment programmes were not adversely affected. We acknowledge these changes should have been communicated better and were not communicated to the CCG by ourselves.

As a result of these changes, waiting times for appointments have come down from eight weeks to two weeks.

These changes that have taken place since September are separate from the Trust's proposal submitted to the CCG to reduce the number of clinic locations from 19 to 8 to offer an improved service with more appointment slots. We would like to stress that no major changes to the service will take place without consulting with GPs and patients.

ENDS