

For the Record – Press Statements

Publication	Express & Star
Date of article	6 th January 2014
Reporter	Tim Spiers
Headline	Hospital accused of restraining patients
First paragraph/s of article	<p>A whistleblower has accused Dudley’s hospital trust of restraining patients against their will.</p> <p>Bosses at the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall, said they ‘emphatically refute’ claims that patients had been unlawfully restrained.</p>
Press enquiry	The Express & Star asked for a copy of our response to claims we have unlawfully restrained patients, printed in the Sunday Telegraph.
Trust response	
<p>COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</p> <p>We emphatically refute the suggestion that we have ever unlawfully restrained patients at The Dudley Group.</p> <p>The health and well being of our patients is our absolute priority and we always act in the best interests of our patients.</p> <p>It is our priority not to restrain patients. In the very small instances where this is necessary, it is to prevent harm to patients. We adopt a reasonable and proportionate approach that reflects our Restraint of Adult Patient Policy.</p> <p>Any kind of restraint is always reasonable and proportionate, and in line with our policy. Our policy has been held up as an example as good practice by our regional peer review of adult safeguarding. Indeed, we were asked to share our policy with other trusts.</p> <p>We continue to improve our practice and training around caring for patients who lack capacity either temporarily or ongoing.</p> <p>The Trust has never received, nor sought, legal advice on restraining patients. Any kind of restraint at the Trust is always reasonable and proportionate, and carried out in line with our policy.</p>	

The Trust's security is provided by our PFI partners Summit Healthcare via their contract with Interserve FM. Two years ago security staff working for Interserve FM expressed concern about being asked to restrain patients without a mental capacity assessment being carried out.

We took their concerns seriously and offered them our assurance that dynamic mental capacity assessments were always undertaken, and that no doctor, nurse or security guard was ever asked to restrain a patient without a proper assessment. However, we revised our policy at the time to make our processes more explicit.

The report you refer to was legal advice sought by Interserve FM and we were pleased to fully support them in seeking assurance around restraining patients.

However, we do not agree with Interserve FM's assertions made in the report; they are Interserve FM's interpretation of the situation. The conclusions in the report are based on inaccurate information supplied to their solicitors.

For further information please contact Jackie Dietrich, Communications Manager, The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust on 01384 2443034.

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