

PRESS RELEASE

29<sup>th</sup> October

### **Hospital governors celebrate three years of helping make a difference**

A trio of community-minded Halesowen residents are celebrating three years of helping to improve health services for the people of the town.

Jane Beard, Rob Johnson and John Balmforth have all served as Governors at The Dudley Group of Hospitals since it became a Foundation Trust in October 2008.

Governors represent the interest of the people in the area they serve and provide a vital link between the Trust and the communities it serves.

As well as gathering the views from local people and feeding that information back to the Trust, they also reflect the interests of the people they represent and work on their behalf to improve health services for the future.

Mr Balmforth, who retired a few years ago after a varied career in the police, the railways and the Inland Revenue, said being a Governor was a fascinating role.

“During my time as a Governor I’ve given talks to various groups about the role of the Trust, helped out at recruitment events and health fairs and accompanied Directors on walkrounds of wards to speak with nursing staff and patients about their experiences,” he said.

“I’ve also served on various committees, including the Appointments Committee which appoints the Chief Executive and the Non-Executives. It’s a fascinating role which gives me the opportunity to speak up for the people of Halesowen about the direction the Trust is moving in.

“Being a Foundation Trust gives patients a much better say in the way things are run and the service they want. It’s a real honour and privilege to be able to play a part in improving the health services for the people of Halesowen by being a Governor.

“All three of us, myself, Jane and Rob, are always available, and we can arrange to meet people at the hospital if that’s easier for them. We can be contacted by calling the Foundation Trust office on (01384) 456111 extension 1168.”

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For more information, please call Jonathan Wood, Communications Officer for The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, on (01384) 321064.

