

**For the Record – Press Statements**

<b>Publication</b>	Express and Star
<b>Date of article</b>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Reporter</b>	Heather Large
<b>Headline</b>	Hospital laundry jobs at risk in cost-cutting
<b>First paragraph/s of article</b>	<p>Up to 14 jobs are at risk under plans to axe the staff uniform laundry service as part of cost-cutting measures at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, it has emerged.</p> <p>Staff are being asked to wash their own uniforms instead as bosses bid to trim £15 million of their budgets by March next year. It comes as up to 64 positions are also under threat as part of proposals to reduce the opening hours of the canteen.</p>
<b>Press enquiry</b>	<p>A former governor has contacted the newspaper and told them about the restaurant change of hours and car parking charges rising.</p> <p><b>Question:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Can we confirm that this is true?</b></li> <li><b>2. Are these part of the plans to save £15 million?</b></li> </ol>
<b>Also issued to:</b>	BBC news online Stourbridge News
<b>Trust response</b>	
<p><b>Trust commits to providing best possible care during cost improvement plans</b></p> <p>Providing the best possible care for patients remains the highest priority at The Dudley Group.</p> <p>In the next financial year 2013/14 the Trust has to find over £15 million in efficiency savings. We have been working hard with their PFI partner Summit Healthcare (Dudley) Ltd and support services provider Interserve to see where they can make savings from non clinical services.</p> <p>Any decisions to reduce services or facilities that we provide are very difficult to make but, as our commitment to providing the highest standard of care for patients remains our highest priority, we feel it is better to make savings from non clinical services.</p>	

The Trust is making changes to the way catering services are provided at Russells Hall Hospital. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 the opening hours will be 8.00am to 2.30 pm, Monday to Friday.

The Costa Coffee outlet at main reception will remain open as usual from 7.00am – 8.00pm Monday to Friday and 3pm – 8pm Saturday and Sunday. We are working with Interserve to widen the range of food available to include hot snacks, soup and salads. We are also surveying staff and patients to see how we can offer an enhanced selection of food during the times the main restaurant is closed.

To ensure provision of both hot and cold food and drinks 24 hours per day, the vending facilities within the main restaurant remain unchanged.

This decision follows a comprehensive review of footfall through the restaurant, which concluded there was very little footfall after the lunch time service and the uptake at weekends has reduced considerably.

These reduced opening hours will save the Trust approximately £110,000 per year.

#### Staff uniforms

Annual payments to Summit have included the provision of a staff uniform laundry service. The Trust has taken the decision to stop this laundry service from 1st April 2013. This brings The Dudley Group in line with many other NHS trusts. After this date, staff will wash their uniforms at home.

The last date uniforms will be accepted for laundry will be 24<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

This will save the Trust approximately £63,000 per year by ending the uniform laundry service.

#### Car parking

From April 1st 2013, patient and public parking charges will be:

Time	Tariff
Up to 10 minutes	Free
Up to 30 minutes	£1.00
Up to 1 hour	£2.00
Up to 1 ½ hours	£3.00
Up to 3 hours	£4.00
All day (24 hours)	£5.50

We do not take decisions to increase charges to patients lightly and the new charges bring the cost of our parking in line with many other Trusts locally.

After negotiations with our PFI partners, who provide and manage car parking at our three hospital sites, we will share the benefit from the increases directly. The Trust will receive more than £300,000 per year which we will use to help with the provision our clinical services.

We hope our patients and visitors will understand the financial pressures The Dudley Group is under, as all trusts are nationally, and agree it is preferable to make changes to car parking rather than reducing the services we offer our patients.