

For the Record – Press Statements

Publication	Express and Star
Date of article	04/06/2013
Reporter	Alex Ross
Headline	How our Lexi started life in the driving seat
First paragraph/s of article	After her partner Anthony Eccleston parked up the couple's BMW outside the main entrance of Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, 23-year-old Gemma realised she could not wait any longer and her baby was well and truly on its way.
Press enquiry	<p>Alex Ross from the Express and Star is writing a story about a mother who gave birth to her baby in Russells Hall Hospital car park.</p> <p>The reporter explained that the father was a little concerned about the lack of signage to the Maternity Unit and the lack of immediate help available.</p> <p>Would the Trust like to comment?</p>
Trust response	
<p>COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</p> <p>We would like to congratulate Miss Meek and Mr Eccleston on the birth of their baby girl.</p> <p>Mr Eccleston arrived outside the main entrance of Russells Hall Hospital on Sunday afternoon with his partner Miss Meek who was in the advanced stages of labour.</p> <p>Two members of staff from our Georgina Unit – staff nurse Judy Thompson and clinical support worker Louise Kitson – were nearby and offered immediate assistance.</p> <p>Louise located towels for the birth and Judy arrived at Mr Eccleston's car just as baby made her appearance. Judy ensured both mother and baby were comfortable and arranged for them to be taken to our Maternity Unit.</p>	

Upon investigating, we have discovered the person Mr Eccleston spoke to was a driver for the hospital transport company, Ambuline.

Our Maternity Unit is well signposted for visitors to the hospital. Indeed there are three Maternity signs outside the hospital on the road to main reception as well as signs within the hospital. However, we do appreciate that in a state of anxiety, Mr Eccleston may not have seen them.

It is not uncommon for babies to be born with little or no warning and we have approximately 50 mothers a year who give birth on their way to hospital.

I am extremely proud of all those involved in ensuring a safe delivery for both mother and baby.

We are very pleased to hear that both mother and baby are happy and healthy. Our staff on Georgina Unit were thrilled to receive a surprise visit from mum, dad and baby on Monday who were keen to show their gratitude.

ENDS

For more information please contact Alice ford, Communications Assistant for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust on (01384) 456111 extension 1419.