

For the Record – Press Statements

Publication	Express & Star
Date of article	1 st February 2014
Reporter	Tim Spiers
Headline	Hospitals struggle as A&E targets missed
First paragraph/s of article	<p>HOSPITALS in the Black Country and Staffordshire are still failing to hit national targets for treating patients in their under-pressure accident and emergency wards, latest figures have revealed.</p> <p>Staff are struggling to cope with the increased winter demand and hospitals are dropping below the national average.</p>
Paragraph/s relating to The Dudley Group	Only Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital managed to meet the 95 per cent target during any single week, although its average over the three weeks was 91.8 per cent.
Press enquiry	<p>Tim Spiers from the Express and Star is comparing the region's A&E department's performances in relation to the four hour wait 95% A&E target. The figures show that The Dudley Group was the only trust in the Black Country to hit the 95% target at any time in January.</p> <p>Tim asked if the Trust would like to comment.</p>
Trust response	
<p>COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</p> <p>We are committed to ensuring patients who arrive at our Accident and Emergency (A&E) Department are seen, treated, admitted or discharged within four hours of arrival. Meeting this national target is a real challenge, as it is for all trusts across the country, especially during the busy winter months.</p> <p>This is highlighted by the country-wide figures for England's major A&E departments which have failed to hit 95 per cent for a number of weeks.</p> <p>There are occasions during peak times that our patients have to wait longer than we would like to be seen; however, we ensure that we give priority to those patients who need urgent medical attention.</p> <p>We have had one of the busiest periods on record and unfortunately have been</p>	

unable to move patients through our beds as quickly as we would have hoped. This has been due to both the frailty of our patients and the unavailability of onward care outside of the hospital.

The percentage of patients who waited under four hours in A&E in the week ending 5th January was 87 per cent. The week ending 12th January was 93.1 per cent. The week ending 19th January was 95.5 per cent.

We are pleased that we were able to improve in the week ending 19th January and see 95.5 per cent of our emergency patients within four hours. However, we are disappointed that we were unable to meet the nationally set target of 95 per cent for the whole of January.

We will continue to work hard across the Trust to ensure patients receive the best possible care, safely, especially during busy times.

ENDS

For more information, please call Alice Ford, Communications Assistant for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, on (01384) 456111 extension 1064.