

**For the Record – Press Statements**

<b>Publication</b>	Express & Star
<b>Date of article</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> January 2014
<b>Reporter</b>	Tim Spiers
<b>Headline</b>	<b>Hospital fails to hit A&amp;E targets</b>
<b>First paragraph/s of article</b>	<p>THE A&amp;E department at Dudley’s Russells Hall Hospital is failing to meet targets to see patients within four hours – but it’s still the best performing in the Black Country.</p> <p>The figures emerged just days after patients were told to stay away from the department last Thursday after ‘extreme pressure’ sparked a ‘major internal incident’ within the unit.</p>
<b>Press enquiry</b>	<p>The Express &amp; Star are writing a story about trusts in the region and their performance against the 95% 4 hour A&amp;E wait target.</p> <p>Tim Spiers explained that although Russells Hall Hospital did not meet the target during October, November and December, it was still the best performing in the Black Country.</p> <p>He asked if the Trust would like to comment on the performance and the challenges facing hospitals with current winter pressures.</p>
<b>Trust response</b>	
<p><b>COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</b></p> <p>We are committed to ensuring patients who arrive at our Accident and Emergency (A&amp;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>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>	

The percentage of patients who waited under four hours in A&E in October, November and December 2013 was 93.3 per cent. The figure for December 2013 alone was 94.3 per cent.

We are pleased that we were able to see more of our emergency patients within four hours than any other trust in the region. However, we are disappointed that we were unable to meet the nationally set target of 95 per cent.

We will continue to work hard in our A&E Department over the coming months to improve our performance and make sure we see more of our patients more quickly.

\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*

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