

Press release

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015

## Three NHS Trusts launch significant alliance on Black Country Day

Three innovative NHS trusts are today beginning a partnership, in the Black Country. The Black Country Alliance launched today (Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July) to join in with the celebrations for Black Country Day, is a partnership agreement between The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust and Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust,

The three Trusts feel that together they can improve health outcomes for the 1m plus people in the Black Country in a sustainable way. There is greater potential in some services for excellence and sustainability when provided on a larger scale than a local hospital can provide on its own. One of the aims of the Alliance is to keep and further develop specialist services for the Black Country.

The Alliance will look at new ways of providing care to patients across the Black Country, keeping care closer to home and ensuring specialist skills are kept in the Black Country. At a time when the NHS is struggling financially to meet demand, the trusts involved are taking an innovative approach to seek solutions.

Paula Clark, Chief Executive, The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust said, "This is a really exciting time for all three trusts as we aim to be able to keep and return specialist services to the Black Country for our patients, who may otherwise have to go to a larger Trust further afield to receive treatment . It offers opportunities to our staff through collaborative working, we will encourage innovative ways to provide the best possible care, developing centres of excellence in the Black Country."

"We will not be looking at all of our services for example there will still be an accident and emergency department across all trusts, but for some of the more specialist services we will be able to ensure a future in the Black Country or even reinstate them through the Alliance."

"NHS England is encouraging provider trusts to investigate new models of care and the Black Country Alliance is the first of its kind so we are very excited about what the future holds to provide excellent care and treatment for the people of the Black Country."

The Black Country Alliance is governed through a joint board to oversee a small number of priority areas where all three trusts think there is value in redesigning or developing that service. For example we have some specialist areas that are hard to recruit too especially if you are a smaller general hospital, so working across the

three trusts provides the scale the specialists need to keep skills up to date and develop services further.

If you are interested in the work of the Black Country Alliance we would love to hear from you via website link [www.blackcountryalliance.org](http://www.blackcountryalliance.org)

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