

MEDIA COMMENT

Tuesday 9th February 2016

**COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP
NHS FOUNDATION TRUST**

The Dudley Group has been notified by the British Medical Association that it intends to call its junior doctor members out on industrial action on Wednesday 10th February until Thursday 11th February 2016.

We anticipate most junior doctors will be taking industrial action on those dates and are working to minimise the impact on patients where possible.

Strike action is due to take place from 8am on Wednesday 10th February until 8am on Thursday 11th February.

We are in the process of finalising our contingency plans. Our priority will be to ensure that safe emergency, urgent and inpatient services are maintained.

Women who are in labour during the strike period will see no change to their care and will give birth as usual, whether in hospital on our delivery suite or Midwifery-led Unit, or at home if they have chosen a home birth.

It is very likely that some outpatient and other appointments and procedures will need to be rescheduled. All patients affected will be contacted directly and offered an alternative appointment in the future. It is very important for patients who have not been contacted by hospital staff to attend their appointments as normal.

We would ask patients to consider other options and only use Accident and Emergency if absolutely necessary. If people are unsure about where they should go, they can call NHS 111 at any time day or night for free health advice and to be directed towards the most appropriate health service for their needs.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused to patients whose procedures have been rescheduled.

We will continue to review the situation and make further arrangements as necessary.

***** ENDS *****

Notes for editors

At present, the numbers of appointments, procedures and operations rescheduled as a result of industrial action are as follows:

- 182 outpatient appointments rescheduled
- 4 day case procedures rescheduled

- 2 inpatient operations rescheduled

For further information please contact Liz Abbiss, Head of Communications, The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust on (01384) 456111 extension 1314 or email communications@dgh.nhs.uk