

MEDIA COMMENT

Monday 25th April 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 from 8am to 5pm on Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th April 2016.

The action planned will be a full withdrawal of junior doctors' labour. We have contingency plans in place to minimise the impact on patients and our priority will be to ensure that safe emergency, urgent and inpatient services are maintained throughout the period of action.

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.

Several theatre cases and some outpatient appointments have been rearranged to ensure senior clinicians can provide ward-based cover. Patients affected have been contacted individually if changes have been made to their appointments.

It is very important for patients to attend their appointment as normal unless they have been contacted.

We would ask patients to consider other options and only use Accident and Emergency if they are facing a serious or life-threatening emergency. 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 we anticipate will be rescheduled as a result of industrial action are as follows:

- 943 outpatient appointments
- 17 theatre cases

For further information please contact Alice Ford, Communications and Staff
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