

**For the Record – Press Statement**

<b>Publication and reporter</b>	Express & Star, Alex Ross
<b>Date of article</b>	06.12.17
<b>Headline</b>	<b>Four out of five health chiefs go</b>
<b>Paragraph/s relating to The Dudley Group</b>	Four out of five senior health bosses at Russells Hall Hospital have left their posts this year – with the outstanding one to leave this month.
<b>Press enquiry</b>	<p>The Express &amp; Star contacted The Dudley Group in relation to members of the Board of Directors (chief nurse, director of finance, medical director, chief operating officer and director of strategy) who have recently left the Trust and their replacements.</p> <p>The Trust was asked the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the names of the Board members who were previously in the posts and when did they leave the Trust?</li> <li>• What assurances have been provided around the changes?</li> <li>• Has the local authority been kept up to date with them?</li> </ul>
<b>Trust response</b>	
<p><b>COMMENT FROM DIANE WAKE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</b></p> <p>I am pleased to have been able to welcome so many experienced and well-respected new members to our Board of Directors since joining the Trust in April this year.</p> <p>We are fortunate that all our new Board members have benefitted from comprehensive handovers, either with their predecessors or long standing deputies, who have significant organisational and local knowledge.</p> <p>Throughout this period of change, our priority has continued to be quality patient care and patient safety, and I am confident that the Board is well equipped with the expertise, skills and knowledge to effectively manage the upcoming winter pressures and achieve the Trust’s strategic goals.</p> <p><b>Summary of Board-level changes</b></p> <p>Our previous chief nurse, Dawn Wardell, left the Trust in March 2017. Siobhan Jordan joined the Trust on an interim basis in April 2017 and was appointed permanently in October 2017.</p>	

Our current director of finance, Paul Taylor, leaves the Trust at the end of December 2017. Interviews for his replacement will take place next week and Chris Walker, our long-standing deputy director of finance, will become acting director of finance in the interim.

Paul Harrison stepped down from his role as medical director at the end of October 2017 to focus on key strategic programmes such as the Multispecialty Community Provider (MCP) and Black Country Pathology. Julian Hobbs joined the Trust at the start of October 2017, allowing for a comprehensive handover. Dr Harrison still works in the Trust at a senior level and continues to work closely with the Board.

Our previous chief operating officer Paul Bytheway left the Trust in September 2017. Michael Woods joined us on a six-month interim basis in October 2017. Karen Kelly has been appointed to the permanent post and will join us in January 2017, with a three-month handover period between herself and Michael.

Our former director of strategy and performance, Anne Baines, retired in May 2017. Our new director of strategy and business development, Natalie Younes, joined the Trust in September 2017.

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

**Notes for editors**

For further information please contact Alice Ford, Communications and Staff Engagement Officer for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, via 01384 244403 or email [communications@dgh.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@dgh.nhs.uk)