

For the Record – Press Statement

Publication and reporter	Express & Star, Jamie Brassington
Date of article	06.03.18
Headline	Anger at £11.8m cost of trust agency staff
Paragraph/s relating to The Dudley Group	<p>A Black Country hospital trust forked out almost £12 million on agency staff in one year – prompting criticism from a leading councillor.</p> <p>Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, spent £11.8m in 2017 to prop up a shortage of staff.</p>
Press enquiry	<p>The Express & Star contacted the Trust following a Freedom of Information request which showed that the Trust had spent £11.8m on agency staff in 2017.</p> <p>The Trust was asked to comment on the spending and highlight reasons for the use of agency staff.</p>
Trust response	
<p>COMMENT FROM DIANE WAKE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</p> <p>We use agency staff to cover staff shortages and ensure our patients are safe and cared for by appropriately skilled staff at all times. Because of the high demand on our services throughout December and January, we opened extra beds in the hospital and used a number of temporary staff to support us in caring for these extra patients.</p> <p>Our use of agency staff will obviously reduce once we are able to fill vacant posts and we are doing all we can to recruit. We also have new systems in place to control the way agency spend is authorised.</p> <p>The exact amount spent on agency staff for 2017/18 is not available until our year-end accounts are agreed in May 2017. However, we expect to spend approximately £3 million less on agency than we did in 2016/17.</p> <p>In October 2017 we appointed a dedicated recruitment lead and refocused our recruitment campaign to attract local, home-grown talent. This approach is really paying off; since October we have recruited 135.81 whole time equivalent staff to a variety of posts.</p> <p>We hold monthly recruitment open days and those attending have the opportunity to be interviewed on the day, speak to our clinical teams and tour the areas they could</p>	

be working. Successful candidates could even receive conditional offers of employment before they leave.

***** ENDS *****

Notes for editors

For further information please contact Sara-Jayne Hadley, for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust via 01384 244403 or email dgft.communications@nhs.net.