

For the Record – Press Statement

Publication and reporter	Express and Star, Richard Guttridge
Date of article	11.07.19
Headline	Hospital money is running out
Paragraph/s relating to The Dudley Group	<p>The Trust that runs Russells Hall Hospital could run out of money by September.</p> <p>Emergency plans are now being drawn up to try and raise more cash by bosses at The Dudley Group NHS Trust. These include selling off “surplus land” and potentially borrowing cash.</p>
Press enquiry	<p>The Express & Star contacted the Trust about a report in the board papers stating there is a risk of cash running out by September 2019.</p> <p>They asked the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a plan to try and avoid the scenario? • Why is the Trust struggling so much financially? • Will any financial issues impact on patients, waiting times and services?
Trust response	
<p>COMMENT FROM DIANE WAKE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</p> <p>Like every other NHS trust, we are operating in a financially challenging environment and we have been monitoring our finances very closely for a long period of time. We are doing everything we can to reduce discretionary spending and continue to drive efficiencies through our waste reduction programmes.</p> <p>Our financial position has improved in the financial year ending March 2019. Working more efficiently and making savings saw our deficit reduce from £7,121 million in 2017/18 to £1,148 million in 2018/19. If necessary, we have the ability to draw down short-term loans from the Department of Health to aid cash flow. However, the efficiencies and improvements made last year meant we didn't need to borrow cash.</p> <p>Quality and safety of services always takes priority over finances.</p>	

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Notes for editors

For further information please contact Lauryn Edwards, Communications Assisstant for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust via 01384 244403 or email dqft.communications@nhs.net