



Press Release

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New Name, New Era

On 1st April **Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust** comes into being. Formerly, Sandwell Mental Health and Social Care Foundation Trust, the new name heralds a new era in the provision of local health services.

As the name reflects, Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust will offer a broader range of services across the wider Black Country area.

The change of name, authorised by Monitor, the regulator of Foundation Trusts, has come about because of the work undertaken with the Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in neighbouring Walsall, Wolverhampton and Dudley under the Transforming Community Services agenda. Agreement having been reached that transferring services to the Trust's management would ensure the continued provision of high quality services across the Black Country.

The first transfer will take place on 1st April when 78 staff from Walsall Primary Care Trust's (PCT) Learning Disability service transfer to the Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. Later in the year, further mental health and learning disability services will transfer from Wolverhampton and children young people and family services from Dudley PCTs. In readiness for this transfer of services the Trust will, from 1st April be providing interim management to the transferring services under an agreement with the respective PCT's.

In welcoming Walsall staff to the Trust, Karen Dowman, Chief Executive, said "This is an exciting time for the future of learning disability services. Bringing together the delivery of learning disability services across the Black Country will undoubtedly strengthen service provision and offer opportunities to provide a better future for all people with learning disabilities".

She continued, "As far as patients and the public are concerned, they will see no immediate difference in the continuity of care they receive after 1st April because the same staff will see the same patients in the same locations. But as the organisation develops and best practice is embedded across the Trust we will work to ensure that continuous quality improvement takes place".

ENDS

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Note to Editors

Sandwell Mental Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust is the major provider of mental health and specialist health learning disabilities services to people of all ages in Sandwell.

On 1st April the Trust changes its name to Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to reflect the wider range of services, and broader geographical area across which services will be provided.

The new developments are as a result of the Government's Transforming Community Services agenda which began in July 2010 following the publication of the revised Operating Framework for the NHS in England for 2010 – 11, which requires Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to transfer the provision of services to different organisations by 1st April 2011.

Later in the year mental health, learning disability and child and adolescent mental health services will transfer from Wolverhampton PCT and learning disability and children, young people and family services from Dudley PCT.