

Press Release

Issued: 1st April 2011

Dawn of New Era for Trust

On 1st April **Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (BCPFT)** came into being.

As the name reflects, Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust offers 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 that has been undertaken with the Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in neighbouring Walsall, Wolverhampton and Dudley under the Government's 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.

Walsall Learning Disability Service is the first of the new services to transfer to the Trust and today saw 78 staff, formerly employed by Walsall PCT, become employees of Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. To ensure continuity of service, Walsall staff will see the same patients in the same locations and no immediate difference should be felt.

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, "In the short term patients should not notice any difference. But as the organisation develops and best practice is embedded across the Trust we will work to ensure that continuous quality improvement takes place".

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

ENDS

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Note to Editors

Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust is the major provider of mental health and specialist health learning disabilities services to people of all ages in Sandwell. It also provides specialist health learning disability services in Walsall.

On 1st April the Trust changed 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 their white paper - 'Equity and excellence: liberating the NHS'. This requires Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to transfer all of its provider services to other NHS Trusts with its purchasing of services transferring to G.P. consortia before the disbanding of PCTs altogether in 2012.

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 will transfer from Dudley PCT to Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

In readiness for the transfer of these services the Trust will, from 1st April be providing interim management to the transferring services under an agreement with the respective PCT's.