

21<sup>st</sup> February 2020

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Specialist centre gains accreditation**

A specialist treatment centre in Dudley for women with complex cases of a debilitating condition has achieved national accreditation after a successful first year.

Dudley Endometriosis Centre, based at Russells Hall Hospital, has gained accreditation from the British Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy after meeting the criteria required based on an audit of work undertaken in 2019.

Endometriosis occurs when tissue, similar to the lining of the womb, is found in other parts of the pelvis or outside the pelvis. This lining can start to cover the ovaries, fallopian tubes, ureters, bladder or bowel and sometimes even the diaphragm. It has traditionally taken up to eight years to get a diagnosis, and it affects 10-15% of women of childbearing age and as high as 40% of women with infertility.

Medical treatment, which suppresses the disease and its symptoms, can be beneficial in early cases but does not resolve endometriosis or help those with infertility. For those with moderate or severe endometriosis, specialist laparoscopic surgery is needed and national guidance has established that severe endometriosis should be treated by specialist teams.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust was chosen as a provisional centre for specialist care in 2019. In that year it operated on 20 women, having been set a target of 12, and has now been recognised as an accredited centre on a national level.

Patients came from across the Black Country and further afield in Worcestershire.

Describing it as “wonderful news”, lead consultant gynaecologist / laparoscopic endometriosis surgeon Mr Hassan Morsi said: “Special thanks go to all members of the endometriosis multi-disciplinary team whose help was essential in achieving this important service development. Without the support of the full team and the Trust this achievement would not have been possible.”

Chief executive Diane Wake said: “Well done to Hassan and his team for the tremendous amount of work and commitment it has taken to get us significant recognition, for which I am very proud. We are delighted.”

The MDT team also includes consultant colorectal / laparoscopic surgeon Mr Peter Waterland, consultant urological surgeon Mr Asad Abedin and pain management specialist/consultant anaesthetist Dr Alifia Tameem and the endometriosis specialist nurse Rachel Skidmore.

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