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PRESS RELEASE

Trust celebrates Black History Month

Music from a steel band helped staff at Russells Hall Hospital kick off their celebrations for Black History Month.

Pupils from Summerhill School in Kingswinford set the mood in the hospital's main reception as staff from The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust also enjoyed a taste of Jamaican spiced bun, traditionally served with cheese. Staff, patients and visitors all joined in with the fun.

The Trust has put on a month-long display highlighting the key role the BME community has played in the history of the NHS, alongside the stories of some of the Trust's own staff and volunteers.

These include Carol Love-Mecrow, who said: "I am proud to have had a very successful and enjoyable career here in Dudley. I feel very privileged to be the first black deputy chief nurse here and I have made the most of every opportunity that has come my way."

Interserve, which provides catering services at the hospital, is serving up Caribbean dishes during October, including jerk chicken and escovitch fish, plus puddings such as toto cake and coconut cake.

Black History Month has been officially celebrated in the UK since 1987 and is a time to commemorate the achievements and contributions of black people in the UK. The NHS has a particularly diverse workforce, with nearly one in five – 19.8 per cent – from ethnic groups other than white.

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