**SUGGESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS**

1. **Introduction**

Our Patients’ views are important to us and help to ensure our services are consistently meeting people’s needs. If you are unhappy with any of our services it is important that you let us know.

If a complaint alerts us to possible abuse or neglect, we will tell the Adult Safeguarding Team. The Safeguarding Team will decide how to investigate and monitor outcomes.

1. **Making a Suggestion**

Often people feel more comfortable suggesting improvements than complaining formally. Suggestions can be made by anyone receiving services or their friends or family. To make a suggestion you can speak to the manager or their deputy or utilise the comments or suggestion box if you would rather make your suggestion that way.

If the suggestion is something that Darlaston Health Care needs to consider, you can send it to:

Dr Qureshi GP Darlaston Health Care Darlaston Health Centre Pinfold Street Darlaston West Midlands WS10 8SY Tel No. 0121568 4391

1. **Making a Complaint**

We aim to handle complaints quickly, effectively and in a fair and honest way. We take all complaints seriously and use valuable information from investigating to help us improve the service we provide. We treat all complaints in confidence. Darlaston Health Care assures patients and their families that it will not withdraw or reduce services because someone makes a complaint in good faith.

1. **Who can Complain?**

Anyone affected by the way Darlaston Health Care provides services can make a complaint. A representative can make a complaint for the affected person if they:

* + Cannot make a complaint themselves, or
  + Have given consent for the representative to act on their behalf
  + Have died

If you are not happy about making a complaint yourself and you do not know someone who can talk or write to us on your behalf, we will be happy to find someone from an independent organisation to act as an advocate for you.

1. **How you can Make a Complaint**

You can complain:

* + In person
  + By telephone
  + Through a member of our staff
  + Through an advocate or representative

Where someone complains verbally, we will make a written record and provide a copy of it within 3 working days:

* + By letter
  + By email

1. **Anonymous Complaints**

We deal with anonymous complaints under the same procedure. However, it should be noted that, if you provide contact details, we can update you on the outcome of our investigation.

1. **Responsibility**

Dr Shahab Qureshi has overall responsibility for dealing with all complaints made about the service. We will provide, as far as is reasonably practical:

* + Any help you need to understand the complaints procedure
  + Advice on where you may get that help
  + Information about making a complaint in a way you can understand

1. **How we Handle Complaints**

Dr Shahab Qureshi may ask one of the management team to investigate the complaint. That person will have enough seniority and experience to deal with the issues raised by the complainant.

We will acknowledge a complaint within **3** working days and give you the name and contact details of the person investigating it.

We will keep you informed about the progress of the investigation. We aim to have all complaints finished within **28 working days** unless we agree a different time scale with you.

When we have finished investigating, we will arrange to meet with you to discuss the outcome, and write to you with:

* + Details of the findings
  + Any action we have taken
  + Our proposals to resolve your complaint

1. **Time Limits**

You should complain as soon as you can after the date on which the event occurred or came to your notice. If you complain more than 12 months later, we may not be able to investigate properly. However, we will consider whether you had a good reason for not making the complaint sooner and whether, despite the delay, it is still possible to investigate the complaint effectively and fairly.

1. **Further Steps**

Once we have dealt with your complaint, if you are not happy with the outcome, you can refer your complaint to

Time2Talk, NHS Black Country Integrated Care Board,

Civic Centre, St Peter’s Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

Tel 0300 0120 281

Email [bcib.time2talk@nhs.net](mailto:bcib.time2talk@nhs.net)

**The provider has had an opportunity to respond and resolve matters.**

The services of Darlaston Health Care are registered with, and regulated by, the Care Quality Commission.

The CQC cannot get involved in individual complaints about providers but is happy to receive information about services at any time.

You can contact the CQC at:

Care Quality Commission

National Correspondence Citygate, Gallowgate Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4PA

Tel: 03000 616161

Website: [www.cqc.org.uk](http://www.cqc.org.uk/)

**\*We can provide this policy in other languages or in other formats on request**