

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001522
Date 20 September 2017

Cervical Screening

Request:

- a. What activities has your local authority undertaken to promote cervical screening and increase uptake over the last year, August 2016 to August 2017?

(We are looking for an outline of any activities that the local authority public health team has been involved in or led, for example, working directly with GP surgeries to raise awareness of screening; raising awareness through print and digital channels; working directly with women in the community; and through targeted information provision. We do not need any documentation, but would be grateful for as high level of detail as you are able to give.)

Between August 2016 and October 2016 Public Health undertook an audit in a GP practice with the lowest uptake of cervical screening. We have also met with colleagues in Public Health England / NHS England and the Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to discuss how we can work together as organisations to improve uptake locally. In partnership with the CCG we commissioned an enhanced service with GPs for registering patients new to the country and included a question on cervical screening history. We acknowledged that cervical screening programmes in different countries differ from our own programme.

Public Health are core members of a recently formed Cancer screening task and finished group, hosted by the CCG, looking at how we can work across primary care and Secondary care providers to address low uptake of cervical screening.

- b. What were the outcomes of those activities? For example, greater awareness, increased screening coverage.

We provided the practice with a report of the audit findings and presented the key findings to the Black Country Cervical Screening Programme Board. The report offered advice on improving uptake based on the demographics of the women who were not being screened and some useful suggestions on how to improve uptake for example: using the clinical system to flag these women if they came in for other appointments not related to screening to raise awareness, information in the common languages etc. There was a correlation between poor uptake and ethnicity, mental health and learning disabilities.

To date there has not been a significant increase in the rate of uptake and the uptake is poorest in the lowest in the 25-49 age range as of December 2016. We continue to monitor this through the Health Protection Forum.

- c. Have local targets been set to improve cervical screening coverage?
- ~~Yes~~ / No (please delete as appropriate)
 - If yes, please give details
- d. Does your local authority public health team have a budget to promote uptake of cervical screening?
- ~~Yes~~ / No (please delete as appropriate)
 - If yes, please give details
- a. Is your public health team aware of the report published by Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust in January 2017, 'Cervical Screening in the Spotlight: an audit of activities undertaken by local authorities and clinical commissioning groups to increase cervical screening coverage in England'?
- Yes / ~~No~~ (please delete as appropriate)
- b. If yes, have any additional activities to improve cervical screening coverage been undertaken or planned as a result of the 'Cervical Screening in the Spotlight' report?
- Yes / ~~No~~ (please delete as appropriate)
 - If yes, can you outline the activities / plans?
We are working with our colleagues in the CCG and NHS England and the voluntary sector to look at how we can work better together to raise awareness in the groups we have identified. This includes looking at the new groupings of practices to identify opportunities for screening.

2. Are women able to attend cervical screening at the sexual health services in your local authority area? Please mark the correct box.

Yes – all women who attend an appointment and are due their cervical screening

Yes – some women are able to receive their cervical screening on an opportunistic basis.

If this is the case, please specify which groups:

As this service is commissioned by NHS England we are unable to identify which groups are being screened.

No – women are unable to receive cervical screening at sexual health services in our local authority area.

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

3. Have you undertaken any work with local schools or other partners to increase uptake of the HPV vaccine?
~~Yes~~ / No (please delete as appropriate)