

Appendix D: Breast screening in Hampshire, Isle of Wight (HIOW)

This summary outlines the local delivery of the national breast screening programme. The breast screening programme is commissioned locally by NHS England Wessex, Public Health Commissioning Team.

Purpose

Screening is the process of identifying healthy people who may be at increased risk of a disease or condition. The breast screening programme aims to find breast cancers early. The screening provider then offers information, diagnostic tests and treatment.

Prevalence of breast cancer

About 1 in 8 women in the UK are diagnosed with breast cancer during their lifetime.

Risk of developing breast cancer

The causes of breast cancer are not completely understood but there are some known risks that increase the chances of developing breast cancer. These are age, family history, previous breast cancer or benign cell changes; dense breasts; exposure to oestrogen and linked to this being overweight / obese; alcohol consumption; hormone replacement therapy; use of the contraceptive pill and exposure to radiation through medical procedures.

Effectiveness

All screening programmes have benefits and risks. They aim to reduce the risk of a person developing a condition or disease but are not perfect. Screening is different to a diagnosis.

At a population level, the breast screening programme is both clinically and cost effective and designed to do more good than harm. The National Screening Committee reviews the evidence to ensure this is the case, before agreeing to a screening programme and continues to review on an ongoing basis.

A group of national experts reviewed the evidence and concluded that screening saves about 1 life from breast cancer for every 200 women screened in the UK. This adds up to 1,300 saved lives per year. For more information please see Breast Cancer Screening on the NHS Choices website.

Benefits and risks of breast screening

At an individual level, women are asked to make an informed choice as to whether they wish to proceed with screening. Information is provided to help them to decide.

Eligible population

Screening is routinely offered to women in England, who are registered with a GP practice, aged 50 to 70 years. Women are first invited for screening between their 50th and 53rd birthday. Women can self-refer for screening after 70 years.

Screening interval

Breast screening in England is offered every 3 years. The screening interval is based on evidence and balances the need to find as many cancers as possible without undertaking unnecessary screening.

Service delivery – breast screening programmes

Breast screening in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight is delivered by 4 breast screening programmes based on patient flows and historical commissioning areas.

- Southampton and Salisbury programme which includes populations from Southampton, Hampshire and Wiltshire.
- Isle of Wight programme
- North and Mid Hampshire programme
- Surrey programme which includes populations from Surrey / Sussex and North East Hampshire.

Service delivery – venues

The Isle of Wight delivers all breast screening at St Mary's Hospital.

All of the other breast screening programmes in HIOW deliver screening at fixed sites (all year) and mobile vans (once or more every 3 years). Fixed sites include:

- St Mary's Hospital, IOW
- Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester
- Queen Alexander Hospital, Portsmouth
- Princess Anne Hospital, Southampton
- Jarvis Breast Centre, Guildford

The mobile vans are similar to the size of an articulated lorry. They are moved to a new site and remain there for several weeks or months before being moved onto another site.

Invitations to women are grouped so that all the women in a local area are invited around the same time. The services have to plan carefully to make sure that the mobile van is in each area long enough to see all the women whilst ensuring they have moved onto the next location in time for when the next group of women are due to be screened.

Mobile screening sites

The mobile vans visit the following sites at least once (and sometimes more) in a three year cycle:

- Farnborough
- Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital
- Andover War memorial Hospital
- Fleming Park Leisure Centre, Eastleigh
- Bishops Waltham Village Hall
- Tesco Winnall, Winchester
- Bordon
- Asda, Fareham
- Locksheath Shopping Centre
- Sainsbury, Farlington
- Tesco, Petersfield
- Asda, Fratton, Portsmouth
- Ringwood Leisure Centre
- Bitterne
- Hythe
- Crosfield Hall, Romsey
- Sway Surgery
- Blackthorn Health Centre, Southampton
- Fordingbridge Drill Hall
- Lyndhurst Council Offices
- Salisbury Central Car Park
- Amesbury Health Centre