

**Very
Important
Invitation**



**Raising Awareness
Of Cervical
Screening**

CERVICAL SCREENING LUCY'S BLOG



This week is my turn to write our blog.

Lucy Ainsley, Very Important Invitation Project Manager.

With 2022 coming to a close, I thought it may be helpful to give an overview of some of the work we have delivered this year and why this project continues to be so important.

Five thousand deaths a year are prevented by Cervical Screening (www.england.nhs.uk). We want to ensure every patient in Suffolk can access Cervical Screening and the team are here to support with any reasonable adjustment you may need.

One question I am often asked is; do I need to attend Cervical Screening even though I am not sexually active? Human Papillomavirus [HPV] can cause abnormal cell changes which could lead to Cervical Cancer. HPV is passed by skin-to-skin contact. If a person has never had any form of sexual contact the chances of getting HPV are lowered. But a low risk is never NO risk. We encourage all patients with a cervix to attend Cervical Screening. Please contact one of our Nurse Health Educators via our social media or direct from our website if you would like to find out more.

Over the last 12 months Suffolk GP Federation's "Very Important Invitation" Cervical Screening Project has worked hard to improve the uptake of cervical screening throughout Suffolk.

The project has worked closely with the Integrated Care Board, Health Partners, GP Surgeries, Community organisations, and patients in delivering education programmes to enable an increase in Cervical Screening uptake across the county.

How has the team delivered this:

- We work closely with Public Health, the Integrated Care Board and GP Surgeries to identify women and people with a cervix who may need additional support attending Cervical Screening.
- Our team consists of myself as Project Manager as well as four Nurse Health Educators who are registered nurses and are qualified to carry out Cervical Screening. The Nurse Health Educators work closely with GP Surgeries across East and West Suffolk. Admin Assistant Ashleigh is often behind the scenes organising our diaries, social media, online Cervical Screening booking requests, and keeping our website up to date.
- We run targeted publicity campaigns across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok and LinkedIn as well as radio coverage, podcasts and now our weekly blog. As well as this we have been attending community and commercial events, and co-producing with healthcare partners, social care partners and charities on awareness campaigns to support attendance of Cervical Screening.
- Suffolk GP Federation's GP+ extended access service continues to offer screening appointments on weekday evenings and during the day on Saturdays. GP+ operates across 9 sites across East and West Suffolk. Appointments are available to book directly with your GP surgery or through the Very Important Invitation website - Cervical Screening Appointment Request – Suffolk GP Federation (suffolkfed.org.uk)

Some of our work/events from 2022:

- Latitude Festival
- Suffolk Show
- Ru Paul's drag race at the Ipswich Regent theatre
- Dreamboys at the Ipswich Regent theatre
- Year 1 student nurses teaching session at Suffolk University "Nursing health inequalities"
- Teaching sessions at PHOEBE Centre in Ipswich
- Teaching sessions at British Racing School
- Bespoke clinics for Romani Voice Charity at the Riverside clinic
- Stowmarket well-being & family day

- 1:1 support/chaperone services
- Presenting at Early Diagnosis and Screening Patient Forum
- Presenting at the Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Partnership meeting
- Early Health Education sessions to year 11,12 and 13 students.
- Market in the Park, Wherstead park Ipswich

Above is a snapshot of the busy but exciting 2022 the team has had working on the Very Important Invitation Project.

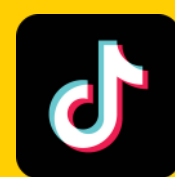
A big thanks to my team for work working so hard to address health inequalities in Suffolk and supporting patient centred care.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and look forward to working with you in 2023.

If you are not already following us on Social media you can find us on the following accounts:



@veryimportantinvitation



@veryimportantinvitation



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