

# VERY IMPORTANT INVITATION PROJECT



August 2023 Newsletter

Written by Maddy Cervical Screening Lead Nurse

## What we have been up to

It has been a busy few months at The Very Important Invitation Project!

### Cervical Screening Awareness Week 19th - 25th June

Of course, our work extends through the whole year. However, June marks Cervical Screening Awareness Week and it was a busy week for the team! We took along our health promotion pop up stands to The Grove Medical Centre, Two Rivers Medical Centre, Burlington Road Surgery and Victoria Surgery. The team were on hand to speak to any one in the waiting area and provide information and support to those who wanted it. We even had some good conversations with staff members about the importance of screening and use of the GP+ extended access service. We also took the opportunity of Cervical Screening Awareness Week to attend West Suffolk Hospital, The Gatehouse Project in Bury St Edmunds, and the Needham Market Car Boot Sale to speak to the general public about the importance of cervical screening, dispel any misconceptions surrounding cervical screening and provide information on how to book in for screening.

### V&MTs

Lucy (Project Manager) and Maddy (Lead Nurse) alongside V&MTs owner Geraldine who creates authentic and responsibly sourced tee shirts. Not only has Geraldine supplied the team with some of her wonderful tops but she is also helping to raise awareness of cervical screening by including our Very Important Invitation Project stickers in her packaging. The stickers include our QR code so her customers will be able to access cervical screening with ease!

### Suffolk Show & Latitude Festival

Once again, the team were delighted to attend both The Suffolk Show and Latitude Festival this year. These events are easily two of the biggest in the Calendar for Suffolk and it was great to see so many faces. We had the opportunity to talk to people who had delayed screening for a long time and provide advice and support as well as provide some resources for ongoing support if needed. We saw a lot of young people and their families and it was a great opportunity to provide some early education to those who will be invited for screening in the fu



## Other highlights;

- The team received trauma awareness training from Survivors in transition
- The project will be teaming up with Sue Ryder to provide a health education drop-in session for residents and their relatives/carers
- Maddy and Laura have each been working with two individuals providing tailored support and health education around cervical screening
- Maddy attended the Wednesdays With Wellbeing Roadshow which was attended by lots of other organisations and charities
- Laura and Ashleigh set up the health promotion stand in the Buttermarket Shopping Centre
- Laura and Ashleigh attended the Can Do Care Expo where the project won an award for our poster
- Terrence Higgins Trust hosted a Suffolk PRIDE wellbeing drop-in session which Laura and Ashleigh attended
- Hannah and Ashleigh set up the health promotion stand in the atrium of Endeavor House
- Lucy, Maddy and Hannah attended a drop-in session to provide support and education for refugees on cervical screening



The team continue to provide training and education to GP practices and healthcare professionals on Health Inequalities in Cervical Screening, Ring Pessary training and the Introduction to Cytology and Cytology update courses.

Don't forget, you can request an appointment for cervical screening via our website. These appointments will be booked into one of our nine GP+ clinics.

If you need any support or advice, you can contact us via our website or socials to speak to one of our health educators.

## Other News

- After lots of hard work, Ashleigh our project administrator has passed her apprenticeship! A huge congratulations and well-done Ashleigh.
- The project has been working closely with Ipswich Community Media to produce translated leaflets for non-English speaking individuals who are eligible for screening. We currently have leaflets available in ten different languages and we hope to continue to work on these to provide information in more languages. We also have access to a telephone translation service. If this is something you or someone you know might need, please get in touch with us.

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