

VERY IMPORTANT INVITATION PROJECT



January 2024 Newsletter

Written by Hannah Ismay, Nurse Health Educator

Cervical cancer prevention week

What a busy start to the month we have here at 'Very important invitation'

It was Cervical cancer prevention week January 22nd – 28th and there is no better time to highlight the power of awareness, education, and early detection in the fight against cervical cancer.

Prevention

Cervical cancer is one of the few cancers that can be prevented and early detection is key. Yet every day 2 women lose their lives and 9 more receive a life-changing diagnosis.

NHS England recently pledged to eliminate cervical cancer by 2040, but with Sweden on track to achieve this by 2030 and Australia not far behind, it would be great if we could do this even earlier. The plans include improvement to online booking for vaccinations nationally and support for healthcare to reach out to those most at risk. Alongside its vaccination drive, the NHS are inviting more people than ever before for cervical screening – over five million people aged 25 to 64 were invited last year, with 3.5 million tested.

Education

Knowledge is power, here at the project we are committed to providing detailed information and education sessions to Schools, groups, businesses, and individuals, we talk about things such as risk factors and recognising symptoms. Please get in touch if you want to book in a session.

Support

We help to equip people with the tools to take control of their health, we recognise for some going for cervical screening can be very difficult. We want to cultivate an empowering environment where people share experience, gain support and access valuable resources.

You may have also seen or heard the team via your radios and televisions as Lucy Ainsley, Service Manager, was interviewed for BBC Radio Suffolk and Maddy Dunningham, Cervical Screening Lead Nurse, appeared on ITV news discussing the importance of cervical screening in preventing cervical cancer.



What the team have been up to

During Cervical cancer prevention week, we visited Orchard Street Surgery, Cardinal surgery and Hawthorn Drive Surgery with our pop up stand to speak with patients and staff.

We took the pop-up stand and information out to Endeavour House and the University of Suffolk, we also visited MSC for a health promotion pop up and to present a session to staff.

We also attended Ipswich High school to deliver a session on the importance of cervical screening and HPV, to their sixth form students.



University of Suffolk

Maddy and Hannah had a great day at University of Suffolk, teaching on the 0923 Adult Nursing course. We covered topics such as NHS screening programme, cervical cancer prevalence and mortality, we looked at HPV and cancers caused by the virus amongst many other topics throughout the day.

In the afternoon, we held a group work session with the students, they identified different marginalised groups and the barriers they face with attending for screening and health care. It was an interesting and interactive session; the students were really engaged with the activity and it was great to hear them brainstorming and presenting back on all the amazing ideas they came up with.

Book cervical screening!

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ARE YOU OVER DUE YOUR CERVICAL SCREENING?



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