

VERY IMPORTANT INVITATION PROJECT



July 2024 Newsletter

Written by Lilith Holdsworth - Cervical Screening Community Outreach Nurse

Cervical Screening Awareness week 17th-23rd June

All year round the project aims to raise awareness of cervical screening, however cervical screening awareness week provides the project with an opportunity to expand our outreach. During CSAW, the team provided pop-up health promotion stands at both Colchester and Ipswich Hospital. The team were on hand to answer any burning questions but also spread awareness of the project as well as dismiss any misinformation relating cervical screening. Both stands were well received by staff and patients.



Pride month – June 2024

June has been a busy month for the team. Not only was it Learning Disability and Cervical Screening Awareness week (CSAW), it was also Pride month. Pride is a whole month dedicated to celebrating the LGBTQ+ community whilst simultaneously raising awareness of the issues and prejudices many of its members still face today.

Very Important Invitation Project (VIIP) works closely with the LGBTQ+ community in helping tackle health inequalities, whilst also addressing issues in practice which may exclude some members from attending their cervical screening.

Through our regular contact with GP practices across Suffolk and North East Essex, we provide training to clinical and non-clinical members of staff on what adjustments they can make to ensure inclusivity is across the board. We advocate for reception areas in GPs to display the Trans flag, as this allows for people to be seen and heard which allows them to feel included. This is only one example on how a small, but vital change can have a positive impact, something which the Project advocates for.

In August, Natalie will be flying the VIIP flag at Colchester Pride which looks to be a great event. Please check our social media and web pages for more information on how we support the LGBTQ+ community. Happy Pride!



Learning Disabilities week 17th-23rd June

Learning disability week aims to celebrate anyone living with learning disability whilst also raising awareness of barriers they may face day-to-day.

So far, the project has created a learning disability pack which provides educational materials in order to empower patients. We also offer 1:1 support, ensuring everyone has the information to make an informed decision around their screening. We have worked closely with the Learning Disability nurses in Suffolk and look forward to expanding this into North East Essex. If you know anyone who may need support through their cervical screening, please contact the team.

Here is what the project has been up to in June:

- Castle Gardens Surgery health promotion stand
- Volunteering and wellbeing event at University of Suffolk
- Practice nurse and care navigator training with Colchester Medical Practice
- Pop-up stand at Tollgate Surgery
- Clacton jobs centre
- Colchester City Council Wellbeing Event
- Claydon High School (Penrose Trust) Cervical Screening and Breast Cancer Wellbeing Event, with Cancer Support Suffolk
- Ipswich Hospital CSAW Stand
- Colchester Hospital CSAW stand
- Cake and revolution WI presentation
- Menopause talk in Brightlingsea
- Practice Nurse training with Abbey Fields Medical Centre
- Colchester Food and Drink Festival



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Book cervical screening!

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ARE YOU OVER DUE YOUR CERVICAL SCREENING?

SCAN HERE TO REQUEST AN APPOINTMENT

