



## Cervical Screening

### 1. Introduction

Cervical cancer is the most common type of cancer in women under the age of 35 years<sup>1</sup>. Cervical screening, including pap smears, is estimated to save approximately 4,500 lives per year in England.

The NHS Cervical Screening Programme invites women aged 25-50 to be screened every three years, and women aged 50-64 to be screened every five years. The programme aims to detect abnormalities and treat them before they worsen.

### 2. The Local Picture

#### 2.1 Incidence of cervical cancer

In Hounslow, 19 new cases of cancer of the cervix were diagnosed during 2006–08 (the latest data available), equivalent to an age-standardised rate of 5.29 per 100,000 women. This is significantly lower than the UK average of 8.8 per 100,000 women but is on a par with the North West London average of 5.5 per 100,000 women.

#### 2.2 Mortality

Death rates from cervical cancer remain extremely low. From 2002–04, there were 2.83 deaths per 100,000 women attributed to cervical cancer; a rate which increased slightly during 2008–10 with 3.3 deaths per 100,000 females.

The mortality rate from cervical cancer in Hounslow was equivalent to 1.9 per 100,000 women from 2007–09. This was not significantly different from the UK average of 2.4 per 100,000 women, and was on par with the North West London regional average of 1.8 per 100,000 women.

#### 2.3 Screening

In 2009/10, the total number of women eligible and invited for screening was 72,800, while only 17,700 (24.4%) were screened. This is slightly higher than the London and national figures (23.7% and 23.8%, respectively). Of the women screened in Hounslow, 7.5% had positive test results: 4.2% had borderline dyskaryosis (abnormal cells), 2.3% had mild dyskaryosis, 0.6% had moderate dyskaryosis and 0.4% had severe dyskaryosis or worse. ([Table 1](#))

The population eligible for screening grew across all age groups in Hounslow between 2008/09 and 2009/10. The proportion of women screened, however, did not follow this trend, and was generally lower across all age groups, in both years, than the London and England averages. From 2005/06 to 2008/09, 65.4% of eligible 25-49 year old women were screened in Hounslow, compared to 66% in London and 72.5% nationally. This grew in 2009/10 to 66.7%, 67.4% and 74%, respectively. In the 5 years prior to 2008/09, 78% of 50-64 year old women eligible for screening were screened in Hounslow, compared to 77.6%

<sup>1</sup> Cancer Research UK (2011) Cervical cancer – UK incidence statistics.  
<http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats/types/cervix/incidence/>



and 80% in London and England. This changed in 2009/10 to 77%, 76.8% and 78.9%, respectively. ([Table 2](#))

The proportion of eligible women aged 25-64 who had undergone a cervical cytology screening in 2010 was highest in the Chiswick Area Committee (78.1%), but lowest in Heston and Cranford (67.6%). ([Table 3](#))

### 3. Strategic Leadership and Collaboration

#### 3.1 Call and recall service

The call/recall service for the cervical screening programmes for NHS Ealing, NHS Hammersmith and Fulham and NHS Hounslow is provided by NHS Ealing's call/recall department. A joint formalised SLA is in place for the call/recall services provided by Primary Care Shared Services, hosted by NHS Ealing. There is an extensive operational policy (not published online) to which the PCT screening leads from NHS Ealing, NHS Hammersmith and Fulham and NHS Hounslow agree, which is reviewed on an annual basis. Shared Services is currently undergoing restructuring, which may affect call/recall and reporting. The Local Screening Improvement Board is looking into centralising call/recall.

#### 3.2 Governance

The responsibility for governance of the Cervical Screening Programme lies with the Chief Executive of the PCTs. The Screening Lead raises any issues within the Cervical Screening Programme via PCTs individual Directors of Public Health (DsPH). Directors of Clinical Governance are contacted directly when acute incidents occur and are routinely updated on the programme via DsPH. Monthly performance meetings are held with representatives from all PCTs within the Consortium.

#### 3.3 Arrangements for screening provision in Hounslow

'Pap' smears are carried out at Hounslow GP practices as part of the GMS contract.

Histology is currently provided by a non-NHS laboratory, Quest Diagnostics Ltd. based at West Middlesex University Hospital. Cytopathology services are provided by Imperial Healthcare NHS Trust undertaken at St Mary's Hospital. Colposcopy is provided by West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust.

Registration and screening departments are working collaboratively to ensure those who move into the area are included in screening call lists.

### 4. Priorities

In 2011/12, the following areas are of priority in Cervical Screening:

- Investigation by The Local Screening Improvement Board of centralising call/recall services;
- Identification of any outstanding cross-border transfers for women of screening age;
- Address the issue of growing lists (currently around 17.5% for Hounslow); and



- Exploration of the possibility of using ‘Screening for Life’ as a portal for health promotion messages to target ‘well women’; moving away from cancer messages and trying and encourage younger women to attend screening.

## 5. Summary of Need

The following table summarises the needs in Cervical Screening in the London Borough of Hounslow.

| SUMMARY OF NEED: CHECKLIST   |            |
|--|------------|
| Is need increasing over time?  | <b>No</b>  |
| Is need greater than the London average?   | <b>No</b>  |
| Is there qualitative intelligence indicating that need is substantially unmet?   | <b>Yes</b> |
| Is there an external inspection or report suggesting need is unmet?  | <b>No</b>  |
| Are quality indicators worsening over time?  | <b>Yes</b> |
| Are quality indicators worse than the London average?  | <b>No</b>  |
| Is there an intervention of proven effectiveness to address the need which is not currently delivered in Hounslow (or not delivered enough)? | <b>Yes</b> |