

BSW CCG Governing Body Meeting in Public 20 May 2021

Questions Received

Questions 1 to 3 received from Voluntary Action Swindon:

Response input from Public Health England, Great Western Hospital, and our two other local acute trusts. Response coordinated by the CCG.

Q1. Does the Governing Body consider the inability of Great Western Hospital/Wiltshire Breast Screening Service to undertake mammograms for women who are unable to stand to be discriminatory?

Response: No, every effort is made to screen all eligible women, including those who are unable to stand, and to produce images of diagnostic quality.

For example, the opportunity for screening in the main acute trust centre rather than the mobile vans which are inaccessible for those in wheelchairs; pre-visits to assess ability to screen; transfers from own wheelchair to specialist hospital wheelchair if wheelchair arms cannot be raised/removed; use of double appointments.

However, this may not always be possible or safe for women who have limited mobility in their upper bodies or who are unable to support their upper bodies unaided. For a successful mammogram, it is necessary for the woman to hold the required position for several seconds without help. Any women unable to undertake a mammogram remain in the screening cohort and will be recalled when due. They are also able to request a screen between recalls if their ability to be screened may change in the future. Any women unable to be screened, and their carers as appropriate, are provided with an information leaflet and guidance. This is in line with the PHE Screening Quality Assurance Service (South) and national guidance and expectations.

Q2. What is the CCG's best estimate of the number of eligible women over 50 in the BSW area who will not have mammograms undertaken because they are unable to stand?

Response: Fewer than 20 women, across the three breast screening services that each cover part of the BSW population (Avon; Wiltshire; Southampton)

Q3. What steps will the CCG take to enable Great Western Hospital/Wiltshire Breast Screening Service to meet its equality duty in this respect?

Response: Breast screening commissioning is the responsibility of regional NHSE/I Public Health Commissioning teams. The Wiltshire breast screening service works to the National Breast Screening Service Specification and Guidelines; is audited by the PHE Screening Quality Assurance Service (SQAS) on their ability to include patients with screening inequalities; and is therefore held to account on this. These patients are documented on the National Breast Screening System to ensure they remain in the breast screening cohort. Every effort is made to screen women, with the service actively aiming to make all reasonable adjustments to support women to access screening. These women who are unable to be screened and/or their carers are given a breast awareness leaflet and recommended to see their GP if they notice any changes in their breasts.