

'Cervical Screening Saves Lives' National Campaign

5th March until 28th April 2019

Lancashire County Council are supporting Public Health England and NHS England, with the launch of the first ever national cervical screening campaign targeted at women who are eligible for screening (those aged 25 – 64 years).

The NHS Cervical Screening Programme has made a significant impact on cervical cancer mortality since it was established in 1988, saving an estimated 5,000 lives a year.

The National 'Cervical Screening Saves Lives' campaign, is to highlight the risks of cervical cancer as well as the preventative benefits of cervical screening. It will remind women not to ignore their invite letter and, if they missed their last test, to book an appointment with their GP practice.

Around 2,600 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer in England each year and around 690 women die from the disease. It is estimated that if everyone attended screening regularly, 83% of cervical cancer cases could be prevented however, attendance is at a 20-year low, with one in four women in the UK not attending their cervical screening.

The campaign will run throughout England for eight weeks, from 5th March until 28th April 2019.

Key Messages

- Two women die every day from cervical cancer in England. Cervical screening can stop cancer before it starts by preventing potentially harmful cells developing.
- Don't ignore your cervical screening invite. If you missed your last cervical screening, book an appointment with your GP practice now.
- Cervical screening (or the smear test) isn't a test for cancer.
- Cervical screening checks the health of the cervix and can prevent potentially harmful cells from developing; screening can stop cancer before it starts.
- Your friendly nurse is there to put you at ease. For tips on how to make cervical screening more comfortable, visit www.nhs.uk/cervicalscreening.
- Cervical screening lasts about five minutes, and you only have to go once every three or five years depending on your age. Its five minutes that could save your life.

Advice on making the screening test more comfortable includes:

- Talk to your nurse – they are trained and experienced in how to make your test comfortable.
- Wear a loose skirt or dress, you may feel more covered during your appointment.
- Take a friend or family member with you if it will help you feel more comfortable.

For more information, visit www.nhs.uk/cervicalscreening

