

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Health Scrutiny Committee
Date: February 2023
Report for: Information
Report of: Jilla Burgess-Allen, Consultant in Public Health

Report Title

Breast screening

Summary

The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the Breast Screening Programme in Trafford

Recommendation(s)

That the contents of the report are noted.

Introduction and screening process

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in the UK, representing 15% of all new cancer cases, and is the 4th most common cause of cancer death and the 2nd most common cause of any death in women. The risk of developing breast cancer increases with age, with most cases being diagnosed in women over 50.

It is estimated that around 30% of breast cancer cases in the UK can be prevented, through maintaining a healthy weight, eating well, keeping active, drinking no more than 14 units of alcohol per week, and not smoking.

In England, over 80% of women diagnosed with breast cancer are predicted to survive for 10 or more years. The earlier breast cancer is detected the greater the survival chances. Regular breast screening can ensure cancer is detected early. Screening saves around 1,300 lives each year in the UK.

As well as going for regular breast screening, women are recommended to check their breasts for changes as cancers can develop between mammograms.

During the pandemic there was a decrease of over 40% in the number of women screened for breast cancer in the UK.

Routine breast screening is offered once every three years to women in Trafford aged between 50 and 71 who are registered with a GP as part of the Manchester Breast Screening Programme. The eligible population in Trafford is approximately 34,040 as at 2023.

Women will receive a letter with a timed appointment for breast screening at a location in their local area. Mammograms are then sent back to the Nightingale Centre and interpreted by two film

readers. If the result is normal women will receive a letter within two weeks and will be invited in three years' time for their routine screening.

If the mammogram shows any abnormality which requires further assessment an appointment for the Nightingale Centre will be sent usually within two weeks. At the assessment clinic each woman will be seen by a Radiologist and the relevant tests will be carried out. This could include further mammograms, ultrasound and possibly a needle biopsy. Further appointments for any results will be discussed with the woman which will take place at the Nightingale Centre.

Breast Screening is delivered using mammography (breast x-rays) from either a static clinic or a mobile unit.



During a three-year period, the mobile unit will visit the following sites, two of which are in Trafford Borough –

Nightingale Centre – M23 9LT

Trafford General Hospital – M41 5SL

Seymour Grove Health Centre – M16 0LW

It is hoped the unit will in addition visit Partington for the next screening round (2024) and the GM programme has agreed to this provided a suitable location can be identified.

Performance

Breast Screening performance is measured using several key performance indicators, but the main measurements are –

Round length – this is the time between the last screening mammogram and the invitation for the next one, three years later. This should be within 36 months of the last mammogram. This should be at least 90%. Round length is also measured using the dates of the when each practice was screened three years ago. The table below shows the performance for Trafford using this measurement –

Site	Dec 22	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23
Trafford	2 weeks behind	2 weeks behind	1 week behind	On time

Table 1

Uptake – this is the measurement of how many women attend the programme. The achievable standard is 70%.

The uptake for the Trafford area is shown in Appendix 1.

Staffing

Mammography is undertaken by Radiographers, Assistant Practitioners and Mammography Associates. All staff are female. These staff require a significant period of training (approximately 12 months) before they can work independently within the programme.

The NHS Breast Screening Programme has seen a decline in workforce over the last few years where staff have left due to retirement or to pursue other careers. The Manchester Breast Screening Programme has experienced the same issues and has worked hard over the last two years to recruit heavily to these roles.

The programme has been supported with sufficient funding to recruit above establishment to enable extended working hours. In future this will help to sustain performance and will mitigate against any downtime or loss of capacity. Whilst the programme has been successful in recruiting to these posts over the past two years months, none of the staff joining the programme were already qualified and required training before they could fully operate within the service. In addition to this, several members of staff also went onto maternity or sickness leave.

In total there are 33.3 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff allocated to delivering routine breast screening, although 19.5 WTE are either in training, absent from work due to sickness or are on maternity related absences. This leaves 13.8 WTE available to deliver breast screening and symptomatic services.

To deliver sufficient capacity for the breast screening programme six community clinics need to be open each day (Monday to Friday), this requires 2 WTE staff each day, using either two Mammographers or a combination of a Mammographer working with an Assistant Practitioner Mammographer. This equates to 12 WTE each day required for breast screening alone. The current available staff (13.8 WTE) are being used to deliver breast screening and symptomatic work so it clear why capacity has been low.

Staff are now nearing the end of their qualifications so capacity into 2023 is increasing.

Impact of Covid 19

The Manchester Breast Screening Programme suspended all clinics between March and July 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The programme has recovered it's Covid backlog, however currently they have a backlog in their round length, which is a historic issue pre pandemic. The backlog has not been recovered due to significant workforce shortages, which are mirrored nationally.

Strategies to address the issues identified

Screening providers in GM have recently (Oct 2022) been awarded national levelling up funding to improve uptake and assist bringing the round length to 36 months. The funding has been awarded to pay for additional equipment, including opening additional community static sites to support access and capacity.

The programme have now reverted to first timed appointments, which is evidenced to improve uptake, this will hopefully be reflected in the data when it is published for this period.

Fortnightly meetings with Manchester breast screening programme are ongoing to support improvement against the round length.

The Cancer Screening Improvement Lead (CSIL) is embedded within the screening services, to work with GP practices and wider stakeholders to improve uptake.

Answer cancer are commissioned locally to raise public awareness for cancer screening, among targeted localities and groups who are known to not engage. While they do not currently work in the Trafford area, the next round of funding that they have received for another year will include Trafford, and this will enable us to undertake targeted work in low uptake areas of Trafford.

Voice of BME do work in Trafford to support GP practices to improve their NHS screening uptake by providing 1 to 1 support to the patients via phone conversations to book them for screening. They also deliver screening awareness drop-ins at practices in the waiting area and community places to reach more people. Between April and December of 2022 over 100 of these sessions had been delivered in these communities. This work is targeted in areas experiencing health inequalities - Old Trafford, some areas of Stretford, and Partington.

Work with community pharmacies to promote breast screening is being planned as part of regular cancer commissioning meetings.

Work with GPs

There are two Cancer Screening Improvement Leads (CSILs) who work within the programme specifically to work with GPs to improve uptake and awareness of the screening programme.

Each GP practice will be contacted approximately four weeks before screening is due to take place for their practice by one of the CSILs. A pack of information is sent with details of what will happen during the screening process. There is also an opportunity for the CSILs to come into the practice to offer specific training for staff about breast screening.

The programme has a website with additional information. Women can also request an appointment through this site –

www.breast-screening.uhsm.nhs.uk

There is also access to a video which describes the process of breast screening –

<https://mft.nhs.uk/wythenshawe/services/breast-care/breast-screening/>

For more information about the programme please contact –

bsapts@mft.nhs.uk

The CSILs have developed a GP toolkit that covers breast screening for people with learning disability and they discuss the breast screening pathway with GP practices and offer to train their staff on pathways and resources available to them.

Appendix1. June 2022 Breast Screening Uptake (Attended within 6 months of being invited based on a rolling 12-month period of invitations)

Locality	Uptake						
	Invited (past 12mos)	Attended (within 6mos)	%	vs GM	vs NW	vs England	vs 70% Target
Bolton	12,969	8,372	64.6%	↑ 5.9%	↑ 3.6%	↑ 1.7%	↓ -5.4%
Bury	10,258	6,836	66.6%	↑ 8.0%	↑ 5.7%	↑ 3.8%	↓ -3.4%
HMR	12,944	7,988	61.7%	↑ 3.1%	↑ 0.8%	↓ -1.1%	↓ -8.3%
Manchester	16,731	8,109	48.5%	↓ -10.2%	↓ -12.5%	↓ -14.4%	↓ -21.5%
Oldham	9,990	5,907	59.1%	↑ 0.5%	↓ -1.8%	↓ -3.7%	↓ -10.9%
Salford	7,480	3,707	49.6%	↓ -9.1%	↓ -11.4%	↓ -13.3%	↓ -20.4%
Stockport	18,474	10,063	54.5%	↓ -4.1%	↓ -6.5%	↓ -8.4%	↓ -15.5%
Tameside	12,833	7,020	54.7%	↓ -3.9%	↓ -6.2%	↓ -8.2%	↓ -15.3%
Trafford	10,330	6,368	61.6%	↑ 3.0%	↑ 0.7%	↓ -1.2%	↓ -8.4%
Wigan	17,944	11,805	65.8%	↑ 7.2%	↑ 4.8%	↑ 2.9%	↓ -4.2%
Greater Manchester Total	129,953	76,175	58.6%		↓ -2.3%	↓ -4.2%	↓ -11.4%
North West Total	377,979	230,378	60.9%			↓ -1.9%	↓ -9.1%
England Total	3,104,302	1,951,272	62.9%				↓ -7.1%

TRAFFORD VAN 2	Practice Code	Total no last round	Date last screened	Uptake this round % (2019 - 2022)	Uptake at last round % (2016 - 2018)
TRAFFORD GENERAL - Screened on mobile outside Traff Gen Hospital					
The Urmston Group Practice	P91006	2077	Dec 21 - Feb 22	63	72
The Surgery Primrose Avenue	P91012	1227	Feb - Mar 22	60	76
Davyhulme Medical Centre	P91009	2148	Mar - May 22	63	77
Flixton Road Medical Centre	P91029	880	Jun - Aug 22	71	76
BODMIN ROAD - Screened on mobile outside Nightingale Centre					
Boundary House	P91013	1631	Jun-22	72	68
Conway Rd Health Centre	P91035	1372	Jun - Jul 22	73	74
Bodmin Road Health Centre	P91017	1183	Oct - Nov 22	71	75
SALE EAST - Screened on mobile outside Nightingale Centre					
Dr Jackson @ Firsway Health Centre	P91021	2737	Nov 22 - Jan 23	Still 943 open episodes	72
Washway Road	P91014	2245	Feb - Apr 2020	64	74
TIMPERLEY - Screened on mobile outside Nightingale Centre					
Shay Lane Medical Centre	P91008	1168	Mar - Oct 2020 COVID	70	79
Altrincham Medical Practice to WCH	P91004	993	Mar - Oct 2020 COVID	55	72
Dr Westwoods Practice WCH 2020	P91007	667	Mar - Oct 2020 COVID	64	74
Dr Patel @ Shay Lane WCH 2020	P91011	1067	Mar - Oct 2020 COVID	67	75
West Timperley Medical Centre	P91016	1230	Mar - Oct 2020 COVID	57	73
Barrington Medical Centre invited to WCH	P91603	1032	Mar - Oct 2020 COVID	56	72

St John's Medical Practice	P91604	2771	Mar - Oct 2020 COVID	62	71
The Surgery Navigation Road	P91617	298	Feb-21	64	64
The Village Surgery	P91623	987	Feb - Mar 2021	72	79
119 Park Road	P91003	940	Mar - Apr 2021	63	75
Riddings Family Health Centre	P91631	475	Mar - Apr 2021	65	74
Grove Medical Practice	P91633	837	Apr-21	62	71
SEYMOUR GROVE - Screened on mobile outside Seymour Grove HC					
Brooks Bar Medical Centre	P91020	617	Apr - May 2021	38	55
The Delamere Centre	P91018	2396	May - Jul 2021	50	71
Lostock Medical Centre	P91627	755	Jun - Jul 2021	50	61
North Trafford Group Practice	P91629	1146	Jul - Aug 2021	42	65
PARTINGTON - Screened on mobile outside Seymour Grove HC					
Partington Central Practice	P91019	461	Sep - Oct 2021	34	62
Partington Family Practice	P91026	700	Nov-21	41	66