

# Setting up a staff cervical screening service



Sister Claire Carr  
Lead Colposcopy Nurse

The staff smear service was set up in Jan 2019 after it was recognised that staff working at our trust may find it difficult to access cervical screening at their GP surgery/sexual health service. This service hoped to encourage staff to come for smears without them having to take time off work. The service was managed by Dr Jill Blackmore (Lead Colposcopist) and Sister Claire Carr (Lead Nurse Colposcopist), who performed the sampling in their own time.

## Criteria and Establishing the Service

The service was set up across both hospital sites allowing staff to attend for routine screening during their lunch break. Only ladies due or overdue were seen. Ladies with suspicious symptoms were encouraged to seek review with their GP.

The service was launched by the Trust via the intranet and social media coinciding with Jo's Cervical Cancer Trusts 'Cervical Cancer Awareness Week' in January 2019.

A poster advertising the service was placed in the female staff toilets across the trust with the aim of promoting the service. Staff could also access information about the service using the health and wellbeing app on the trusts intranet.

The colposcopy administrators were happy to manage appointment bookings. This ensured the staff member was due and a time slot allocated.



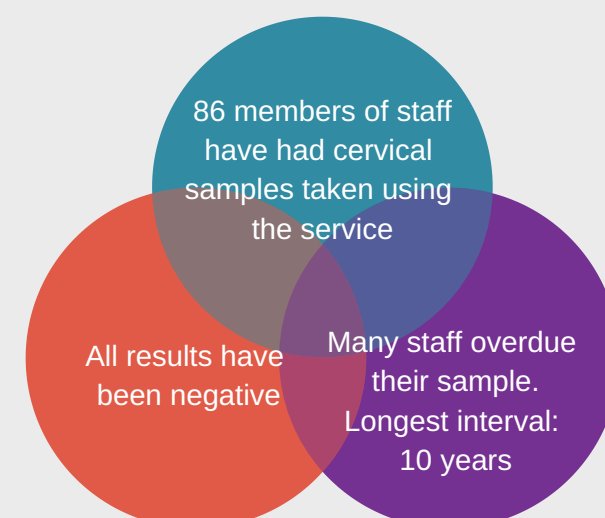
The cervical screening was undertaken in the colposcopy suite with their smear form generated from Open Exeter and the due date checked. Samples were sent off with a "Staff Smear Service" as the source as agreed with the local cytology lab. The GP was informed a sample had been taken.

Abnormal samples were referred into colposcopy via the normal direct referral pathway he staff were not seen or registered as hospital patients.

Results were received by the colposcopy administrators and results letters sent to the staff members and their GP by Dr Blackmore or Sister Carr. Results were recorded on Open Exeter by the laboratory as per the National Cervical Screening Programme protocols.

All smears taken were logged so that we could fail safe results ensuring all the ladies and their GPs received their result.

Failsafe checks were done weekly to check for outstanding results. The service SOP was approved by the QA and PHE and the trusts own Governance processes.



## The service has been really well received by the female staff of the trust with some comments below:

'I would have booked in with my GP surgery but probably would have had to wait a month or so to be seen.'

'I work full time so it's difficult to book an appointment at the GP. This would have delayed my smear being taken.'



So easy to arrange and get done.'

'Professional, kind and treated me with dignity and care.'

'Kept forgetting to book a smear test (due to work commitments) and to be honest due to past experiences and embarrassment kept putting it off. Then I saw the colposcopy service was giving up their free time to offer hospital staff a smear test in work time. Booking was easy and Sister Claire made me feel completely comfortable as I was so anxious (as previous smears had caused a lot of distress) – she was so friendly and professional and her skill/ expertise meant it was over within a matter of minutes with no discomfort. Thank you – I would recommend the service to any woman.'

## Taking the service forward

A year on, we have re-evaluated the service which undoubtedly has been a great success. Our media and communications department ran a new campaign with the below poster on everyone's computer login screen during this year's Cervical Screening awareness week.



Most of the staff attending had seen the poster in the ladies' toilets! This, and word of mouth had encouraged them to book an appointment and to discuss the service with friends and colleagues.

Positive feedback amongst service users has encouraged ladies who are serial non-attenders to attend and be screened.

