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Exploring Low Uptake for Breast Screening

Mid Sussex Area Survey Responses December 2023

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Mid Sussex Area Breast Screening Survey Responses



40 Responses



33 attend invitation

Carers (n9)

Yes, affect attendance (n3)

Disabilities (n3)

Long-term condition (n10)
Yes, affect attendance (n0)

Age range

50-53 (n5), 54-59 (n6),
60-64 (n3), 65-69 (n11),
70+ (n15)

Employment

Working full time (n9),
Working part-time (n6),
Retired (n26),
Volunteer (n1)

Ethnicity

White British, Irish (n39)
Prefer not to say (n1)

Reasons for not attending

Inconvenient appointment (n1),
Location of appointment (n1), Personal or work commitments (n1),
Unsure of process (n1), Lack of on-line booking (n2),
Fear and embarrassment (n1)

Mid Sussex Area Breast Screening

The survey responder's, who attend Breast Screening shared their experiences of the service; that their experience was positive, from helpful staff, and easy to use.

Some experiences had not been positive, such as the unit not being a private space. Administration issues no automatic appointment received for those aged over 70 years and did not know the service could be continued. Being offered an appointment in another area adding time and costs.

I always attend my appointments as this is very important. However, I wasn't aware screening continued until 71 years of age. Perhaps this needs to be reinforced.

I found it difficult to get parked at Princess Royal Hospital, I was 5 mins late for my appointment and they refused to screen me, saying they had already switched the machine off for the day. I had to re book. I felt there was a complete lack of flexibility. I re booked, as I prioritise this screening, but I can well imagine that many women would have not bothered.

It was quick and easy, and I will always be grateful for going as cancer was found.

Carers need to be cared for too.

The reasons stated why respondents do not attend the screening include:

No appointment received as over 70 years or under 53 years. The suggested appointment is not flexible enough for those working. Admin, not having an on-line booking system. The location of the unit as incurring unnecessary costs of travel and parking. Need to consider how to accommodate carers who may need a more flexible appointment.

In summary

The responses suggest the need to consider more flexible appointments to support those working and with caring responsibilities. The location of the unit being offered to not be out of area. Need to consider venue in relation to transport, travelling time and costs



Talk to us

If you have questions about the content of this report, please either call 0300 012 0122 or email cheryl.berry@healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk

How this insight will be used?

We recognise that all health and care services are under pressure at this time and have had to adapt their ways of working. We will share this report with the local NHS, Local Government, and other providers to help them understand where things are working well and services are adapting to meet peoples' needs, and to help them identify any gaps. We see this as a continuation of discussions taking place and will continue to use this fresh insight and the solutions presented to challenge for a better future.

For help, advice, and information or to share your experience

We also help people find the information they need about health, care and community and voluntary health and care support services in West Sussex.

Here to help you on the next step of your health and social care journey



You can review how we performed and how we report on what we have done by visiting our website www.healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk

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