For health professionals
Together we will beat cancer

Delivering the PCN specification on the early diagnosis of cancer

Getting started: case study

Suffolk PCNs

Provision of cervical screening services outside normal opening hours, combined with targeted specific patient groups with lower uptake

Proposal

• Provision of screening opportunities outside normal opening hours (weekday evenings and Saturday mornings) to increase uptake across the PCN
• Individual targeting of those younger patients, women with special needs or disabilities (mental health/LD) and BAME women

Data

• Collected data from own practices to analyse screening take up, looking at ethnicity, LD. This data is not available centrally.
• Uptake benchmarks against regional/local was good but variation amongst particular groups
• Identified a few other potential areas, but decided all could be provided by extra capacity and decided to do this via extended hours

Funding Source

• Cancer Alliance ED transformation monies which were allocated to STPs.
• STP decision to invite bids from PCNs to help them deliver on the PCN specification for cancer early diagnosis

Buy-in from local PCNs

• Regular pan-PCN meetings hosted by the CCG and the screening proposal was agreed.
• Various barriers to screening uptake including lack of PN training, time pressures, lab sending back inadequate smears
• Practices themselves feel powerless to address problems, feel their voice not heard
• The PCN voice articulated through cancer leads was able to engage with public health locally, especially to address the lab issue
• Consent from PCN practices to work with public health and OOH provider to identify patients to target and to work collaboratively
• The OOH provider had been considering cervical screening anyway and provides GP+ services as well as OOH
• The OOH provider offered to work up and submit a bid on behalf of all PCNs within the CCG
• The OOH provider is the local GP Fed which is "owned" by Suffolk GP practices, so can be seen as working on behalf of PCNs cooperatively

Progress to date

• PCN buy-in
• Bid for investment successful
• Data collection underway currently
• Starting service delivery 1-2 months

Key to success

• As a "big" PCN (population approx. 130k, there is the admin structure and support to make a project like this relatively simple.
• The benefits of being big were the main reason for PCNs coming together (whilst still retaining localities) in Suffolk
• Benefits include:
  o larger, efficient management and admin structure
  o the OOH provider would also not have engaged with individual smaller PCNs
  o additional "clout" in negotiating CCG support

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