

Breast Screening (Market Drayton & Bridgnorth)

Proposed temporary Service change

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Background

- Women are invited to attend a breast screening (mammogram) appointment every 3 years between the ages of 50 and 71.
- Breast screening is a way of detecting cancer at an early stage.
- A mammogram (breast x-ray) is used to look for cancers that are too small to feel.
- Early diagnosis of breast cancer improves clinical outcomes.
- There is a national target to ensure that women are invited to attend a mammogram appointment every 3 years
- **Our current provision at SaTH:**
 - We provide a breast screening service at both hospital sites (RSH & PRH) in the radiology department and using a hospital based mobile unit (which goes between the two sites)
 - We have a mobile unit which travels around the county and invites eligible women who are registered with the GP's in the area. Once it has completed the cohort in one area it moves onto the next, and returns 3 years later.

Mobile Unit location map and timescales

Location	Time at each location
Newport	5 months
Whitchurch	2 months
Oswestry	9 months
Ludlow	4 months
Bishops Castle	2 months
Market Drayton	4 months
Bridgnorth	7 months



Current Challenges (1)

- There is a backlog of clients who are waiting to be invited for their NHS breast screening, this is due to delays during the first wave of the pandemic
- Currently 17,725 women are overdue their invitation for breast screening. :
 - Market Drayton – 2669
 - Bridgnorth – 4235
 - Shrewsbury – 10,821
- There is not a backlog in Telford due to the hospital based mobile unit being on site over the last 2 years. As there is no longer a demand at Telford the unit has been moved to Shrewsbury to help with the current backlog.
- We are working with NHSE/I and Public Health England to urgently address this backlog
- It is vital that we see these women as soon as possible



Current Challenges (2)



- There are currently workforce challenges, with significant vacancies within the department. Mammography is recognised as having a national shortage of staff.
- Currently we have 4.8 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) vacancies.
- We have recruited 3 new members of staff who will be joining us in the summer, however, they are required to complete a 1 year post graduate qualification when they start in post
- The equipment on the county mobile unit urgently needs to be upgraded and this will take at least 6-8 weeks. The unit will not be able to be used during this time. This work is due to be carried out in Autumn 2022.
- **The county mobile unit will resume its 3 year plan from January 2023 and will be at its first location at Newport**

Proposal (1)

- The proposal is a temporary change which will affect the mobile unit going to Market Drayton & Bridgnorth in 2022
- To clear the backlog of 17,725 women who require their breast screening appointment, the service will be centralised to the main hospital sites (RSH and PRH)
- Temporarily centralising the service will ensure that that women are offered a screening appointment sooner rather than waiting for the mobile unit to arrive at their location. This will prevent delays in diagnosis.
- To help clear the back log of appointments (in Shrewsbury, Market Drayton and Bridgnorth) the Trust is insourcing additional staff to support the services at RSH and PRH. The contract only provides the services to be delivered at the main hospital sites.
- The breast screening service will also expand from a 5 day service to a 7 day service (8.30am-7.30pm)



Proposal (2)

- More patients will be able to be seen centrally compared the mobile unit due to:
 - Staff no longer requiring travel time (50 minutes is allocated for each journey)
 - Each day the equipment needs Quality Assurance (QA), due to the old equipment on the mobile unit this takes a minimum of 40 minutes each morning
- No other services will be impacted by this service change
- The mobile unit will return to these areas in 2025 as part of the 3 year plan



Appointments



- Women eligible for their breast screening appointment will be sent a letter to ask them to contact the unit
- Women can choose either RSH or PRH for their breast screening appointment
- Women will be able to choose the date and time of their appointment (within the given availability)
- Appointments can be made via telephone

Key benefits and challenges

- Addresses the backlog enables women to have a breast screening appointment earlier.
- This will support the early detection and diagnosis of breast cancer, meaning better clinical outcomes
- The centralised service will be provided over 7 days, and women will be given a choice of dates and times at both hospital sites
- This is a temporary change, which will only impact the screening of women in Market Drayton and Bridgnorth in 2022 (when the mobile unit was due in these areas).
- The county mobile unit needs upgrading and this will take several weeks (with the unit not being operational during this time). The mobile unit will resume its operations by the end of the year.
- We acknowledge concerns regarding transport and flexible appointment times are being offered to support women to get to their appointments



What next - Timescales

- Patient and Public Engagement events on
 - Tuesday 14 June, 2pm via Microsoft Teams
 - Friday 24 June, 6pm via Microsoft Teams
- EQIA has been completed by the clinical area and will now have patient and public involvement to review the documentation
- The proposed service change will go to:
 - Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - SaTH Public Assurance Forum
- Invite letters will go to women who have waited the longest first
- The service will be monitored via performance indicators and uptake in all areas will be monitored.

If you would like to be further involved with this project or would like to provide any feedback please email:

Shropshire.breastscreening@nhs.net

