

Bowel Cancer Screening Programme

NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme – supporting Primary Care, CCGs and local authorities in City & Hackney, Waltham Forest, Newham and Tower Hamlets.

Bowel screening uptake in north-east London has remained consistently low. In our bid to help reduce inequalities and better support people from diverse backgrounds access this life saving programme, the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme is offering dedicated support to Primary Care, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Local Authorities in the following ways:

- 1. Facilitating bespoke training and sharing best practice around effective strategies to improve bowel screening** including sharing information about bowel cancer and development in bowel screening processes, presenting and discussing the latest uptake data and using this to suggest interventions to improve bowel screening, e.g. amongst groups with low uptake.
- 2. Offering expertise around patient contact through e.g. GP endorsement** including training members of staff on how to make effective phone calls, handling patient queries and key messages to motivate patients to participate in screening.
- 3. Population mapping, regular monitoring and analysis of observed trends in uptake** including reporting on screening uptake by CCG and individual GP practices, positivity rates, number of kits dispatched and returned including assessing uptake by ethnicity and other demographic information.
- 4. Offering patient-centred approaches** to support access to bowel screening through: motivational health coaching for patients (in different languages, for non-responders and other community groups i.e. people with learning disabilities, BAME communities) including workshop facilitation, arranging test kit requests and monitoring screening participation.
- 5. Designing, piloting and evaluating novel interventions** to reduce inequalities and target community groups with low screening uptake through data collection, systematic population mapping, conducting local needs assessments and reporting on best practice.
- 6. Sourcing and designing promotional materials and resources**, including tailor-made information e.g. animated videos, posters and leaflets and setting up displays and promotional health information stands.

For further information and support contact our Bowel Screening Health Improvement Specialist: Leena Khagram. **Email:** leena.khagram@nhs.net, **Phone:** 07917 554 352.