

healthwatch



Healthwatch **Together**

Cumbria, Blackburn with Darwen,
Blackpool and Lancashire
working in partnership



Healthwatch Together



Giving People the advice & information they need

Supporting the Uptake of Cancer Screening for Women with Learning Disabilities in Lancashire and South Cumbria

Project Brief

Ensure women with learning disabilities had access to quality information in an accessible format to help them make informed choices about screening opportunities

Rationale

Evidence shows that this cohort of women have a lower than average take up rate for cervical and breast cancer screening than women without learning disabilities





How did we work together to develop the Toolkits?

Undertook a series of co-production workshops across Lancashire and South Cumbria through contact with;

- Self-advocacy groups
- Supported living meetings
- Secure Services (e.g. The Harbour in Blackpool and Merseycare Whalley in Clitheroe)
- Parent/ carer forums

We listened to women with learning disabilities who had accessed screening services to:



- Establish the reasons why women with learning disabilities may not attend cancer screening appointments
- Find out how information on cancer screening programmes can be improved
- Ask them how they can be encouraged to attend appointments



Two Easy Read Toolkits were produced and tested with the groups

‘Me and my lady bits: an easy read guide to breast screening’

‘Me and my lady bits: an easy read guide to cervical screening’

Making a difference



- Women with learning difficulties can be supported to make informed choices about screening
- Professionals feel more confident about how to provide appropriate support
- Families and carers have the same information available
- A section on useful prompts to encourage meaningful and helpful communication
- A concertina version is being developed



Both toolkits have been and are continuing to be shared with:

- NHS England
- Women and those who support them to uptake of cancer screening programmes
- GP practices
- Health and Social Care providers