

News Release

Tuesday June 8, 2010

NHS supports cervical cancer week

WOMEN in Leicester are being reminded about the importance of attending their cervical screening appointment when invited by their GP.

NHS Leicester City is supporting charity Jo's Trust's Cervical Cancer Awareness Week which runs from June 7-13. The aim of the campaign is to make women aware of the signs and symptoms of cervical cancer and provide support and advice for women affected by the illness.

Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust (Jo's Trust) is the only UK charity dedicated to women and their families affected by cervical cancer and cervical abnormalities. Cervical cancer affects the cervix which is located at the neck of the womb.

Sue Ellerby, deputy director of public health at NHS Leicester City, said: "We have seen a steady increase in the uptake of free cervical screening in the city which shows more women are taking responsibility for their cervical health.

"Screening can pick up any cervical complications early. If cervical abnormalities are picked up early cells can be removed and are easier to treat. We urge women to take advantage of the opportunity to get screened when they are invited by their GP. Women must be registered with a GP to get invited for a screen.

“Its important women are aware of the symptoms. If you experience any symptoms which are not normal for you, contact your GP, do not feel you have to wait for your next screening appointment to discuss any concerns.”

Cervical cancer is the second most common form of cancer for women in the city under 35 years. Symptoms of cervical cancer may include:

- Abnormal bleeding between periods or after sex
- Post menopausal bleeding
- Unpleasant discharge
- Lower back pain

If you need to register with a GP please contact NHS Leicester City’s customer services team on 0116 295 7011 who find a GP taking patients hear you.

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For interviews or more information please contact press officer Liz Mattock on 0116 295 4123 or liz.mattock@leicestercity.nhs.uk