



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

Working to reduce inequity in screening

2021



The National Screening Service (NSS) aims to address inequitable access to or experience of screening. Year on year we strive to work with communities to enable greater access to screening programmes. This is a brief description of our work in 2021. For each piece of work if you would like additional information please use the contact or link provided.

| Project | Brief Description | For more information |
|---|---|---|
| Research | | |
| LGBT+ cervical screening research | The aim of the study was to examine the knowledge, attitudes, participation and experiences of lesbian and bisexual women, trans men, non-binary and intersex people with a cervix in cervical screening in Ireland. Approximately 450 people who identify as LGBT+ took part in the study which was carried out using an online survey, focus groups and stakeholder interviews. | Lynn.swinburne@screeningservice.ie https://www.screeningservice.ie/publications/LGBT+Cervical-Screening-Study-Report.pdf |
| Text messaging feasibility project CervicalCheck | Text message reminders have been shown to improve attendance at healthcare appointments including cervical screening. Behavioural science uses the approach of understanding behaviour and could inform how and why to use text messages. The Public Health Department developed a proposal to gather the evidence-base to inform the implementation of text message reminders in CervicalCheck. The Health Behaviour Change Research Group at the National University of Ireland (NUI) Galway were chosen to conduct the research and have completed this feasibility work. | Aoife.collins@screeningservice.ie |
| Cervical Screening | Collaborating with the Cerviva research consortium to understand reasons why older women don't attend for cervical screening. To develop interventions to overcome barriers. | peu@screeningservice.ie |
| Bowel screening | Collaborating with DCU, NUIG and ICS to understand reasons why men and women don't attend bowel screening. To develop interventions to overcome barriers. | peu@screeningservice.ie |

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| Communications | | |
| CervicalCheck translated information | <p>The NSS worked with Translate Ireland to produce multilingual video messages for migrants on CervicalCheck screening. The video messages, which will be available in a number of languages, are presented by doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals in Ireland who come from another country originally.</p> <p>The video messages explain the importance of screening and what it entails, and it informs people on where and how to book a test. The script for the video messages is culturally appropriate and clearly explains information which may be difficult for migrants to understand in English.</p> | <p>communications@screeningservice.ie</p> <p>https://www.cervicalcheck.ie/news-and-events/multilingual-cervicalcheck-information-videos-for-participants-and-healthcare-professionals.16296.html</p> |
| CervicalCheck – website project on accessible primary care services | <p>Participants in cervical screening can now see wheelchair accessible primary care services on the CervicalCheck website.</p> | <p>communications@screeningservice.ie</p> <p>https://www2.hse.ie/screening-and-vaccinations/cervical-screening/where-you-can-have-a-cervical-screening-test.html</p> |
| BreastCheck update of commitment to disability | <p>In 2021 BreastCheck updated its document on commitment to disability to take into account additional services it can now offer to support participation in breast screening.</p> | <p>access@breastcheck.ie</p> <p>https://www2.hse.ie/services/breast-screening/breast-screening-overview/breast-screening-access-for-women-with-additional-needs.html</p> |
| BreastCheck large font project | <p>BreastCheck are now in a position to offer participants all their information from the programme in large font.</p> | <p>access@breastcheck.ie</p> |

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| Communications | | |
| NSS Information Hub | The NSS Public Health and Communications Teams are working together to deliver a new NSS Information Hub. The Hub will manage NSS communications including the corporate website, social media channels, information campaigns, provide training and workshops to NSS staff and review and develop information resources. Information resources will be reviewed and developed using a standardised, evidence-based process. The process ensures consistency in approach and ensures that information is accessible and easy to understand by service users/NSS audiences. The Hub will play a role in reducing communication barriers for service users. | communications@screeningservice.ie |
| CervicalCheck Info Sheets | CervicalCheck is currently translating the CervicalCheck Information and Consent form into a number of languages. | communications@screeningservice.ie https://www.cervicalcheck.ie/cervical-screening-test-guidelines-and-forms/forms-reference-documents-and-reports.16279.html |
| NSS provision of language interpretation | NSS is currently reviewing its delivery of support for language interpretation in screening services 2021. Please contact us for more information on what is currently available for people whose first language is not English for each programme. | Aoife.collins@screeningservice.ie |
| BreastCheck text messaging project | BreastCheck has implemented enhanced text message interventions to increase communication. A reminder text is sent seven days before the appointment. An additional text message is sent three days before the appointment to maximise appointment allocations and facilitate communication with the service user ahead of their appointment. The text messages also include important information about their appointment. On mobile locations service-users receive text communications from the radiographers inside the mobile to ensure safe social distancing can be maintained. | info@breastcheck.ie https://www2.hse.ie/services/breast-screening/breast-screening-and-coronavirus.html |

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| Communications | | |
| BowelScreen participation document | BowelScreen have developed a document to support participation in bowel screening for carers. This enables a carer to have the information they may require to support a person to make an informed choice about bowel screening. This document aims to complement the easy read materials developed. | Lynn.swinburne@screeningservice.ie |
| NSS stakeholder engagement project | We are extending our stakeholder list to include more diverse groups; the development of the strategy will take account of a larger group of stakeholders that will make us more aware of their views and feedback on how we are developing the programmes. | communications@screeningservice.ie |
| Working with communities | | |
| Easy read project BowelScreen | The purpose of this easy read project was to provide information in an easy to read format from the regular BowelScreen and Colonoscopy leaflets. The goal was to prioritise information or group/present it in such a way that it can be accessed as needed. As it wasn't possible to use a full co-design methodology (due to COVID-19) for this project, a wide consultation with the disability sector and content experts was undertaken. Two photo shoots were undertaken, one on the home test and one about colonoscopy. All materials were tested and agreed with our partners in the disability sector before being published. | Lynn.swinburne@screeningservice.ie View our easy read materials here: https://www.bowelscreen.ie/bowelscreen-information-resources.132.html |

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| Working with communities | | |
| Easy read project BreastCheck | <p>Our co-design breast screening easy read project was developed as a local partnership between Kerry Parents and Friends, ACE communications – specialists in easy read development and the public health department in the National Screening Service. The outputs from this project reflect the commitment of the women and the project partners’. We created:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Two videos – one with subtitles, 2. One staff document (explainer), 3. Two examples of easy read consent forms, 4. A set of pictures on going for a mammogram and further tests, 5. Two photo stories – going for a mammogram and further tests, 6. Four plain English documents (no pictures) 7. Three easy read documents. | <p>Lynn.swinburne@screeningservice.ie</p> <p>View our easy read materials here: https://www.breastcheck.ie/content/publications</p> |
| Migrant community co design screening materials | <p>The Public Health Department have developed a range of new materials to help increase understanding of screening amongst migrant communities. The materials have been created in collaboration with social inclusion leads and health advocates. It is the aim that these new, co-designed materials will provide more people with the information necessary to enable them to choose to participate in screening. The new materials cover the four NSS screening programmes: BreastCheck, CervicalCheck, BowelScreen and Diabetic RetinaScreen. They include a co-designed, easy-to-read four-programme factsheet; translations of the easy-to-read factsheet in Arabic and Romanian; and updated information about the four programmes which is now included in a manual for refugees in Emergency Reception and Orientation Centres (EROC).</p> | <p>Aoife.collins@screeningservice.ie</p> |

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| Working with communities | | |
| Training for intercultural health advocates | <p>Training was provided for intercultural health advocates (IHAs) to support them to introduce screening to their communities, which include asylum seekers, refugees and Roma.</p> <p>IHAs are often themselves members of the communities they work with. They are employed by NGOs and funded by HSE Social Inclusion South East, and work in partnership with health service staff. They help people in their communities identify their health needs, access information and entitlements, and when necessary, represent and negotiate on their behalf.</p> | Aoife.collins@screeningservice.ie |
| Needs assessments | | |
| NSS disability needs assessment | <p>NSS have brought together a Steering Group made up of disability advocacy groups and Disability Person Organisations to inform the development of a needs assessment of disabled people accessing screening. This group will oversee the development of this work and a project partner will be identified through a tendering process to complete the needs assessment from 2022 onwards.</p> | Lynn.swinburne@screeningservice.ie |

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| Partnership working | | |
| NSS Patient and Public Partnership (PPP) Strategy | <p>The aim of the NSS Patient and Public Partnership (PPP) Strategy is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Play a meaningful and active role in the NSS 2. Embed partnership working across the NSS 3. Strengthen accountability, assurance and learning <p>Work has progressed in coordinating the implementation of the PPP strategy and developing a robust Patient and Public Partnership (PPP) function within the National Screening Service. A co-production approach was agreed as the best method to implement the strategy, ensuring PPP representatives are equal partners in the process and central to decision making. This group have been working on; permanent PPP structures, roles and responsibilities, training needs and the development of a PPP framework and operating model, on how best to integrate PPP into NSS's routine ways of working.</p> <p>Patient representatives have also been involved in the governance of the NSS and have inputted to priority projects, such as: HPV implementation steering committee, Interval Cancer Expert Review, Quality and Risk Committee, as well as supporting the HIQA international review of ethics frameworks for screening, amongst others.</p> | PPPLEad@screeningservice.ie |
| Support for the ICS cancer awareness information roadshow | <p>NSS were delighted to partner with the Irish Cancer Society (ICS) on their cancer awareness roadshow. We provided training to their nurses, materials and information on registration on screening. We are happy to be a part of the review of this project and to support its roll out regionally.</p> | Lynn.swinburne@screeningservice.ie |

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| Partnership working | | |
| Support for Positive Ageing seminar National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) | NSS are a partner on the Irish Cancer Prevention Network (ICPN). With our partners we share a keen interest in spreading the prevention message to target audiences. Positive Ageing was the theme for our webinar in September and NSS presented on the three cancer screening programmes, endorsement of primary prevention and other tailored messaging to age well. | Lynn.swinburne@screeningservice.ie https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/5/cancer/prevention/cancer-prevention.html |
| Data | | |
| BreastCheck | The team enhanced data collection through the recommendation of data fields for BreastCheck IT system. This data will allow the commencement of equity monitoring across the programme. | publichealth.support@screeningservice.ie |
| Service Provision | | |
| Diabetic RetinaScreen extension of the digital surveillance pathway | This project extended the surveillance pathway for patients requiring follow up on their diabetic retinopathy. The purpose of this project was to reduce the number of hospital based visits for patients and to move the clinic into the community. This should support participation and enable easier access to the surveillance service that some patients require. | info@diabeticretinascreen.ie |
| BreastCheck new mobile units | One of the big projects for BreastCheck this year was the procurement of three additional mobile units. This increases BreastCheck's capacity and access to more local communities. | info@breastcheck.ie |



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