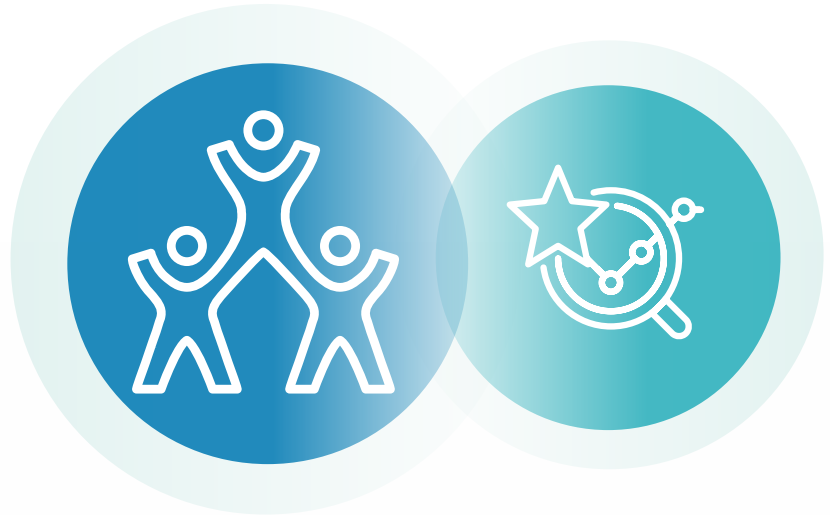


Choose Screening

Together we can make a difference

Executive Summary

The National Screening Service Strategic Plan 2023-2027



Who we are and what we do

The National Screening Service (NSS) delivers four national population-based screening programmes. We screen for bowel, breast, and cervical cancer, and for retinopathy in people with diabetes. These programmes aim to reduce morbidity and mortality in the population through prevention and/or early recognition of disease and treatment, both of which can greatly improve health outcomes. They aim to do this through achieving high quality, best practice and person-centred care. Although we deliver screening at a population level, we aim to put the patient first by adopting a participant-centred approach that focuses on care, compassion, trust and learning.

About this plan

Our new strategic plan offers a roadmap for what we hope to achieve over the coming five years, and how we plan to achieve it. To make sure that our plan is meaningful, and ensure that we maintain our focus on delivering a participant-centred service, we undertook consultations with our screening participants, our staff, and our partners to understand what goals and objectives would be most important and relevant for our stakeholders.

This strategy is written in a time of significant change across the health service, as well as growing global uncertainty.

In developing our strategy we have taken into account the wider context in which the NSS operates. We have focused on our environment, and looked to ongoing developments in screening and population health – both in Ireland and abroad. We have developed a unified vision, promoting innovation and excellence in patient care and outcomes – and we have considered how we will fulfill our mission to lead, deliver and develop our screening programmes in a way that ensures the highest quality, saves lives and improves people's health across Ireland.

There is more information about our screening programmes, our mission, vision and values and our key areas of focus for the next five years in our [full strategy report](#).

Summary of our goals

We have agreed on six key areas of focus, and what we hope to achieve in the coming five years. Each of these areas is important to us, and will guide our efforts, work and development. A number of long-term goals and objectives have been identified under each priority, as well as a series of actions to achieve each goal. These goals, and our plan to achieve them, are explored in more detail in our [full strategy report](#).

Key areas of focus

Engagement and Partnership



Our stakeholders and partners | Our brand & reputation | Our target populations | Foster trust and confidence | A people-centred approach | Building awareness & understanding of screening

Goal 1: We will be an open, trusted, listening organisation that works with national and international partners to support equity, engagement, promote operational excellence and foster proactive service development, to improve the experience of our screening participants.

We want to engage with partners to support the development of a compassionate service that delivers positive participant experiences and equitable, high-quality care. We wish to ensure that screening is accessible to everyone. We want to learn from the experience and expertise of our stakeholders and the participants that we serve. We aim to proactively share appropriate information in order to raise awareness and understanding of screening, and support people to make individual and informed choices. We want to maintain a high level of trust by reporting on our progress and performance in a transparent way.

Operational Excellence



Programme Performance | Organisation Capacity | Screening Pathways

Goal 2: We will deliver internationally leading, evidence-based, quality assured population screening programmes and demonstrate their impact.

The NSS is a high-performing organisation. We want to be an international leader that is known for delivering quality assured screening programmes, using technology, data and expertise to enhance our services.

Service Development

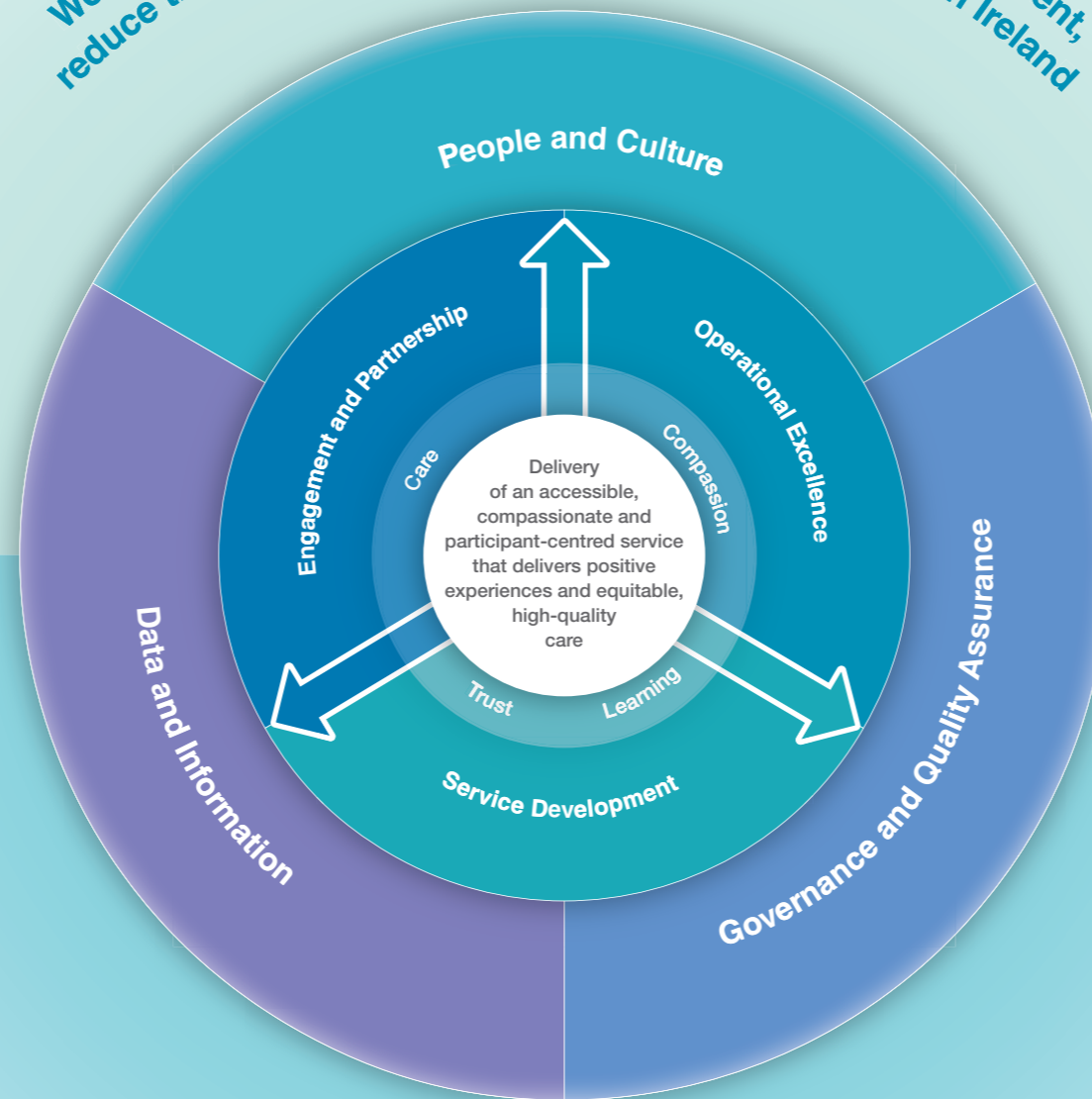


Leaders in Screening Innovation | New Screening Programmes | Evidence Based Screening Pathways | Research

Goal 3: We will be at the forefront of developments in population screening programmes that support the prevention and early recognition of disease. We will conduct and commission research, review evidence, and work with policy makers to provide an experienced and expert voice in population screening.

We want to avail of every opportunity to develop our services, maintain our relevance and be an organisation for the future. We want to be curious, open and actively anticipate change to remain a recognised leader in population screening who is an active contributor to improving detection rates among our participants.

Our Mission
We deliver population screening programmes that help prevent, reduce the risk of, and aid the recognition of, disease in Ireland



Our Vision
Working together to save lives and improve people's health through population screening

People & Culture



Culture, Values and Behaviours | Workforce Planning & Recruitment and Retention | Supporting Our People | Learning and Development

Goal 4: We will have an open, responsive and supportive environment where our people have what they need to develop, deliver and succeed. The NSS will be a workplace of choice where our staff feel valued, supported and engaged.

Our people are our greatest asset. With committed and engaged staff, we can achieve meaningful engagement with screening participants, external partners and the population in Ireland. We want a positive culture where all our staff are encouraged, supported and treated with dignity and respect. We want to embed this culture to enable them to deliver a compassionate and person-centred service.

Governance & Quality Assurance



Our organisation | Our programmes Quality and safety | Risk management Continuous quality improvement | National and international standards

Goal 5: We will demonstrate good governance and leadership across the NSS to assure our staff, external partners, screening participants and the public that we are effectively discharging our roles and responsibilities, implementing and supporting a culture of quality assurance and improvement, and delivering value for money.

Effective leadership and good governance are central to assuring clinical and corporate performance, and demonstrating accountability to our service users and wider stakeholders. We want to assess and show that programmes are led and delivered in a way that ensures high quality, makes the best use of public funds, of people's knowledge and experience, and provides oversight of all areas required to develop and deliver quality assured programmes. Assurance and continuous improvement of the quality of services is essential if population screening is to achieve the intended benefits to population health, while minimising unintended harms to those taking part.

Data & Information



Data, Technology and Digitisation | Data Driven Monitoring, Evaluation and Decision Making

Goal 6: We will use advances in information technology and data to inform and strengthen our service delivery, support evidence-based decision-making, and improve our efficiency.

Becoming a data driven organisation, actively engaged in real-time monitoring, enables us to demonstrate our performance, and identify strategic opportunities for service development and continuous quality improvement. Utilising optimum information and effective technologies will enable us to deliver a safe and responsive service that meets the needs of our screening participants and enhances their experience interacting with the service.

Our Values

What we believe in



Care

We work in partnership with screening participants, staff, and the general population to provide a service that is based on quality, equity and respect.



Compassion

We support each other, showing kindness and understanding, even when faced with difficult decisions and situations.



Trust

We build relationships that are based on openness, honesty and accountability to foster a culture where people feel safe and believe in each other.



Learning

We promote a culture of partnership, reflection and continuous improvement in providing a service based on innovation and excellence.