



# The National Screening Service

## Improving Equity in Screening

The National Screening Service has four screening programmes for people in Ireland.

We screen for breast, bowel, and cervical cancer.

We screen for diabetic eye disease.

We try to find diseases early so people can get the best treatment.

### What does Equity mean?

Health equity is when everyone has the chance to be as healthy as possible. It is when everyone has a fair chance to use health services.

The National Screening Service has put together a framework for equity.

This will help us to understand health equity in our service and make it better.

We want everyone to understand what screening is.

We want everyone to be able to take part in screening if they want to.

#### How did we put the Equity Framework together?

We listened to people that use our screening services.

We listened to staff working in the National Screening Service.

We listened to people in the community.

We listened to people in organisations that work with us.

## **Making Equity better**

People gave their views on making screening services easier for everyone to use. This consultation came up with five main areas to make equity better in screening services:

#### 1. Research and Data

We will do research and learn from research, so we improve equity in screening.

We will collect information from people using our screening services.

#### 2. Education, Learning and Development

HSE staff, screening staff, and the public will learn about the best ways to do screening.

We will learn about ways to make screening more accessible to everyone.

#### 3. Partnership

We will work with patients, the public, the HSE, and other organisations. Together, we will make sure that everyone can take part in screening if they want to.

#### 4. Accessibility and Inclusivity

We will look at the things that stop people from taking part in screening. We will find ways to take away these barriers.

#### 5. Communication

We will communicate and share information in different ways. We will respect individual needs and choices.

#### What will we do next?

We will set up a new committee to put our Framework into action.

The committee will make sure equity is part of our screening services.

How to get involved or find out more:

Please email <a href="mailto:equity@screeningservice.ie">equity@screeningservice.ie</a>



www.breastcheck.ie

www.cervicalcheck.ie

www.bowelscreen.ie

www.diabeticretinascreen.ie



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