



Public Health  
England



Protecting and improving the nation's health

# Quality Assurance Report

## Coventry and Warwickshire Cervical Screening Programme

### South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust Cervical Screening Programme visit on 8 March 2016

V1.0 / July 2016

**Public Health England leads the NHS Screening Programmes**

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## About PHE Screening

Screening identifies apparently healthy people who may be at increased risk of a disease or condition, enabling earlier treatment or better informed decisions. National population screening programmes are implemented in the NHS on the advice of the UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC), which makes independent, evidence-based recommendations to ministers in the four UK countries. The Screening Quality Assurance Service ensures programmes are safe and effective by checking that national standards are met. PHE leads the NHS Screening Programmes and hosts the UK NSC secretariat.

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# Executive summary

The findings in this report relate to the quality assurance (QA) review of the South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust cervical screening programme held on 8 March 2016.

## 1. Description of local screening programme

The cervical screening programme delivered by the South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust comprises a single colposcopy service sited at the Warwick Hospital. Cytology and histopathology services are provided by Coventry and Warwickshire Pathology which is hosted by the University Hospitals of Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust. The cytology laboratory is located in Coventry, and the histopathology service is located on-site at Warwick Hospital. The colposcopy service serves the area of South Warwickshire which has a population of approximately 300,000 and receives approximately 700 referrals per year. The service at the South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust forms part of the Coventry and Warwickshire cervical screening programme.

The NHS England (West Midlands) team has overall responsibility for commissioning the cervical screening activities carried out by the trust.

## 2. Key findings

The findings from this quality assurance visit demonstrate many positive areas of service delivery. From the review of documentation and data provided in advance of the visit and from the professional discussions that took place on the day, the governance arrangements appear to be robust, with good communications across the programme. It is clear that all staff in the programme continue to work hard to ensure that the service being provided is patient focused and staff are routinely working to bring about continuous improvement.

An overview of the short term recommendations made is included below.

### 2.1 Shared learning

There were several areas of shared learning identified by the QA Team, but in particular:

- the standardised approach to the role of hospital-based coordinator across the 3 hospital trusts which form the Coventry and Warwickshire cervical screening programme, including the introduction of an innovative appraisal/role review template
- there is regular and comprehensive review of Trust and individual staff performance against national colposcopy performance standards
- colposcopy nursing staff are encouraged to attend the quarterly cervical screening business meetings and the monthly colposcopy multidisciplinary team meetings

## 2.2 Immediate concerns for improvement

The Screening QA service and the QA team are pleased to note that there were no immediate concerns identified during the visit process.

## 2.3 High priority issues

Overall, the high priority issue for the service relates to the achievement of some key national colposcopy performance standards.

## 3. Key recommendations

10 recommendations were made overall, and it is specified that 6 of these should be completed within 3 months of the date of this report. The remaining 4 recommendations (classified as medium term) should be completed within 6 months of the date of this report. 2 of the medium term recommendations relate to audit of action plans identified in the short term recommendations. The short term recommendations are summarised in the table below:

<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Brief description of recommendation</b>
Short term	Service delivery and quality	The arrangements for designated administrative support for the hospital-based coordination role need to be formally documented and fully implemented
Short term	Service delivery And quality	The arrangements for referral of symptomatic patients need to be revised to ensure they are in line with national guidance
Short term	Service delivery and quality	All practising colposcopists need to achieve the national standards in respect of minimum annual workload and attendance at colposcopy multi-disciplinary team meetings
Short term	Service delivery and quality	The colposcopy clinical guidelines need to be updated to include some omissions and some minor amendments
Short term	Service delivery and quality	Performance data in respect of referral to colposcopy and women receiving treatment within 4 weeks of biopsy needs to be fully validated and an action plan put in place to address performance outside of national standard, if relevant
Short term	Service delivery and quality	Appropriate cover arrangements for colposcopy administration functions needs to be identified

#### **4. Next steps**

The South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust is responsible for developing an action plan to ensure completion of the recommendations contained within this report, in line with the specified deadlines. It is noted that the internal reporting structure for the cervical screening programme outlines that the hospital-based programme coordinator reports into the trust's governance board which will have oversight of the action plans to address the issues raised.

The NHS England screening and immunisation team will be responsible for monitoring progress against the action plan and ensuring all recommendations are implemented. The Screening QA service, in conjunction with the QA professional and clinical advisors (PCAs), will work with the trust to support this process.