

Review of national screening programmes in England – extension

Scope and Accountability

A review of national cancer screening programmes in England was commissioned by NHS England in December 2018. The review will culminate in a report and recommendations to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Board of NHS England and Improvement about the future commissioning and delivery of adult screening programmes in England.

Public Health England provides essential services across the whole screening pathway and will therefore be fully engaged in the process of the review.

Whilst the scope of the review was initially limited to cancer screening programmes for breast, bowel and cervical cancer screening, it is recognised that the recommendations may have implications for the organisation of other national screening programmes. Therefore, the scope of the review will be increased to include Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) screening and Diabetic Eye Screening (DES) services.

The review will also consider the wider implications of cancer screening on diagnostic capacity and the associated workforce needed to improve the uptake and effectiveness of cancer screening programmes, in the context of other initiatives to promote the early diagnosis of cancer.

The updated terms of reference are as below.

Terms of reference – Updated 16 October 2019

Chair: Professor Sir Mike Richards

1. To assess current strengths and weaknesses in the current commissioning and delivery arrangements for the national adult screening programmes in England, in view of the current available evidence.
2. To assess diagnostic capacity (screen detected and symptomatic), taking account of the Faster Diagnosis Standard and likely future models of care.
3. To make recommendations based on the findings of points 1 and 2 and on areas including:
 - How NHS England interacts with PHE and DHSC to translate screening policy into implementation.
 - The current arrangements for national commissioner oversight of screening programmes.
 - How screening programmes should be commissioned, delivered, performance managed and quality assured in the future.
 - How to ensure that the necessary workforce is both available and appropriately trained to deliver the programmes.

- Procurement of screening technologies e.g. FIT.
 - How IT systems support the ambitions of the screening programmes.
 - Opportunities for the use of artificial intelligence and stratification in screening and likely timescales and implementation approach.
 - How best to maximise uptake of screening, and iron out variation in uptake rates between different geographical areas and different population groups.
 - How best to integrate research and evaluation within screening.
 - How best to ensure that screening supports the wider efforts being led by the NHS Cancer Programme to promote early diagnosis of cancer.
 - Approaches to increasing diagnostic capacity both for screening and symptomatic diagnosis of cancer.
4. The review will focus on improvements to the commissioning functions of NHS England, but will also examine how NHS England collaborates with other partners to deliver adult screening and other screening services.
5. The review will take account of views from partner organisations, including:
- Department of Health and Social Care
 - Public Health England
 - NHS Digital
 - Health Education England
 - CQC
 - NICE
 - NIHR
 - Local Government
 - Charities and patient representative groups
6. Following the interim report 'Independent review of national cancer screening programme in England – interim report' (<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/independent-review-of-cancer-screening-programmes-interim-report.pdf>) published in May 2019, the final report into adult screening services will be published in October 2019, with a further report to follow on diagnostic capacity by the end of the year.
7. Secretariat to be provided by NHS England.