NHS Stockport wishes to gain the views of Stockport residents on some changes we are considering making to improve the breast screening services in Stockport. Your views are important to us and will help us make sure the services meet the needs of our local women. This leaflet explains some of the changes within the service and the reason why we are consulting with our residents.

Once you’ve read the leaflet, we would be grateful if you would complete the feedback consultation form and return it to us in a pre-paid envelope or go onto the NHS Stockport website at www.nhsstockport.nhs.uk to complete the form. The consultation process on this service runs until 10th December 2011 and all feedback will be taken into consideration.

So what do you think?

We would like to know what you think about the changes we have described here. Please fill in the feedback consultation form and return it to us in a pre-paid envelope or go onto the NHS Stockport website at www.nhsstockport.nhs.uk to complete the form. The consultation process on this service runs until 10th December 2011 and all feedback will be taken into consideration.

Breast Screening in Stockport

Have your say ....

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This leaflet explains some of the changes within the service and the reason why we are consulting with our residents. Once you’ve read the leaflet, we would be grateful if you would complete the feedback form or go onto the NHS Stockport website www.nhsstockport.nhs.uk to complete an online survey.

The feedback we receive will help us decide what changes to make to improve the breast screening services in Stockport.

OPTION 2: Establish a permanent static site

In many areas, women are invited to a static site (e.g. a Health Service building) which is in a centrally located position. Again, there are advantages to this:

- Greater availability of appointments—e.g. evening/weekend
- No downtime due to transporting of van
- Access to all amenities – toilets/parking
- Accessible to all Stockport women
- More secure for expensive technical equipment

And disadvantages:

- Some women may have to travel further for appointments
Breast Screening Services in Stockport

Breast Screening helps to detect breast cancer at a very early stage. It saves thousands of lives every year in the UK.

It is a quick procedure which uses x-rays (called a mammogram) to see inside the breast.

Women between the ages of 50-70 are invited every 3 years to be screened.

Each year NHS Stockport invites approximately 12,000 women to come for their routine breast screening. The service is delivered by a mobile van which moves around the borough of Stockport. We use 5 different locations which are usually on the car park of one of our health centres.

Improvements in the Service

Changes are being made to improve cancer services across the country. For breast screening these include:

- **Extending the age range** - Previously, all women aged between 50 and 70 were offered breast screening every three years. In January 2011, the age extension began and by 2016 all women between the ages of 47 and 73 will be invited for screening.

Screening will also be offered to women outside of these ages who have a family history of breast cancer.

These changes will increase the number of women we need to screen every year. Even without these changes, we know that there will be an increased demand for screening in future. This is because we have an ageing population, which means that there will be more women aged between 47 and 73 living in the borough in future. Therefore, we may consider offering appointments later in the day or on weekends.

- **New digital equipment** - To improve the service and provide better quality images, we will use new digital screening machines instead of the film-based machines we use now.

This equipment can be used in mobile vans but is more suited for use in permanent units. This is partly due to the need to keep it at a set temperature and also because mobile vans can be prone to vandalism and the digital machines are much more expensive to repair or replace if damaged.

Proposals for future service

In order to maximise these improvements, we are considering the option of changing from a mobile screening service to a service delivered in a secure permanent unit. However, each of the options have advantages and disadvantages which are summarised below.

**OPTION 1: Retain a mobile service for screening**

At the moment, women are invited to a mobile van near their homes. This has the following advantages:

- Closer to home for most invited women
- We can continue to use current sites

The disadvantages include:

- Continues to be inaccessible to all (because of steps)
- Limited number of appointments due to confined space
- Reducing sites due to access to water/electricity/toilets
- Downtime and lost appointments due to moving van to new locations
- Risk of vandalism