

Many thanks for the report. Please find below our response:

The report is useful in giving us additional information on barriers to uptake of cancer screening programmes we will use the recommendations to inform the plans emerging from the local Tackling Cancer Together group. Some of the findings confirm the insight work carried out earlier on developing the cervical screening campaign.

I will ask for the Tackling Cancer together group to consider the report at their next meeting. It might be worth someone from your team going along to present the findings. Becky will be able to advice on the future dates for the meetings. Cancer Research are actively promoting the uptake of bowel screening using Middlesbrough as one of a small number of target areas so it may be that we can link up some of the messages from this to further target...

They are a few areas for consideration as you finalise the report:

- The report makes reference to prostate cancer screening and it may be worth emphasising/strengthening that there is currently no national (or local as far as I am aware) cancer screening programme for prostate cancer – (one of the key reasons is the absence of a conclusive test for screening purposes as PSA is not a specific or sensitive test for screening purposes). However, there is an active case finding approach for individuals at risk and there is need to raise awareness on symptoms to reduce patient delay (this is addressed fully in the report).
- On page 5 – it may be worth highlighting cancer is one of the leading causes of premature deaths and accounts for a significant proportion of the gap between Middlesbrough and England as well as the gap within the town (attached is a slide that illustrated the point).
- possibly the second paragraph of the rationale (2.1) maybe wants rewording as it sounds like cancer is the single cause of early death and illness. And

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Kind regards,
Edward

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It should be noted that the comments and suggestions kindly offered above have now been incorporated into the final report submitted on Healthwatch Middlesbrough's website.