Breast screening starts for 17,000 Tendring women

Routine breast screening started in Clacton today (Thurs) for thousands of women living in the Clacton, Frinton and Walton areas.

A total of 16,954 women will be invited to a mobile digital breast screening unit parked at Clacton Hospital for a breast x-ray (mammogram) under the NHS Breast Screening Programme. Screening is due to end there in July next year.

Invitations for screening are being posted out approximately three weeks in advance of appointments and can be changed easily if the time is inconvenient.

Women will be called for screening in the following order:

- **Holland-on-Sea**: Until mid-July 2013
- **Clacton**: July to late January 2014
- **Walton**: January to March 2014
- **Little Clacton**: April to May 2014
- **Jaywick**: June to July 2014

The mobile screening unit is parked at the side of Clacton Hospital in the car park off Freeland Road.

Anne Pugh, breast screening nurse with the Chelmsford & Colchester NHS Breast Screening Service, said: “We advise women to carefully consider the offer to attend for a breast screening mammogram.

“Statistics show that one in eight women in the UK will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime and early diagnosis gives them the best chance of being cured.

“Breast screening does not prevent you from getting breast cancer but it does find cancers at an early stage when treatment is more likely to be successful and women are more likely to survive.”

The Independent Breast Screening Review, which was published last October, estimates that the NHS Breast Screening Programme prevents 1,300 deaths a year.

The NHS Breast Screening Programme, which was set up in 1988, aims to detect breast cancer at a very early stage and provides free breast screening every three years for all women in the UK aged 50-70.

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The service provides digital breast screening at Essex County Hospital, Colchester, and Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford, and also runs three mobile units which move all over mid and north Essex.

* Anyone wanting more information about breast screening for women from the areas listed above should phone Anne Pugh, breast screening nurse, on 01206 744645.

More information about breast screening can be found at:
www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/breastscreen

Women aged 74 or over can make their own appointment for breast screening by phoning the Screening Office on 01206 744749.

Ends

For further information:
Contact Mark Prentice at Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust on 01206 742752.

30 May 2013