

## **Cervical Screening Awareness Week 12-18<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

Every year in the UK, around 3,000 women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer. Cervical cancer is the most common cancer in women aged 35 and under. Two women lose their lives to the disease every day.

Cervical screening (smear tests) prevent up to 75% of cervical cancers from developing, saving around 5,000 lives a year in the UK. However, uptake in England is at a 19 year low with 1 in 4 women not attending when invited.

Among certain groups this number is even higher, including women aged 25 to 29, women with a learning disability and those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

The HPV vaccination protects against 70% of cervical cancers and while current uptake is high across UK, at 85.1%, in some areas it is as low as 43.7%.

Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust are promoting Cervical Screening Awareness Week (12-18 June 2017) in the hope they can help improve the uptake.

You can make a difference to raise awareness about Cervical Screening by displaying the attached poster in your workplace, school, or community centre.

### **The symptoms of cervical cancer**

There are some recognised symptoms associated with cervical cancer that you should be aware of. These include:

- Abnormal bleeding: during or after sexual intercourse, or between periods
- Post-menopausal bleeding: if you are not taking hormone replacement therapy (HRT) or have stopped it for six weeks or more
- Unusual vaginal discharge
- Discomfort or pain during sexual intercourse
- Lower back pain.

For more information visit <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/cervical-cancer/symptoms> or Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust Helpline 0808 802 8000

