

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 13 FEBRUARY 2020

**Question to Alan White
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing**

By Kyle Robinson

Question

It has recently been highlighted that thousands of people in Staffordshire have not taken part in their free NHS bowel cancer screening tests. People aged between 60 and 74 years in England are sent a home test for bowel cancer every two years. It has been reported that 9,237 people out of 22,779 in the Cannock Chase CCG area and 9,894 people out of 27,065 in the Stafford and Surrounds CCG area had not taken up the test in the two-and-a-half years to March 2019. Will the Deputy Leader of the council and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing ensure Staffordshire County Council does its bit to highlight the importance of eligible people taking part in this screening to diagnose disease early, hopefully leading to positive outcomes following treatment?

Reply

Bowel cancer is a common type of cancer with about 1 in 20 people developing it during their lifetime and we may all know someone who has the disease. Screening can detect bowel cancer at an earlier stage, when it is more likely that it can be treated effectively.

There are two types of bowel cancer screening. The first is a home testing kit to collect a stool sample to test for blood, which is sent to people aged 60-74 every two years. The second is a thin, flexible camera used to examine the bowel, which is being rolled out as a one-off test to people aged 55.

In 2019, 62% of eligible people in Staffordshire took up bowel cancer screening using the home testing kit. This compares favourably to the national average of 60% and is an increase on the 2015 figure of 60% for the county.

The Council would like everyone who is eligible to take advantage of bowel cancer screening and we are happy to do our bit to raise awareness of this important screening programme.

More information for the public is available here:

https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/sites/default/files/downloadable-resources/bowel_cancer_screening_leaflet_-_file.pdf