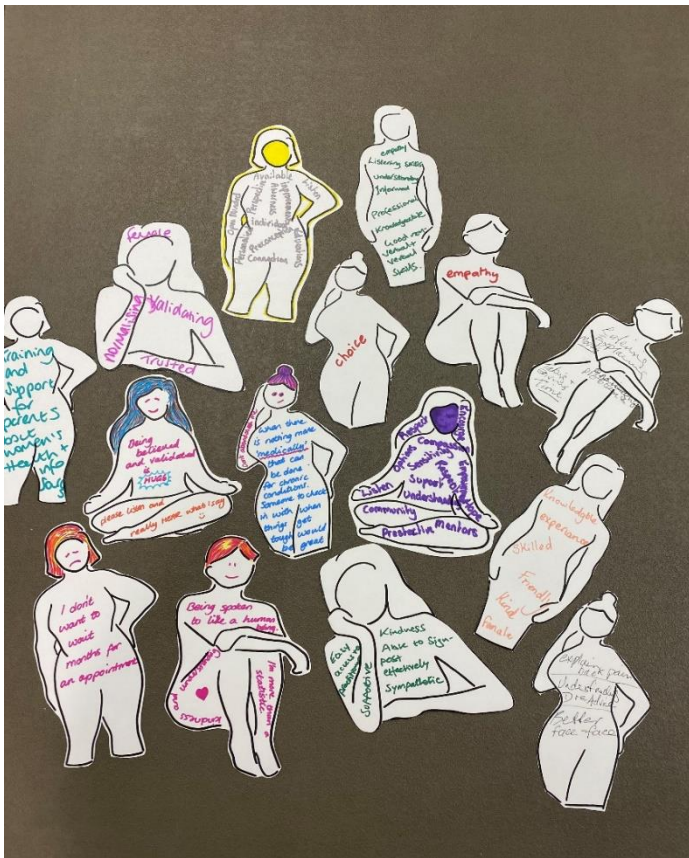




Improving Women's Health – Derby and Derbyshire Summary of Engagement Report:



Introduction



Background

The Government has provided funding to improve Women's Health services in Derby and Derbyshire. This is a one-time payment aimed at addressing current issues and creating better ways of working together. The goal is to streamline services, reduce inequity, and provide targeted support to specific communities.

NHS Derby and Derbyshire commissioned two local organisations to lead on the engagement. A Patient and Public Partner has also coproduced the engagement approach together with all partners.

- Community Action Derby – Derby City
- Link CVS – County

A [Case for Change](#) was developed to better understand local women's services and the inequities that face women's in Derby and Derbyshire.

What does we mean my Women's Health?

The term 'women' should be taken to include of all women, girls and people with a womb, ovaries or cervix.

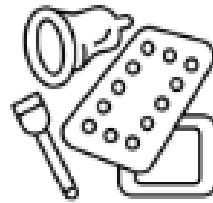
The key services or conditions that the project will be looking at are:



Menstrual Problems
(periods)



Menopause
(when periods stop)



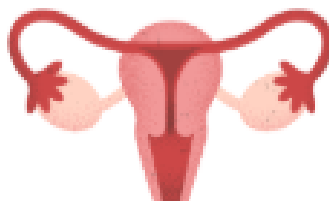
Contraception
(methods to stop becoming pregnant)



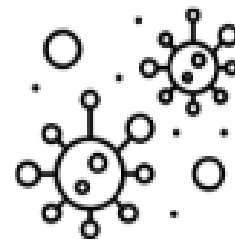
Preconception Care
(before becoming pregnant)



Breast Pains



Cervical screenings



Sexually Transmitted Infections

Who did we want to hear from?

We wanted to hear from all women across Derby and Derbyshire, but we were also keen to hear from certain groups of women as they face more difficulties accessing quality healthcare. Stigma, discrimination, and lack of cultural understanding can make these challenges worse.

Methodology

Two key approaches were used for the engagement:

- Surveys to gather views from women across Derby and Derbyshire
- Community-led workshops for in-depth discussions with targeted groups



Who Took Part?

Between November 2024 and January 2025, large-scale engagement activities were conducted:

- Survey: 744 women participated
- Community Workshops: 986 women from 39 community groups attended



Key Findings of the Survey

Summary

Key issues included gaps in knowledge, accessibility, overshadowing and support, especially among marginalised groups such as individuals with learning disabilities, ethnic minority communities, refugees, LGBTQ+ populations, and those experiencing socio-economic deprivation.

Understanding and Knowledge

- Many women have a good understanding of women's health issues.
- Some groups lack knowledge, especially about menopause, reproductive health, and preventative care.

Health Priorities

- Younger Women: Focus on contraception, menstrual health, and fertility.
- Middle-aged Women: Concerned with pregnancy, postnatal care, and cervical screening.
- Older Women: Worry about menopause, osteoporosis, and heart disease.

Preferred Access to Services

- Most women prefer face-to-face interactions for health services.
- Digital exclusion and language barriers are significant issues, especially for ethnic minorities and those with learning disabilities.

Barriers to Access

- Common problems include difficulty booking appointments, long waiting times, and not enough female doctors.
- Some women feel healthcare professionals dismiss their concerns and are unaware of available services.
- Financial issues and transport difficulties also make accessing healthcare harder.

Experiences with Health Services

- Positive: Empathetic healthcare professionals and convenient services.
- Negative: Inadequate access, delays, and perceived lack of seriousness about women's health concerns.

Screening and Vaccination Participation

- Low participation in cervical and bowel screenings, and HPV vaccinations is mainly due to fear, misinformation, and lack of awareness.
- Suggestions to increase participation include better public education and more flexible appointment options.

Next Steps

The Inclusivity Group, a sub-group of the Sexual Health Alliance, will create an action plan and recommendations to address key inclusivity elements identified in this report.



Was the Project Representative of the Targeted Groups?

The survey provided a reasonably accurate reflection of the local population demographics, though there was under-representation of the Asian and Black communities. Community-led engagement ensured that most targeted groups were represented.

Conclusion

This project has been a significant step towards understanding and improving Women's Health services in Derby and Derbyshire.

By listening to the voices of women from diverse backgrounds, we can create more inclusive and effective health services for everyone.

To keep up to date with the next steps and read the full report please visit the [Engagement Platform](#).

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in this project.

