

Improving Early Cancer Diagnosis for Underserved Communities

We are committed to tackling health inequalities and improving access to life-saving healthcare services. One of our recent initiatives at **The Whitehouse Centre**, focuses on increasing cancer screening uptake among underserved communities, including asylum seekers, refugees, and ethnic minority groups.

Why this work matters

These communities often face barriers such as **language, cultural differences, financial constraints, and lack of accessible health information**, leading to **lower cancer screening rates**. Diagnosing cancer at an early stage significantly improves survival rates, which is why this initiative aligns with the NHS Long-Term Plan's ambition for **75% of cancers to be diagnosed at an early stage by 2028**.



How we are making a difference

- ✓ Well woman clinics – Culturally sensitive screening environments with female clinicians, ensuring comfort and religious/cultural considerations.
- ✓ Multilingual resources – Screening information translated into multiple languages to improve accessibility.

✓ Cancer Champions – Trained individuals within communities to raise awareness and support others in accessing screenings.

✓ Flexible appointments – Collaborated with [Pennine Breast Screening](#) to offer appointments at more convenient times and locations.

✓ Behavioural science approach – Partnered with [Caja](#) to design communication strategies that encourage participation in screenings.

✓ Funded translation services – With support from [West Yorkshire and Harrogate Cancer Alliance](#), we ensured key materials were available in various languages.

The impact and next steps

These efforts have **significantly increased cancer screening uptake**, particularly among women and ethnic minority groups, leading to **earlier diagnoses and reduced disparities**. Our key takeaways include:

- ✓ A notable rise in breast screening uptake through Pennine Breast Screening.
- ✓ Ongoing monitoring of trends and response planning to ensure continued improvement.
- ✓ A commitment to understanding cultural needs and enhancing prevention efforts.
- ✓ Sustained engagement with patient participation groups to shape future initiatives.

By continuing this work, we aim to **reduce inequalities in cancer diagnosis**, ensuring everyone has access to vital screenings, regardless of their background.

Learn more about our work on health inequalities and inclusion [here](#).