



**STAFF NURSE  
ALLISON SPENSE**

**IT'S A LIFE SAVER**



Northern Health  
and Social Care Trust

# AIM

**To give an overview of the  
Bowel Cancer Screening  
Programme (BSCP) based at  
Whiteabbey (WHA) Endoscopy  
Unit April 2010 - present**



Northern Health  
and Social Care Trust

# **OBJECTIVES**

- **BCS in NI – the facts**
- **WHA Service**
  - **setting up**
  - **sustaining**
  - **development and improving**
- **Patient experience**



# **FACTS (NI)**

- **1:20 will develop cancer in their life time**
- **It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most common type of cancer found in NI**
- **Kills more than 400 people annually**
- **Most common in older people, particularly men – 1000 cases diagnosed every year**



# **FACTS (NI)**

- **Why screen?**
- **Treatment can be 90% successful if detected early**
- **Around 60 deaths in NI could be prevented each year**
- **Investigations – pick up colonic polyps**



# **HOW ARE PATIENTS SCREENED?**

- **Patients who are registered with a GP in NI**
- **Ages 60 - 71**
- **FOB test kit posted out**
- **If test kit negative have a repeat test kit in 2 years**
- **If test kit positive – to SSP for assessment and further investigations**



# **SETTING UP**

- **Good ground work**
- **Pivotal role of SSP**
- **Bigger team**
- **Holistic individual approach**



# **SUSTAINING/DEVELOPMENT** **OF THE SERVICE**

- **Being flexible and adaptable to changing needs of service, patients, etc**
- **Increased SSP hours, PA clinics and screening lists**
- **Ongoing development of protocols**
- **Documentation**





# **IMPROVEMENT**

- **Reflection**
- **Cost effective**
- **Quality service**
- **Patient input – focus groups /  
questionnaires**



**“Thanks for a quick reply, as your letter states I don’t have any problems at present, it’s always reassuring when you’re given the all clear in matters as crucial as this”**  
**BCSP Patient**



Northern Health  
and Social Care Trust

**“I got the screening kit through the post and I admit it lay for one or two weeks before my daughter insisted that I did it. After I completed it I got a letter asking me to attend WHA. In early December 2010 I was told I had bowel cancer. In January 2011 I had an operation to remove the cancer and thankfully didn’t need any further treatment. I am now clear, but it was only because of the bowel screening I found out I had cancer, as I had no symptoms. One doctor told me that he would only give me two years to live if I had done nothing”.**



**“I could have died if I had not received the screening kit, so it annoys me to hear about people who get the screening kit and throw them in the bin. People need to complete them as they are a life saver”**

**BSCP 2011**



Northern Health  
and Social Care Trust