

### Why is this important?

Cancer is an ever-growing health issue in the UK. While national trends are well documented, Lewisham faces specific challenges due to our unique demographic makeup of ages, ethnicities and incomes. This JSNA aimed to provide an overall picture of cancer in Lewisham and to inform how we should best develop our services in the future.

### Key Facts and Figures

**29%**

of all deaths in Lewisham are caused by cancer making it the most common cause of death.

Lewisham has lower levels of breast, bowel and cervical cancer screening uptake than England.



**1.5%**

of the population of Lewisham is living with a cancer diagnosis

**Cancer mortality** rates in Lewisham are above the National and London averages.

Lewisham has significantly higher rates of cancer registrations in men than in both England and London.



Lewisham is significantly better than England and London at diagnosing prostate cancer at an earlier stage.



### What is happening nationally?

There are **three key** ways to reduce the impact of cancer

1. Good **Prevention**: balanced diets, regular exercise, reduced alcohol intake and smoking cessation
2. Early **detection**: screening programmes (breast, cervical, bowel) and increased public awareness of early signs and symptoms
3. High quality **treatment**

There are many national campaigns such as [Be Clear on Cancer](#) that have been designed to improve cancer care in the UK. If you are interested, you can find a full list of these on p21 of the [JSNA](#)

### What is happening locally?

- [Be Clear on Cancer Lewisham pilot](#) (2014): local campaign to increase awareness of prostate cancer amongst black men (found to be a high risk group)
- [Stop smoking services](#)
- [Community alcohol services](#)
- [Weight management support](#)
- Training pharmacists to spot early signs of cancer
- HPV vaccinations (reduce risk of cervical cancer)
- **Screening services**: [Cervical](#), [breast](#), [bowel](#)

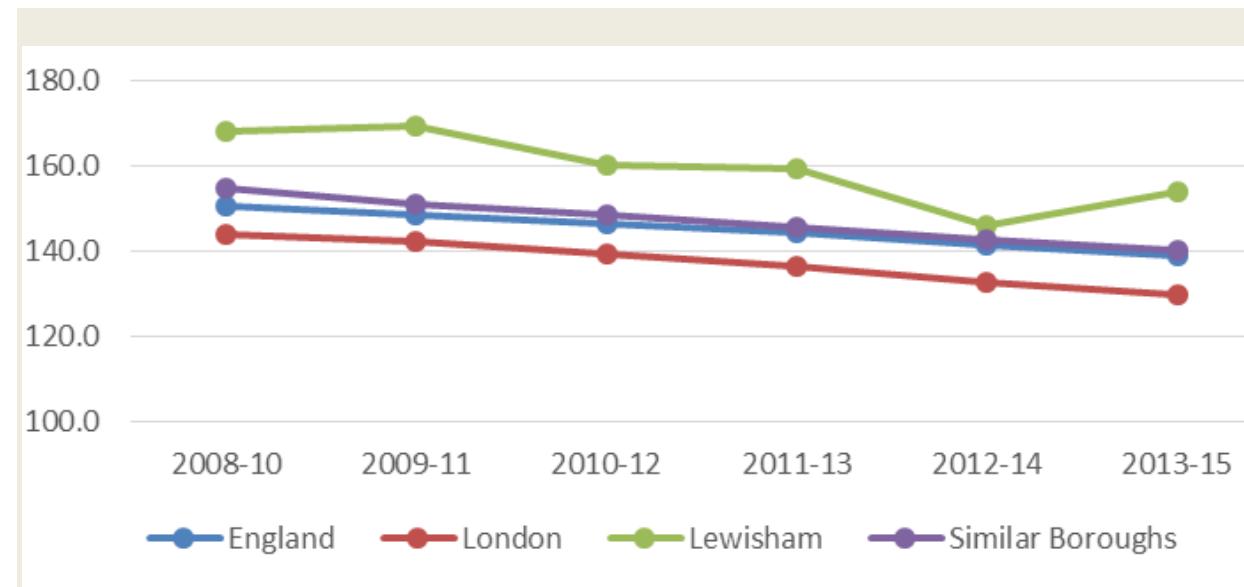


Figure. Age standardised mortality rate from cancer, all under 75s per 100,000 of the population

### What needs to be done?

Overall cancer mortality in Lewisham has been decreasing over recent years, our screening rates are going up and our survival times are improving. In order to keep moving ourselves in the right direction there are a few things we can do:

1. Close the gaps in our data/ knowledge: why do we have so many men in Lewisham with cancer? Are there inequalities that we are not aware of with regards to accessing services and information?
2. Continue to improve public awareness around cancer prevention, accessing screening services and spotting early warning signs
3. Continue to support our Health care professionals to provide the best services for our population