

# Service Development and Screening

In Northern Ireland, a range of screening programmes are available to support prevention, early diagnosis and healthier lives.

Screening is important because early detection of disease often produces better outcomes for patients. At this stage treatment may be more effective, avoiding significant ill health and in some cases premature death.

Screening programmes help identify potential health issues early, often before symptoms develop.

Early detection can improve outcomes, support treatment at an earlier stage, and help people make informed decisions about their health.

PHA staff provide particular expertise on service evaluation and review, assessment of the health and wellbeing needs of the population, and evidence-based practice.

They also have a key role in supporting the development, implementation and evaluation of regional service frameworks.

## **Commissioning teams:**

There are 11 PHA commissioning teams:

- Specialist services
- Unscheduled care
- Elective care
- Cancer care
- Palliative care
- Long-term conditions
- Maternity, paediatrics, gynaecology, child health
- Community care, elderly, physical disability
- Children and families
- Mental health, learning disability
- Prison services

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