

Issued 24<sup>th</sup> June 2011

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Dudley breast screening goes digital**

Dudley Breast Screening service next week unveils its state-of-the-art digital screening unit to provide clearer, instant images to improve the diagnosis of breast cancer.

The brand new unit will take up residence in Sedgley from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June before moving to sites around the borough as part of its three-yearly screening programme for women aged between 50 and 70 who are registered with a Dudley GP.

Amanda Harborne, the service's Superintendent said: "The new digital unit allows images to be seen immediately by the Radiographer before they are sent to Russells Hall Hospital for reporting – reducing the need for repeat screening. The quality of images and the ability to digitally manipulate them on the computer screen also makes it much more efficient than the traditional films."

In Dudley around 75 per cent of women take up the invitation to have a mammogram, but breast screening staff would encourage more women to come forward for this important check.

"Women often think that a mammogram will be more uncomfortable than it actually is. They will be out of the unit within around 15 minutes of their appointment time with the reassurance that early detection of breast cancer could save their life," added Amanda.

The Dudley and Wolverhampton Breast Screening Service are looking forward to receiving a second digital unit for Wolverhampton shortly with a plan to increase the age range of women screened in the region to 47 to 73-year-olds over the next few years.

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### **Pictured: Radiographer Beth James with the new equipment**

For more information please contact Mandy Green, Communications Manager, The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust