

8th July 2013

NHS 65th Birthday and AAA Screening Party

To coincide with 65th anniversary of the NHS, The Dudley Group welcomed five patients who have had potentially life threatening abdominal aortic aneurysms repaired at Russells Hall Hospital to a celebratory party.

The men were five of the 4137 who have been seen as part of the Black Country AAA screening programme since its launch in June 2012.

Mr Rajiv Pathak Consultant Vascular Surgeon and Black Country AAA Screening Programme Director said, "The screening programme has been a great addition to the Trust's services – we've screened 4137 men since the launch of this programme in June last year and have performed a number of life saving operations.

"It's very important that men are screened. The ultrasound takes five minutes and is simple and painless."

Tracey Bayliss, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening Programme Manager said, "Thank you to everyone for coming along and celebrating the fantastic achievements of the screening programme's first year.

"Looking forward, we want to continue to provide an excellent service for the Black Country and encourage as many men as possible to come forward for screening."

The programme screens men from Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton for abdominal aortic aneurysms when they reach their 65th birthday. An abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) is a potentially fatal condition where a main blood vessel from the heart swells, leaving it at risk of rupture.

Tracey Bayliss said, "The screening programme routinely invites all men in their 65th year, but men over 65 can self-refer by phoning 01384 321125 or visiting <http://aaa.screening.nhs.uk>"

Since its launch last year the programme has screened 4137 men over the age of 65 and detected 53 aneurysms.

The event will celebrate the achievements of the programme so far, but also hopes to further raise the awareness of the invaluable screening programme.

*** ENDS ***

For more information contact Alice Ford, Communications Assistant, The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, on (01384) 456111 extension 1419.