

Lung Health Check / Lung Cancer Screening Programme

**'I'd recommend this service to everyone, it's the best thing I've ever done'
- how this free lung health check could save your life.**

Sandra Fairbrother, 73 from Manchester would be unaware that she had lung cancer if she hadn't attended the health check earlier this year.

Free lung health checks are currently being offered to residents in north and east Manchester aged between 55 and 80 to help identify lung cancer in those who may have an increased risk of the condition. The checks are being carried out in a mobile screening unit which has been stationed at different locations across the region. Finding the problem before you have any symptoms means the disease can be caught in the early stages and patients can quickly receive the curative treatment they need.



The check takes place in a high-tech mobile screening unit (Image: Manchester Health and Care Commissioning)

Sandra's check showed that she had early stage cancer on her lung, which she was completely unaware of until she attended the unit. Sandra attended the free mobile unit at the Etihad Stadium in May 2019 having received a letter inviting her make an appointment.

"To be honest when I got my letter, I debated going for ages. I was really scared at first," said Sandra. "I said I was going to go and then I changed my mind but in the end I went - and I'm really glad I did." At the check, which takes around 30 minutes, Sandra was asked some questions about her general health and also had her height and weight measured. She was then asked to breathe into a tube called a spirometer. A specialist then decided that Sandra needed an ultra-low-dose CT scan, which was done straight away in the purpose-built mobile unit. "I had no symptoms when I attended," said Sandra, "but I knew how important it was to go." Sandra was told that somebody would soon be in touch with her or her doctor.

Only a few weeks later, Sandra received a letter from Wythenshawe Hospital stating that she needed to undergo another scan. "It all went from there," says Sandra. "When they found the cancer it was only very small and thankfully in the early stage." Within four weeks Sandra had an operation at Wythenshawe Hospital to remove the lung cancer, which was a success.



The mobile unit is currently based at Harpurhey Market (Image: Manchester Health and Care Commissioning)

Now completely cancer free, she says: "I'd recommend this service to everybody. "I was frightened and I know others will be frightened too but the sooner you go, the sooner you'll know.

"The service was so quick and easy and so was the operation and thankfully I've been fine ever since.

"It's the best thing I've ever done."

Find out more: www.mft.nhs.uk/lunghealthcheck

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