CHAPS The Men's Health Charity

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CHAPS is a local charity focusing on prostate cancer (PCa) awareness and screening. This is the commonest major cancer in males and second commonest cause of male cancer death. The NHS Prostate Cancer Risk Management Programme entitles men over 50 to PSA screening blood tests but many requests are declined by GPs, resulting in inequity of access. Advice not to test "till symptoms arise" is too late to achieve an early diagnosis. Against this background CHAPS works in partnerships with local communities, charities and Primary Care Networks (PCNs) to co-deliver easy access, risk-based, programmed PSA tests to identify PCa at an early, curable stage.

CHAPS partnered with Cancer Support Suffolk and the East Suffolk Prostate Cancer Support Group (ESPCSG) to co-deliver an awareness raising event and since 2022, CHAPS and ESPCSG have run events, PCa testing over 1000 men.

Collaboration with Essex University revealed Clacton to be a hotspot for PCa. Recognising that higher rates of PCa occur in areas of socioeconomic deprivation, CHAPS has partnered with Clacton Lions and Clacton Rotary to stage 2 events yearly at Community Voluntary Services Tendring HQ and the Clacton Masonic Hall providing free PSA tests. Since 2022, over 200 men have been tested and 11 cancers detected.

At all events in North East Essex, CHAPS partners with NHS teams to provide NHS Health Checks and for most of its events in Suffolk and NE Essex it partners with the ESNEFT laboratory. To reach another demographic, CHAPS has staged PCa testing events at sports clubs across North East Essex and Suffolk and collaborates with the Suffolk Freemasons to hold 4 events annually across the County open to the public over the last 12 months.