

## PM Challenge Fund bid

We submitted a £10m bid for the Challenge Fund which included running 10 evening and weekend primary care hubs. In the event we have been awarded £2m. This will allow us to deliver various workforce development initiatives and pilot an evening/weekend super hub in Ipswich. We are aiming to mirror this in Bury. The award is a positive endorsement of the Fed as a GP owned organisation.

## Primary Care Commission

We were invited to present to Professors Martin Roland, Nick Barber and Amanda Howe which are part of the NHS England Primary Care Commission. The independent Commission was set-up with the aim of identifying models of primary care that will meet the future needs of the NHS. If you would like a copy of our presentation it is on our website under News.

## Practice Services

Linda West is responsible for managing our Practice Services work supported by David Pannell. Linda undertakes work commissioned from our CCGs, currently just Ipswich & East Suffolk, such as dementia and COPD case finding. We are trying to engage with the West CCG but finding this difficult. Linda also leads work funded by the Fed when resources allow. Linda's programme for next year includes:

- Practice support particularly to PMs individually.
- Various workforce development programmes.

## Legal restructuring

As mentioned last month, on the advice of our solicitor your Board would like to rationalise our legal structure so we just have the Suffolk GP Federation CIC (and removing a second company PIP Suffolk limited). We have sent each practice a shareholder resolution and would be grateful if you could review and sign it within the next three weeks.

## Good news

Debs Banerjee, an Ipswich Fed Director, gave a motivational speech to boost the RCGP's East Anglia GP recruitment, particularly in Suffolk. The event was attended by FY1 and FY2s and at the end almost all wanted to become GPs.

## MDDUS update

Currently 96 Suffolk local GPs have registered with MDDUS for the discount scheme arranged by the Fed. We are four

GPs short of triggering the additional 2.5% discount so if you are aware of anyone who has not registered please ask them to email [skelly@mddus.com](mailto:skelly@mddus.com) and they will add them to the list.

We are keeping an eye on MDDUS rates and they remain significantly lower than the other main providers (circa 19% for 8 sessions per week). Having said that there are significant upward pressures on rates across all providers.

MDDUS are making various policy changes which they will be communicating directly to you. We have met them to discuss whether their policies can become more flexible, particularly as primary care teams expand beyond GPs and nurses. We also want to explore with them defence for GPs coming to the end of their careers.

## Heath Education East of England

We are working with HEEoE on various initiatives including Fellowships for younger GPs and those coming towards the end of their careers.

## Clinical service update

- Ultrasound new venues starting next week.
- Cardiology GP training complete and community clinics now running weekly.
- Pain set for a low key start in early April.

## Ipswich & East LES

You may be aware that the Fed currently manages the Care Home LES on behalf of the Felixstowe practices. This has run successfully, ensures full coverage of homes thus lessening this risk the CCG will tender the work and keeps resources within primary care. If you are considering not taking up any LES next year or are interested in the Fed running a LES on your behalf can you contact Linda West? This offer covers PMS practices which have to sign up for all LES as part of the Development Framework

## We are recruiting Fed directors

Are you from the West and interested in joining the Fed Board which runs an organisation with 55 staff and a turnover of £4m? Training provided. For more information contact David Pannell or for an informal chat either Crispin Dunne or Scott Burley.

Paul Driscoll—Chair