

Community services bid

Our two CCGs are retendering the SCH contract which is currently run by Serco. The general feedback from our members is they wish to work more closely with SCH (and social services) in the future, particularly district nurses. Your Board has had a number of discussions on how this can be best facilitated and concluded the Federation should be part of a partnership of likeminded community providers who will bid for and if successful manage the service.

I am pleased to report that the Federation is in a partnership with Bromley Healthcare, AHP Suffolk and NSFT. Bromley Healthcare are the lead provider in our partnership and are a not for profit community interest company with a strong track record of providing community services and have been supporting Serco in Suffolk over recent months.

Our partnership has got through the first part of the bidding process. We now move onto working-up the detail of how we propose community services will run in response to the CCG tender specification. We are specifically looking at how it will integrate with primary care. We are aware that member practices have a range of views so we will develop a suite of options that individual localities choose from.

We will be sending each member practice a short list of questions on how you would like the service to be improved and would be grateful if this could be discussed within your partnership. Please note that the regulations governing the bid process means no-one involved with the CCGs (e.g. on Clinical Exec or Governing Body) should be part of these discussions. Additionally the information contained in this article is commercial in confidence and by the rules of the procurement cannot be discussed more widely.

You will have seen that IHT and WSH are also bidding for the service and there may be others.

East ultrasound – additional locations

In response to feedback from members we are adding the following additional locations: Woodbridge, Aldeburgh, Felixstowe, Hadleigh and one additional Ipswich venue. Riverside, Wickham Market, Stowmarket and Eye will continue as now.

These changes mean one in five practices will host ultrasound and waiting times will be one to two weeks (with urgent scans completed within a couple of days).

PM Challenge Fund bid

We have not heard anything on this yet but if we are successful it will be significantly smaller than our initial bid.

End of life Lymphoedema patients

We have recently had a number of referrals of end of life patients with advanced Oedema. Please consider referring these patients earlier and before symptoms progress as we can prevent further chronic changes, complications and improve quality of life.

Dementia case finding project

The dementia project in the East is coming to an end. The CCG has missed its overall target but I&East Suffolk CCG is top for diagnosis rates across the East of England. West Suffolk is in the middle.

Trainee development

The Federation is developing a career development programme for younger GPs and will increasingly have opportunities for GPs with interests to develop portfolio careers. We are writing to all trainees so we can understand their plans and match them with future opportunities.

COPD Winter Pressures project

30 East practices participated with 125 new diagnosis confirmed and 2,200 standby prescriptions sent out.

Legal restructuring and members' agreement

The Suffolk GP Federation consists of two legal entities:

- The Federation itself - which is a Community Interest Company and holds all of our contracts. The Federation is 100% owned by:
- PIP Suffolk Limited - which is the legal entity in which practices own shares.

The Board have been advised by our solicitors to simplify this legal structure and remove PIP Suffolk so practices directly hold shares in the Federation. To do this we need shareholder approval and we will be sending around a resolution to members. At the same time we will also ask for approval of a Members' Agreement which we have invested significant time preparing.

Any thoughts, comments or ideas?

Please feel free to email me at paul.driscoll@gp-d83081.nhs.uk

Paul Driscoll – Chair