

## Your Board

Your Federation has come along way since its formation thirteen months ago. As you would expect various issues have arisen such as how the Board operates, how the views of member practices are included when we make decisions and what being 'clinically led' means in practice. The Board is working with Judy Oliver, an experienced management consultant, to work through these issues. One of the outcomes will be a draft members' agreement.

## Suffolk wide urgent care

Both CCGs are working together to redesign urgent care including A&E, 111, OOH and community services. The Federation is represented on the working parties. Whilst details of the new model have not yet been finalised they may bring change in the way urgent care operates, creating threats and opportunities for primary care.

The two CCGs will hold a public consultation about the changes in the summer and at this point the Fed will engage with member practices to decide if and how primary care could be involved. The timing will be very tight.

## Winter pressures bid

At short notice the Fed has submitted bids to each CCG building on previous initiatives. Funds have been sought for a collaborative project involving surgeries and community pharmacies in COPD case finding and established patient review. It is worth £1,500 per mean sized practice and you'll hear if has been successful in the summer.

## Sharing good practice workshop

If you missed last one, why not take a look at the videos at <http://www.suffolkfed.org.uk> under Events. The next workshop on 24 June, 7pm at Stowhealth features:

- **Practical benefits of practices working more closely together** - Paul Kaiser & Jane Wallace (Wickham Market) and Mike Barstow (Framlingham). Deben Health is the locality of six practices around Woodbridge increasingly working together - sharing staff, working up LES/DES pathways, tackling DNAs, running PPGs collaboratively and comparing financial data. The group may be a model for future collaboration in other localities.
- **Addressing workforce issues - are locums the answer?** Richard Fieldhouse, founder of the National Association of Sessional GPs.

Please email [admin@suffolkfed.org.uk](mailto:admin@suffolkfed.org.uk) if you want to come.

## Sexual health

Public Health are about to start tendering this service. Your Federation is considering bidding because there are opportunities to move resources into primary care and it would provide an opportunity to model the delivery of services across the whole County including Waveney—something which will be required for the Public Health LESs when they come for tender. If you have any views or interest please email [david.pannell@suffolkfed.org.uk](mailto:david.pannell@suffolkfed.org.uk)

## East Suffolk ultrasound

The waiting times for this service have risen over the last few months because of staff shortages. Despite the difficulty of recruiting sonographers, an extra member of staff is joining and wait times should start to drop back to 1-2 weeks.

## Practice benchmarking project

In 2012, one of the forerunners of the Fed ran a successful benchmarking exercise that helped practices to compare metrics such as appointment volumes, staff productivity and costs. The purpose of the exercise was to allow practices to identify areas of possible savings, for example by reorganising how nursing teams run.

The Fed is offering to lead a similar exercise this year for all practices wishing to take part. The data is anonymised and the template doesn't take long to complete. We will send a briefing pack to PMs along with a copy of the 2012 results presentation to illustrate the sorts of comparisons available.

## GP recruitment and retention

The Fed has developed a comprehensive plan to support practices recruiting and retaining GPs. If funding (which has been applied for) becomes available from the CCGs and Area Teams, the strategy would include enhanced marketing of Suffolk General Practice, a development programme for newly qualified GPs, engagement with the VTS schemes, F1s & F2s and a support package for GPs wanting to remain in the workforce after retirement.

## Care home LES in Felixstowe

Practices in Felixstowe have not opted for the care home LES and so the Fed has employed a senior NP, Sue Diggins, to undertake the work on their behalf. Sue will also be one of the safeguarding leads for the Federation.

Comments please to [tim.reed@suffolkfed.org.uk](mailto:tim.reed@suffolkfed.org.uk)