

Members' Agreement

Your Board has prepared a draft agreement which, in the future, will govern the way the Federation is managed. It addresses issues such as what decisions the Board can make, how they are made, elections and how directors can be removed by members. It also clearly states that if the Federation runs into financial difficulty in the future, there is no legal obligation for practices to support it—this addresses an issue some members have asked us about.

The Agreement is a key document which will be sent to your PM for discussion at your partners' meetings. If you have any comments, questions or wish us to visit to discuss the Agreement please email tim.reed@suffolkfed.or.uk.

There will be an opportunity to discuss the document in the two fora below:

- **East—15 October Trinity Park—5pm** (post the shutdown). A 30 minute meeting including update on £5 a patient
- **West—22 October Open conference Call—1pm** - just dial 08444 737373 and enter the participant code 563192. This is an experiment to try and improve communications across our large patch without having more meetings.



West Suffolk community pain service

Your Federation has submitted a bid to run this service in partnership with Bury Physio. If successful, the service will focus on helping patients with chronic pain to learn how to self-manage their condition. For the bid, a strong multi-disciplinary team has been brought together including specialist nurses, psychologist, consultant and physio.

Winter Pressures

The bid for 'Winter Pressures' monies in the West was unsuccessful. In the East £167k has been awarded by the East CCG, about £1,500 per practice, which will fund COPD case finding, spirometry, sending patients a standby prescription and pulmonary rehab which is being provided by SCH. As with the £5 a patient, the Federation will organise templates and automated services which will be embedded in SystemOne. Linda West will be contacting PMs.

£5 a patient admission avoidance

The initiative, organised through your Federation in 31 practices across the East is making good progress. Most practices are now engaged and the volume of Special Patient Notes, Yellow Folders and visits to the housebound with ITCs is increasing. The Red Cross are now mobilising the two collective schemes organised by the Fed—support at home for high risk discharged patients and carer support in A&E.

Board to Board with I&ESCCG

Your Board had a really positive meeting with the Board and Clinical Exec from the East CCG. We discussed different approaches to tackling the issues facing primary care and the CCG.

Your Federation argued that one way to increase the percentage of the NHS' budget spent on primary care would be to commission 'at scale'. This phrase is commonly being used at national level and in essence means shifting substantial services/funding from secondary care to practices with federations coordinating and managing the work. There are various ideas up for discussion with East CCG, including respiratory, other long term conditions and gynaecology.

Cardiology intermediate clinics

Discussions with IHT are at an advanced stage to expand the existing community clinics in DHG and SBS across the East so they see a quarter of all new referrals. New GP clinical assistants will be needed to work in the service under the supervision of a consultant. Anyone with an interest in cardiology, East or West, who wants to be trained will be eligible.

Practice Services Director

After an open recruitment process Linda West has been appointed to this role. Linda has done a great job over the last three months and feedback has been very positive.

Community services post Serco

The CCGs are tendering community services (SCH). The Fed is excluded from bidding alone because its financial turnover is too small but members are suggesting they would like more influence over the service, particularly district nurses. Your Board will be developing a plan over the next month and will consult with member practices.



Video from the last sharing ideas workshop

The videos and presentations from Deben Health Group and East Norfolk Medical (a merger of three practices in Great Yarmouth) are on the website under Events.

Sexual health

Suffolk County Council is currently tendering this service excluding the primary care LES element. Unfortunately, the organisation we were partnering with has pulled out and your Federation is too small to bid alone. Plans developed to improve access to sexual health services, particularly around Haverhill and Coastal, and also the range of services locally, particularly GUM have been forwarded to SCC. The hope is the new provider will want to work with the Fed on these ideas which involve bringing services and funding to General Practice.

Urgent care centres

Both CCGs have spent considerable time developing new models of urgent care for Suffolk.

Based on ideas coming out of Bruce Keogh's Urgent & Emergency Services Care Review, the CCGs are considering

the introduction of Urgent Care Centres which sit in front of A&E, and which will assess all walk-in patients, and possibly others on arrival.

A key objective is to reduce the number of patients with non emergency needs who are referred on to A&E. Your Federation Board believes one way to achieve this is for the centres to be run and staffed by primary care.

Nuffield Trust GP Learning Network

The Nuffield Trust is an independent think tank which has published research on future models of primary care. They have selected the Suffolk Federation and 12 other GP organisations to become part of their research network. Over time they will publish research which hopefully contribute to an evidence base. Meanwhile there will be good learning and networking with other members such as GP Care in Bristol and Harness GP Cooperative in London.

Practice Manager Development Program

The program has now started with the first sessions on managing cashflow and VAT. Feedback so far has been really positive and as a result the program will expand.

There will also be a whole day Introduction to Primary Care, every six months, for practice/business managers new to the NHS. There is strong demand as increasingly practices are looking outside General Practice for their talent.

Practice visits

Tim Reed and Linda West have started a programme of visits to practices or groups of practices. Please email either if you would them to visit.

Any thoughts, comments or ideas?

Apologies for the lengthy newsletter (there was no update in August), and please feel free to email tim.reed@suffolkfed.org.uk