

## What was achieved in 2013?

The Fed's report card shows some priorities were achieved and others missed. Please do let us have your comments

- Your Fed is now established as a Community Interest Company (CIC), covers 61 of 64 East & West Suffolk practices, has a full elected board and is financially sustainable without further support from member practices. Your Board is currently working on the members agreement which will be available in the summer.
- Suffolk Fed is seen as one of the leading UK federations and your Board hope this position can be used to bring benefits for member practices.
- The organisation is sufficiently developed to bid for and deliver clinical services. The £5 admission avoidance LES will provide a chance to test and refine how practices can use the Fed as a vehicle for collaborative working whilst winning the North Essex diabetes contract in open competition has brought significant local credibility.
- A Suffolk locum chambers has been established but needs more members to be sustainable. As a CIC, any financial surplus must be used for clinical services and development, but at the moment your Fed does not have the funds to launch the planned GP recruitment & development programme although it remains a priority. Initiatives to increase clinical research have not been successful.
- Practices moving to MDDUS, or using its offer to renegotiate existing defence cover have saved in excess of the Fed joining fee.

## £5 a patient admission avoidance scheme

In the East, your Federation has developed proposals for ways in which practices can invest 88p of the initial funding to work on collaborative schemes to improve discharge planning and access urgent social care (InstantCare). Practice based schemes account for the remainder of the funding (Yellow folders, Special Patient Notes and visits to the housebound with LTCs). The six DHG locality group practices are working independently and 32 further East practices want to work up ideas with the Fed. There will be discussion again at the next Trinity Park meeting 23 April.

In the West your Federation has distributed template

business cases for Yellow folders, Special Patient Notes and visits to the housebound with LTCs—this is designed to help practices and reduce the administrative burden.

The £5 initiative has generated much food for thought and helpful feedback from practices. Most clinicians and managers agree that if primary care is to reverse the decline in its share of the NHS budget, there is an increasing requirement to work collaboratively and at scale.

Looking forward, the two CCGs are commissioning a new urgent care system. Corporate and other providers may be interested, and your Federation is also involved. The redesign could offer further opportunities for collaborative working and for primary care to use its skills to help improve urgent care and access a larger part of the HNS budget.

## 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:

- Locality working - Paul Kaiser from Wickham Market will look at how the six Deben Health locality practices are working together and the issues which are arising.
- Richard Fieldhouse, founder of the National Association of Sessional GPs - ways to attract more locums.

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

## SIRO training

Since the demise of the PCT each practice is required to have a suitably trained Senior Information Risk Officer—as is the Federation. To avoid each practices' lead having to be trained in London we have organised Suffolk training at cost (saving at least £200 per practice). If you have not yet booked please email [admin@suffolkfed.org.uk](mailto:admin@suffolkfed.org.uk)

## PM Challenge Fund

Five Ipswich practices, supported by their Fed, submitted a bid to the PM Challenge Fund which was designed to test new ways of working for primary care. The bid was unsuccessful. The winners appear to be offering 8am to 8pm opening 7 days a week with ongoing CCG financial support after the pilots end. The bid was a useful exercise, along with the £5 a patient opportunity, because it illustrates the practical challenges of working in a federative way.

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

