

Board update

Your Board met last week and Paul Driscoll was elected Chair. A number of directors have resigned from the Board. The new Board comprises:

- Ipswich – Dave Ward, Andrea Clarke & Debs Banerjee.
- East—Simon Rudland, Jane Wallace & Paul Driscoll.
- West – Crispin Dunn, Kevin Bernard & Scott Burley.
- CEO—David Pannell.

Working more closely with community services (SCH)

As you know SCH is currently managed by Serco. This contract ends in October 2015 and the two CCGs have started the process of retendering the service - initially just for a 12 month period. During the period of Serco's management there have been well publicised service issues and practice comment has been that community services has become less integrated with primary care. The general feedback from our members is they wish to work more closely with SCH (and social services).

Your Board has considered a number of options of how this could occur:

- We do not believe relying on the goodwill of the future provider or their contract will facilitate closer working.
- Your Federation is too small to bid on our own.
- Your Federation could working in partnership with other organisations and submit a collective bid for the service which would include ensuring closer working with SCH and our member practices.

Your Board has decided to pursue the third option and has opened discussions with various parties regarding a partnership bid. The broad principles we are working on are as follows:

- We want to work with local providers who are genuine about partnership working that will strengthen community based care by enabling primary care, SCH and social services to work in a more integrated way.
- We will only be part of a bid if we believe:
 - The budget is sufficient to provide a safe and

high quality service.

- The lead provider, who will lead the partnership, has a track record in delivering clinical services.

The timetable is very tight and we will be able to communicate more in the New Year.

PM Challenge Fund bids

You should have received a joint letter from us regarding potentially bidding for PM Challenge Funds. The new Fund looks more attractive for Suffolk, for example each practice is no longer required to open 8am to 8pm 7 days a week. Please contact David Pannell with any questions or queries.

Ultrasound locations in the East

In response to comments from members we will add various Saturday morning locations for ultrasound. These include Woodbridge and Bildeston. We are trying to find a venue in Felixstowe and will look at other sites if the PM Challenge bid is successful.

Do you have an interest in cardiology?

We are running a training programme from February for GPs wanting to work in an intermediate community cardiology service. The clinics are led by an IHT consultant working alongside GP clinical assistants. Please contact David Pannell for more details.

Outsourced HR advice

In these changing times it is important that we all follow robust HR processes and have an understanding of employment law. The Federation has negotiated an arrangement with The AP Partnership for HR support and employment law consultancy & training and some of you are already utilising this resource. If you are interested and would like to find out more please contact Jane Wallace (Jane.Wallace@gp-d83061.nhs.uk).

£5 a patient

The admission avoidance service in IHT run by the Red Cross is now dealing with 1 to 2 patients a day—generally patients with really complex problems. The service is going well.

Any thoughts, comments or ideas?

Please feel free to email david.pannell@suffolkfed.org.uk