

Support to practices bidding for the PM Fund

Your Federation has assisted four Ipswich practices to prepare a £400k bid for the Challenge Fund aiming to pilot:

- Patients with urgent needs to attend any of the five practices.
- Improved electronic access including an 'I want to help myself' interactive app on websites and to contact practices via email.
- Weekend afternoon surgeries.
- 24x7 repeat prescribing.
- After-school capacity to avoid children unnecessarily using A&E.
- Staff up-skilling e.g. nurses with minor illness skills.

This is a good example of the Federation helping practices to work together.

Admission avoidance services

At the recent East shutdown, practices discussed options for services that will reduce emergency admissions and are funded by the £5 per patient monies. The consensus at the meeting across each of the localities was for practices to work together to deliver the schemes so that workload is minimised. We will work with the CCG, localities and practices to achieve this.

Fed's priorities for 2014

New year's resolutions include:

- Ensure the North East Essex diabetes contract is delivered.
- Deliver services which demonstrates the ability of the Federation to benefit members, with an emphasis on recruitment/retention.
- Win a Suffolk contract to deliver new services.
- Put in place a strategy so the Fed is part of the urgent care work being developed by the two CCGs.

Board update

- Brain Ainsworth (Mount Farm) is GP director for the West. Two vacancies remain – if you are interested please contact Tim Reed.
- Kevin Bernard (Woolpit) was elected PM rep for the West, and Scott Burley (Rookery, Newmarket) has been seconded as an additional PM director.

Now the West practices have joined, the Federation has asked Judy Oliver, who some of you will know, to undertake development work with the Board.

Sharing ideas workshop

Following the successful "Doctor First" meeting, the Fed is offering quarterly workshops for sharing ideas of interest between members. The next one is 1 April 7pm Stowhealth including three topics:

- Managing a partner-lite practice—Mike McCullough from Orchard Street (2 partner & 8 salaried practice).
- What happens when you cannot recruit GPs— Simon Sherwood from East Lynne in Clacton which uses a nurse heavy service.
- Proven ways to reduce practice spend on phlebotomy— Paul Driscoll from Haven Health.

East dermatology service bid

The East CCG are tendering the dermatology service. Following the positive meeting of members at Trinity Park, the Fed worked with IHT and WSH to develop a realistic proposal for the two hospital departments to work jointly across Suffolk, to recruit additional consultants and move a significant amount of work and funding to primary care. Unfortunately, our joint strategy cannot meet the detailed specification of the CCG so we are looking at alternative ways of moving forward.

Fed in the news

- Maureen Baker, RCGP Chair, is visiting next month to understand more about the Fed.
- We have been mentioned several times in Pulse as one of the leading federations in the UK.
- David was on ITV local news talking about local health priorities.

Members' agreement

20 of the 24 West Suffolk practices have now having joined the Fed with one to decide. This gives a total of 61 practices. The next step is to discuss and agree the members' agreement. The document will include a section making it clear the Fed's liabilities are completely separate from those of member practices. If you have any other views or would like specific concerns addressed please feed them back to David Pannell.

Move to the Riverside in Ipswich

The offices in Rendlesham will move at the end of the month to the Riverside Clinic in Ipswich giving sufficient space for a few years of growth and allowing an upgrade of the IT network.

Comments to tim.reed@suffolkfed.org.uk