

Open meetings on options for Suffolk primary care

Hopefully you have received an invitation to an open meeting which will look how our members could respond to the pressures on practices. We have prepared a discussion paper which covers the various options including super-partnerships. The two meetings are:

- East - Thursday 26 November 7pm for 7.30pm.
Holiday Inn Ipswich, The Havens, Ransomes Europark, Ipswich IP3 9SJ.
- West - Tuesday 1 December 7pm for 7.30pm.
Ravenwood Hall Hotel, Rougham, Bury IP30 9JA.

Please email melissa.tooke@suffolkfed.org.uk to confirm attendance or obtain a copy of the discussion paper.

GP+ update

- The West GP+ service will commence on 7 December from Swan Surgery. Opening hours will be 6.30pm - 9pm week day evenings and 9am - 2pm weekends and bank holidays.
- We have had an excellent response from GPs and NPs working in the service, with nearly all shifts filled and a really positive 'vibe'. We will need some additional GPs and NPs for the West and if you are interested please email sally.white@suffolkfed.org.uk to arrange an induction. Only 15 of the 70 GPs registered with GP+ do OOH shifts .
- 34 practices have used the Ipswich service with 1,697 patients seen in the first nine weeks. Utilisation last week was 86% for weekday evenings, 52% Saturday and 26% Sunday. We are transferring resources to the busier periods but please remind your receptionists that weekend slots are available. We will explore if patients can be encouraged to use the Sunday slots and thus reduce the 'Monday rush'.
- The link with the Ambulance Service is working well with crews phoning GP+, talking to the Shift Lead and diverting patients if appropriate (93 so far). IHT have redirected 173 patients from A&E to Riverside.
- 53% of patients report they would have waited for their GP, 30% would have used A&E, 111 or 999 and the rest 'not bothered', gone to a chemist or other.
- Technology remains an issue:
 - The much heralded 'inter-operability' from

SystemOne to EMIS is still unavailable. We will be introducing a telephone based system so EMIS receptionists can book patients in.

- We hoped to have enabled 111 to book empty slots but this is not yet working.
- GP+ has been approved by Health Education East of England for Out of Hours training. GP+ can count for up to 20% of a trainee's OOH experience.
- A GP+/practice Information Sharing Agreement, developed with the LMC, has been sent out to practices.



GP+ going forward

- We have reviewed activity data over last Xmas/New Year period and will have additional capacity for the first working days after each Bank Holiday and other periods of high demand. Busy days in practices match those in A&E, particularly Mondays and post Bank Holidays (Sunday is also busy in A&E).
- We are in discussions with IHT regarding moving GP+ onto the hospital site, which was our original intention. All aspects of GP+ would continue as it is now with appointments booked by practices, 15 minute consultations etc.

Fed. development programmes

Our Leading the Way development programme for newly qualified GPs started this month with 6 attendees. A PM programme also commences with 13 attendees. We are finalising the Advanced Leadership Programme, which starts in the New Year, for GPs in their 30s and interest has been excellent.

Pharmacists in Primary Care Pilot

Our bid was unsuccessful and they have not given any reasons why. Winners appear to be in under-doctored areas e.g. Yarmouth and the North Essex Coast.

Integrated Care Organisations

There is nothing to report from either ICO.

Notice of election for GP Fed directors for DHG and Haverhill/Sudbury

We have two long standing vacancies for GP directors (salaried, sessional or partner working in the localities). If you are interested please email, by 11 December, david.pannell@suffolkfed.org.uk and you can submit a 150 word prospectus. If there is only one candidate for a locality they will be declared elected and no vote will take place. If you would like an informal conversation please contact either Paul Driscoll or David Pannell.

Members' Agreement



The Agreement is now finalised and needs members' approval. In order to do this we need to change our Articles of Association because, for example, it uses the term Members rather than shareholders. We will send the resolution via PMs.

Primary care mental health tender

Thank you for commenting on our proposed clinical model which would embed primary mental health workers in GP practices. Feedback was positive but with concerns about capacity. Our provisional bid is submitted but the process will take some time with a start date in September 2016.

Quick update on our services

- **West Suffolk Chronic Pain**—practice referrals have double since April and most practices have used the service. GP and patient feedback is excellent. The CCG are no longer paying for hospital patients who should be discharged to the community service and so we expect activity to rise.
- **North Essex diabetes** – The service continues to get positive feedback from patients, practices and consultants and outcomes are continuing to improve. Diabetes UK have asked us to present our model at their national conference. The team works across the community and provides inpatient diabetes specialist nursing at Colchester Hospital—who have asked us to extend this to 7 days a week as admissions were rising at the weekend.
- **East cardiology** – our GPs Clinical Assistants have now finished their training and the joint GP/consultant clinics saw 118 patients in September (mostly Firsts).
- **East ultrasound** – We do scan for unexplained weight loss (the last newsletter was incorrect). Waiting times in all locations are less than one working week from referral to the letter being back at your practice.
- **West Lymphoedema** – feedback from patients and referrers is excellent. Ours is a really innovative service which includes group workshops.

Would you like to contribute a blog to this newsletter?

From next month we thought it would be worth opening up this newsletter to members with thoughts or comments. Please send short blogs of up to 750 words to David Pannell.

Group buying of BMJ advertising

There was insufficient interest to go forward.

West Suffolk leg ulcers

We are still chasing this with WSH. No progress so far.

If you are not receiving this directly please email Melissa.tooke@suffolkfed.org.uk.

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