

Covid vaccination

From early January the Federation, working with 24 local practices, will be starting to vaccinate 125,000 people. This is just less than half the eligible Suffolk population so it's a sizeable programme. There will be five vaccination sites at Ipswich, Haverhill, Woodbridge, Stowmarket and Debenham. Each will have the ability to run Monday to Sunday from 8am to 8pm. We plan to offer vaccinations to front line clinicians not attached to a provider, such as locums, from our five bases. We will email locums when this is available (hopefully early January).

If you or someone you know, is interested in helping we have lots of roles. Please email vaccines@suffolkfed.org.uk for a briefing note or to register.

Unity Healthcare out of Special Measures

After lots of hard work Unity, which is run by the Fed in Haverhill (formerly known as Christmas Maltings & Clements) is out of CQC Special Measures. Overall, its rating is Requires Improvement.

CQC highlighted how e-Consult has transformed access. It receives a mean 715 each week with most being dealt with on the day. The key CQC remaining challenge is to improve results of the National Patient Survey.



Winter pressures support

This is already proving to be a tricky winter. To support member practices and system partners, we have extended, to 24/7, our ambulance crew, community hospital and hospice clinical support service. This will also take low acuity cases from the ambulance service. We have found the vast majority of cases can be closed remotely but if they need to be seen they will be asked to contact their practice as now. Overall, there should be much less work transferring to practices

Your Board recently discussed how we can help practices in exceptional circumstances. We can set-up support for home visiting relatively easily using the same approach we used for pandemic visiting in the Spring. Remote phone assessment is also possible with cases being passed electronically to Riverside. Face to face is more difficult and would need to take place in the practice as we have no free space.

There are no current plans to recommence the pandemic home visiting service.

Mental health – recruitment of practice based practitioners

We will start the recruitment of PCN Mental Health Practitioners (usually nurses, social workers and occupational therapists) in January. Practitioners will be employed by the Fed but based in practices.

Recruitment is part of the ten year journey to transform mental health services in Suffolk. The wider transformation plan, covering adult and children, family and young people and community services, will commence mobilisation on 1 June 2021 and will be phased over several years. The implementation programme is being led by an alliance of ESNEFT, WSFT, NSFT and the Fed.

The mental health practitioners will focus on the priorities of individual practices. For example, some may want front door assessment/management whilst others prefer the traditional Link Worker role and some a mix.

Cervical screening update

Clinics are now open in Ipswich, Felixstowe and Wickham Market with Mildenhall and Newmarket opening this month. Please book in your patients into the GP+ Practice Nurse clinics.

If you send lists of the patients who need to be screened to sgpfed.gpplusadmin@nhs.net we will contact patients on your behalf. We are now introducing adjustments for hard to reach groups including pre-appointment telephone slots, longer appointments and translators.

We have an innovative Facebook campaign running which can be seen here: www.facebook.com/CervicalScreening.Access

LARC clinics

Public Health have asked us to set-up LARC fitting clinics to address the Covid backlog. We plan clinics in Ipswich, Bury and an additional site based on demand. Practices just need to send us a list of their patients waiting for coil removal/fitting or implant. We will contact patients and book appointments.

Please send lists to catriona.mccallum@nhs.net

News from GP Support Hub

GP Practitioner Health

This helps doctors with problems relating to mental health concerns, including stress, depression, anxiety or addiction.

To access the service email gp.health@nhs.net, call 0300 0303 300 or visit:

www.practitionerhealth.nhs.uk

Equipment calibration

We held a successful session at Drovers House, Bury St Edmunds this month for our West GPs. All done within guidelines of social distancing we had a good response and hope to be able to provide more sessions next year.

If your equipment needs calibrating please contact us.

Bringbaby Event

Look out for our Bringbaby event in February, a fun, exciting, virtual educational event where you can bring your baby while you learn. The event will host an educational workshop and a baby centred session, such as baby massage, baby yoga or music. Further information will be available in the new year.



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