

## Medical Director's Notes

It just over twelve months since we all started the vaccination programme but it seems so much longer. Working with PCNs, your Federation has jabbed just over 200,000 which is a very positive contribution to the Suffolk effort. In December we helped some PCNs with their housebound patients and Fed staff helped local practices where they could.

Thank you for such a positive response to my appeal for help in urgent care over the Christmas break. Despite it being really busy we had an excellent rota which made it manageable and enjoyable.

Ruth Bushaway – Fed Medical Director



## GP Support Hub

The Hub has been asked to run a Phoenix GP programme. This is a fully-funded digital career development and leadership programme for mid-career GPs (5+ years qualification with potential to remain in practice for at least another 10 years).

We are also working with the Training Hub GP retention lead on another piece of work for those further on in their career and years.

We hope to have more news about both in the next few weeks.

The Fed will be sponsoring GP Trainers awaydays which will be arranged after being cancelled in March 2020.

## Cervical Screening

Our team are continuing to support member practices with screening uptake particularly amongst the most 'hard to reach'. We operate as part of GP+ in Felixstowe, Wickham Market, Ipswich, Bury and Haverhill in the evening and weekends. Two of our team support patients requiring reasonable adjustments.

Practices can book via GP+ or encourage patients to complete the appointment request form via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Cervical.Screening.Access>). We need to check eligibility on Open Exeter so patients cannot book directly.

We offer training for practice nurses & care navigators, schools, universities, colleges and social groups. Each week we send practices our clinic locations and times.

### **LARC fitting**

This has now run for a year. Interventions include coil insertions and removals and contraceptive implant insertions and removals. The service is providing around 1,200 interventions per annum. Patients are referred to us from iCASH. We are really proud to be shortlisted in the Suffolk Business Awards 2021.

### **Urgent care news**

Our Out of Hours and ED Streaming team has been reviewing how we work given the unprecedented workload pressure on primary care. They have already implemented lots of changes, for example making the recruitment process easier and monitoring workload to ensure everyone has breaks.

We have also responded to feedback about ED Streaming shifts at Ipswich Hospital. We now have two clinicians working and they combine this with staffing the EEAST advice line. This was introduced during the first wave of Covid and allows a paramedic to speak with a local clinician using the patient record. Feedback from crews was very positive and the number of patients not needing to be conveyed to hospital was very high.

### **NHS Graduate scheme**

We are going to offer a two month placement to the fast track graduate leadership development programme. It runs over a couple of years and most of the current NHS leadership has gone through it. Nationally, primary care is virtually absent as a placement option, so it will be interesting to see if any trainee take up our offer.

### **Waiting lists**

Our community teams have been working hard to reduce and eliminate any waiting lists. The Podiatry list is back to normal wait times. East Suffolk ultrasound is close to the target of eight weeks for routine and are nearly there for the two week urgents.