

Medical Director's Notes

The sustainability pressures on general practice have never been greater. Access is under significant scrutiny with dissatisfaction and criticism from GPs, patients and the wider health and social care system.

Into this 'perfect storm' will be added national changes set-out in the Fuller report which was recently published. These have been endorsed by the leaders of all the Integrated Care Systems (the name for the way health and social care come together) and we understand are government policy.

The two key changes proposed by Fuller are:

1. On the day urgent general practice will be managed at a PCN (Primary Care Network level) via a single 24/7 service. Access will be via the NHS app with different pathways for those needing continuity.
2. PCNs merge with our local Integrated Neighbourhood Teams which consist of community services, mental health and social care teams.

We believe Fuller will pose significant challenges. Your Board, along with Clinical Directors, the LMC and system partners are discussing how we best respond. If you would like a copy of a discussion paper we have prepared please email david.pannell@suffolkfed.org.uk.

The East and West educational afternoons will include an item on Fuller later this year.

Ruth Bushaway – Fed Medical Director



GP+ news

GP+ offers enhanced access primary care appointments during the evenings, weekends and bank holidays. On the 1st October 2022 commissioning of the GP+ service is transferring to GP practice owned Primary Care Networks. There are 14 of these and each wants a slightly different version of GP+.

There will be some changes to opening times, shift patterns/rota and in particular the closure of bases at Sudbury, Mildenhall and Newmarket with new bases opening at Hadleigh, Eye and Glemsford. Opening times will be:

- Ipswich - Riverside Clinic, Monday - Friday 6.30-9pm, Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays 9am-5pm
- Eye - Hartismere Hospital, Saturday 9am -5pm (opening date TBC)
- Felixstowe - Minor Injuries Clinic, Saturday 9am-5pm
- Stowmarket - Stowhealth – Monday - Friday 6.30-8pm Saturday 9am-5pm
- Wickham Market - Monday - Friday 6.30-8pm, Saturday 9am-5pm
- Hadleigh Health Centre - Saturday 9am- 5pm (opening date TBC)
- East Bergholt - Constable Country Medical Practice Saturday 9am-5pm
- Haverhill - Unity Healthcare – Saturday 9am-5pm
- Glemsford Surgery – 1 midweek evening (TBC) 6.30pm-9pm, Saturday 9am-5pm (opening date TBC)
- Bury - Drovers House Monday - Friday 6.30pm-9pm, Saturday 9am-5pm

If you are a GP, ANP, Practice Nurse or an administrator who is interested in learning about working in the service please email jenny.pitcher@suffolkfed.org.uk.

GP Support Hub – Roundup

The last couple of months have involved an increase in F2F events including:

- Trainers Away Day in Ipswich
- Pensions session for First5 GPs
- Later Career Events – these are now in their second round with sessions held across NEE & Suffolk. They provide GPs with an opportunity to discuss choices, ideas and look at options that are available. You can attend any of the meetings in any area.

First5 Lead (East Suffolk) – Opportunity – paid at one session per week

We are recruiting a GP to lead the East Suffolk First5 network. You'll have the support of the Training Hub and the GP Support Hub to:

- Build peer support networks for our local First5 GPs.
- Deliver planned evening meetings, F2F or virtual for the First5 GPs with guest speakers. The GP Support Hub will help with booking venues etc for meetings as well as sourcing information and events.
- Maintain the WhatsApp group as a source for information, to network, share thoughts and discuss challenges.

Interested or have any questions? Contact Tracey at info@thegphub.org.

Red Whale GP Update Course – Open to all Primary Care Clinical Staff

The next GP Update Course will be held virtually on Saturday 5th November 2022 09:30 – 16:00. We welcome all primary care clinical staff. Book via: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/red-whale-gp-update-course-saturday-5th-november-online-tickets-411097763477>

News in brief

- **Spirometry** - The Suffolk Spirometry Service went live in August 2022. It is currently operating out of 3 clinical locations which will be expanding to 7 by the end of November. We have a small but dedicated team of admin support, respiratory technicians and specialist spirometry nurses delivering the service. Next week the spirometry service will open to referrals, from all practices, for a new diagnosis of suspected COPD or asthma. If you require further details please contact Caroline Ursell, Lead Spirometry Nurse, at Caroline.Ursell@suffolkfed.org.uk
- **Podiatry antibiotic PGDs** - It's taken a long time to organise, but from 1st October, our Podiatry team will have PGDs for prescribing antibiotics to patients with diabetes. This will eliminate patients being referred back to practices to be prescribed antibiotics. The process will be audited ensure patient safety is maintained. If you have any concerns or want to flag any issues please contact rachel.richardson11@nhs.net. The next step of the project is to arrange similar PGDs for patients without diabetes.
- **Ultrasound** - Our team are now scanning from East Bergholt. This means patients in the East now have a choice of 7 locations

Analysis of Ipswich Emergency Department data

Matt Casey, from the Fed, has recently completed a data analytics and modelling fellowship with Cambridge Judge Business School. The year-long scheme taught the software and IT skills needed to analyse large datasets.

Matt has applied his new skills to the Ipswich Hospital Emergency Department, as part of our joint working developing the new Urgent Treatment Centre. Key findings are:

- Activity has stabilised post Covid at around 260 patients per day.
- Usage of ED is influenced by both deprivation and distance from the hospital. 19% of patients are from the most deprived 20% of areas. 53% of attendances are from patients living within 4 miles of ED.
- There are some interesting outliers with high attendances from more prosperous areas including a small number from a long distance away from the hospital.
- We could not identify a correlation between total practice appointments and ED attends but this needs further work as we know GP practice appointment data extracts are not reliable.

Changes to you senior partner

Shares in the Fed are legally owned by the senior partner in trust on behalf of each practice. We are updating the list with changes in the last 18 months so please email David Pannell if you know of a change and have not contacted him. We need to also register the trusts which we are told will be simple.