

Medical Director's Notes

The main themes in the [SoMEP](#) report on medical education and practice will not surprise you. My key takeaway was, despite all the national issues, 'local changes can be made today to improve doctors' working lives and make them feel that they belong and are valued'.

Your local GP leaders are attempting to address some of the basics which will, I hope, make a meaningful difference. For example, data sharing, digital replacing some direct patient interactions, automating the flow of paperwork and the training of GPSTs and ARRS funded practitioners such as pharmacists.

Have a good summer. Your Fed newsletter will return in September, at which point I will be working two days a week as Associate Medical Director for Ipswich & East alongside my Fed role.



The 'third space'

This is the phrase being used for clinical work which does not need to be delivered in hospitals and cannot be absorbed by member practices. Typically it is provided by the Fed. Examples include

- Diagnostics such as spirometry – whose contract has been extended to March 2024 (the ICB will make a longer-term decision in the autumn).
- Treatments such as denosumab, being pioneering in the West and Inclisiran.

Inclisiran illustrates why the 'third space' exists. The drug is not yet Green for primary care; its research is unfinished and the funding proposal is inadequate. Nevertheless, our clinicians want it to be available to improve outcomes for high-risk patients. In this example, we will work with practices to identify the population who will most benefit and the Fed will then counsel, prescribe and inject.

Working with colleagues in North East Essex

The creation of the Integrated Care Boards (ICB), which now manage the NHS, has diluted the influence of general practice. ICBs are also now responsible for wider primary care, such as dentistry and ophthalmology, meaning further potential dilution.

To maximise the impact of general practice we have formed:

1. GP Collaborative Group – this brings together the Essex and Suffolk LMCs, our GP representatives on the ICB, PCN Clinical Director representatives and the medical directors from the Fed and GP Primary Choice, the north east Essex provider group. This is an advisory body which provides a forum for GPs to take a Suffolk and North East Essex view on strategic decisions or policy which affect general practice across the system.
2. The Fed and GP Primary Choice have also signed a collaboration agreement to support us working together.

Lindsey Crockett meets His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Lindsey, a partner at Peninsula Practice, met the Dalai Lama. She briefed him on ReSPECT and the work she has led bringing "compassionate companions" to support individuals with medical end of life conversations and services. He responded by saying most important thing, where possible, is to help a person be calm – not just regarding pain but have things in place and at peace.



Bidding for Suffolk sexual health contract

We are considering bidding for this contract and would be interested in any views from members? What works well, what needs improvement, what ideas have you always wanted the service to implement?

Suffolk and North East Essex general practice digital strategy

The Fed has been part of a group which has developed a concise and deliverable strategy that will have a meaningful impact on members. The key nine-point road map includes:

1. Ensure basic infrastructure works & is responsive to local need.
2. Set-up a SNEE Innovation Hub to support PCNs/practices, share ideas, develop solutions to problems and ensure initiatives add capacity.
3. Digital leadership programme - to develop the leaders of tomorrow.
4. Digital training - to improve digital training, particularly optimising the use of existing technology (e.g. SystmOne/Emis).
5. Digitalise general practice pathways. Priorities would be a) using AI for simple queries b) maximise self-referral, c) automate processing of acute letters d) 'one record' so patients only tell their story once.
6. Plan to reduce digital exclusion.
7. ICS wide plan for digital governance.
8. Use digital tools to embed population health management in general practice.
9. Digital investment plan and budget managed by general practice in partnership with the ICB.

East Suffolk First 5 supper at Milsoms

The group had a great evening networking with talks from our Local Medical Committee and the Fed on the future Ipswich Urgent Treatment Centre. If you are in the first 5 years of being a GP and would like to join, please email info@thegphub.org



Fed's IT support

Since the Fed as founded, we have had IT support from an organisation called Astute. Anyone who has worked for us knows how brilliant their support is along with their maintenance of our superb IT network.

We have now jointly decided the team will transfer, along with Astute's two founders, to become directly employed by the Fed. Alongside this, we are building our own in-house data analytics team. These are capabilities that will likely be needed by PCNs in the future so Suffolk has a head start compared with most counties.

News in brief

- GP+ is starting nurse asthma clinics for Bury PCN.
- Our Cervical Screening team have recently trained 5 practice nurses as qualified sample takers. Next fully funded course is October, for new sample takers and tri-annual update, book via Eventbrite.
 - [Cervical Screening Sample Taker Initial Training Suffolk & North East Essex Tickets, Tue 31 Oct 2023 at 09:15 | Eventbrite](#)
 - [Cervical Screening Sample Taker Triannual Update Suffolk & North East Essex Tickets, Wed 18 Oct 2023 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)
- Community Dermoscopy - this has been shortlisted for the Quality in Care Awards. It currently operates via GP+ for two PCNs.
- Footcare advice for patients with diabetes – Our diabetes and podiatry teams have created a fantastic YouTube video educating patients on the importance of diabetic footcare and what to do if they have a problem. Feel free to direct to patients or consider sending via Accurx. Please take the time to view this helpful YouTube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8aG8wM20Snw> on footcare for people with diabetes.

Phoenix GP – next programme starts September 2023

This is a career and skills development program targeting mid-career GPs. Over six evenings it will include talks from inspirational GPs, dedicated skills workshops and time to focus on the challenges faced by mid-career GPs. These include change management, quality improvement, influencing people, facilitating online meetings and increasing personal impact. Please visit www.phoenixgp.co.uk for further details. If you would like to attend email info@thegphub.org.

Members' support programme plus digital update

Sarah Moody, the Fed's current HR manager, has been appointed Practice Services Programme Manager. This is a key appointment and will drive the expansion of this part of the Fed.

Key developments in the automation work over the last month include:

1. New patient registration automation – the DPOs have signed off the programme and our provider is building the dispensing software. In meantime we will get going with a non-dispensing practice.
2. Suffolk protocols for SystmOne auto filing results – a practice has kindly offered to lead on this and share the results.
3. Auto filing of negative screening results (cervical, retinopathy and breast). We now have a kick-off meeting in the diary for Wickham, Stowhealth and Framfield.
4. The Suffolk and North East Essex general practice digital strategy, written by John Lynch, has been well received and signed off by all the various GP groups.
5. We have a monthly general practice IT and digital group which is open to all (email David Pannell).