

25 March 2013

Stowhealth Alumni

The objective of this newsletter is to keep Alumni (students and colleagues who have worked with us at Stowhealth) aware of what is going on at Stowhealth and the wider world of general practice in Suffolk.

Federation

PIPS (Partners in Practice Suffolk), the current provider group which is owed by 26 of Suffolk's GP practices, is developing into a community interest company. This is a not for profit organisation and it is anticipated that it will have membership from almost all of the GP practices in Suffolk who work with East Suffolk CCG. The aim of the innovative grouping is to support the individual practices in the continuing delivery of high quality care whilst in turn helping the CCG achieve some of its key objectives. It is envisaged that the federation will bid for contracts on behalf of the constituent practices, as well as providing managerial back office support. We hope that the organisation will generate income for practices whilst advising them on how to improve quality of their services and reduce their costs.

Stowhealth

All is well at Stowhealth! We are just on the cusp of launching our new website, currently at www.stowhome.co.uk, but it will soon be back on as www.stowhealth.co.uk once we replace our old site. The new site is designed to have a web portal for self blood pressure management which we hope will help patients with their long-term condition management. The new website has some updated pictures of the team which we hope you like – comments welcome! The website includes a Twitter feed so please do join and feel free to tweet us. Our Twitter account is [stow@stowhealth](https://twitter.com/stow@stowhealth).

The Wider Environment of the NHS

It is all change as ever. The appraisal system is being centralised in Cambridge where our local area team (LAT) is based. There is quite a bit of anxiety as to what impact this will have on the quality of appraisals locally and the sort of support that might be available for doctors who need additional input.