Federations, foundation trusts and corporates appointed to emergency GP practice support framework

9 July 2015, Pulse

NHS England has appointed 21 providers that will step in and take over the running of struggling GP practices at short notice in the south of England.

The scheme, first revealed by Pulse, has seen NHS England appoint 10 GP-led organisations, including superpractices, GP federations and out-of-hours co-operatives.

Wessex LMC chief executive Dr Nigel Watson, whose practice is running one of the pilots for new models of general practice together with a community hospital trust named on the list of emergency support providers – Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust - said he was ‘largely positive’ to the scheme.

He said Southern Health, as provider of community nursing and mental health services, was ‘not looking to run GP practices’ and have offered to step in and offer support because ‘they recognise that if we just let them wither on the vine we will have a disaster’.

He said: ‘Practices in some areas are in a difficult state and where we have had to try and rescue one or two there hasn’t been anyone out there who can come and do things for them.’

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