**Online Consultations- Initial expressions of interest invited**

The GP Forward View online consultation fund has now been launched.

This National initiative is part of NHS England’s transformation strategy to roll out the use of online consultation systems, improve access and make best use of clinician’s time. We are inviting expressions of interest from practices/Federations that would like to consider being a part of this development and potentially being an early adopter of an online consultation system.

The fund provides short term money over a 3 year period to support the implementation of online consultation systems and is open to all practices. Somerset CCG has been allocated funding on behalf of practices to procure and deploy an online consultation system and the CCG intends to apply for it. At the moment planning is in the very early stages, but we want to work with practices and others to help shape what we do.

Online Consultation systems are linked to existing practice websites to provide an alternative way for patients to consult with their practice. They normally include self- care information, symptom checkers and signposting to other forms of support, an administration function for things like fit notes and repeat prescriptions, as well as giving patients the ability to share clinical information safely online with the practice. There are a number of software options available and we will need to explore which one will suit Somerset practices best. The CCG is currently planning to procure a single software solution in the county

If your practice/Federation wants to register an initial expression of interest please email Annie Paddock [annie.paddock@nhs.net](mailto:annie.paddock@nhs.net) before 4th December 2017. Many thanks.