

Sustainability and Transformation Plans

Executive summary

The NHS Five Year Forward View (2014) identified the need to address three big challenges in order to meet the health and social care needs of the general public within the budget available. The challenges are closing the gaps in: health and wellbeing; care and quality; finance and efficiency.

Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) are umbrella plans that each local health and social care system, or footprint, must develop and carry out in order to meet the challenges in the Five Year Forward View. The local STP footprints are:

- Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG)
- Somerset
- B&NES, Swindon and Wiltshire.

What is the NHS Five Year Forward View?

The NHS Five Year Forward View was published on 23 October 2014. It sets out a new shared vision for the future of the NHS. It was developed by the partner organisations that deliver and oversee health and care services including the Care Quality Commission, Public Health England and NHS Improvement (previously Monitor and National Trust Development Authority).

Patient groups, clinicians and independent experts also provided their advice to create a collective view of how the health service needs to change over the next five years if it is to close the widening gaps in the health of the population, quality of care and the funding of services. Priorities outlined in the Five Year Forward View include:

- a call for a 'radical upgrade in prevention and public health' with a focus on tackling obesity, smoking, alcohol and other major health risks;
- patients gaining greater control of their own care. That includes the option of shared budgets combining health and social care, and the NHS becoming a better partner with voluntary and community sector organisations;
- care delivered locally and organised to support people with multiple health conditions, not just single diseases;
- local health communities to develop new care delivery options, supported by the NHS national leadership;
- permit GPs to combine with nurses, others community health services, hospital specialists and mental health and social care to create integrated out-of-hospital care (Multispecialty Community Providers);
- an option to integrate hospital and primary care providers (Primary and Acute Care Systems);
- increased investment in primary care and the option for Clinical Commissioning Groups to have more control over the wider NHS budget;
- national backing for local leadership and innovation.

What are Sustainability and Transformation Plans?

Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) are place based, multi-year plans built around the needs of the local population. They are being developed and will be delivered by local health and social care systems. Each STP will outline how the local health and social care system, referred to as 'footprints', will meet the aims set out in the NHS Five Year Forward View. Every part of England will have to produce an STP and local areas have been divided up into 44 'footprints'. The STP for each footprint will act as an umbrella plan to align the strategies and plans of all organisations across the locality to deliver agreed outcomes. Each footprint must develop and sign off a one year organisational plan for 2016/17 and a five year place based STP. These plans are separate, but connected. The STPs will be used by footprints when seeking national funding and it will be the most credible STPs who will receive the earliest additional funding. This will be judged on the reach and quality of the local process, including good community engagement.

STPs will build on the six principles that support the delivery of the Five Year Forward View:

- Care and support is **person-centred**
- Services created in **partnership with citizens and communities**
- Focus is on **equality and narrowing health inequalities**
- **Carers** are identified, supported and involved
- **Voluntary, community, social enterprise and housing sectors** as key partners and enablers
- **Volunteering and social action** as key enablers

What is the timeline for STPs?

30 June 2016 - Outline Sustainability

Transformation Plans (STPs) submitted

July 2016 - STP footprint leaders will meet with NHS England directors to discuss their STP

Autumn 2016 - Development of the STP to include engagement with public and VCS.

April 2017 - The first 'additional' funding for STPs available.

What do STPs mean for voluntary and community sector organisations?

NAVCA (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action) has encouraged its members to become familiar with the principles of the Five Year Forward View and use STPs as "a new opportunity to develop [their] relationship with the partners in [their] local health and care system". The organisations responsible for producing STPs will, in NAVCA's words, "want to show they are engaging with the voluntary sector" as NHS England have made it clear that the "most compelling and credible" STPs, which will receive the earliest additional funding, will be judged on the "reach and quality of the local process, including community, voluntary sector and local authority engagement."

Each STP footprint will meet with NHS England directors at the start of July to discuss the initial content of their STP. The plan that is submitted to NHS England will be seen as a starting point for further development which will include working with the public and the voluntary and community sector.

Sustainability and Transformation Plans

What is happening locally with regards to STPs?

There are 44 footprints in England. The average number of CCGs per area is 4 and the average number of people living in a footprint area is 1.2 million. Each footprint has a named leader.

Footprint name	Footprint population (million)	Number of CCGs in footprint	Name of footprint leader
Bristol, North Somerset and South	0.9	3	Robert Woolley (Chief Executive, University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust)
B&NES, Swindon and Wiltshire	0.9	3	James Scott (Chief Executive, Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust)
Somerset	0.5	1	Dr Matthew Dolman (Chair, Somerset CCG)

What are the local STPs doing and how can voluntary and community sector organisations and members of the public be involved?

The STP purpose and footprints are fixed nationally and the priorities reflect issues and concerns that are already known to the NHS as a result of both national and local consultation with people and patients.

In the case of the BNSSG STP, for example, the three priorities will be:

- prevention, early intervention and self-care;
- integration of out of hospital care – primary, community and social care
- acute care collaboration – ensuring sustainability of local acute hospital care

However, NHS England are very clear that the STP is much more than just a document. The process of bringing different organisations together to improve commissioning and delivery of local health and social care services is the challenge. This is why the local focus to date has been on setting up the governance and partnership arrangements needed to deliver the changes that will be needed over the next five years. This is where the involvement of local groups and patients comes in.

Sustainability and Transformation Plans

There will be lots of work to do over the next five years to turn the aspirations of the STP into reality. The local STP organisations will need to work collaboratively with local people, patients and stakeholders, including the voluntary and community sector, to co-create and co-design the solutions needed. There should be increasing communication and involvement with communities, groups and individuals over the five year period of the STP, and this is likely to begin once the STPs are approved, which should be October.

Projects delivered by The Care Forum, including Voluntary Sector Services and Healthwatch, are already in discussions with local STP teams about the need to plan meaningful engagement with both voluntary and community sector organisations and members of the public. The Care Forum will continue to provide regular updates as this develops.

Further information

Regional information on STPs:

NHS England information on each footprint:

<http://bit.ly/1Uzs8qk>

NHS England information on footprint leaders:

<http://bit.ly/1VTx3mY>

NAVCA briefing: <http://bit.ly/25chbm2>

Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) STP:

The BNSSG footprint is sharing information about its STP via the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Groups' websites, for example:
W: <http://bit.ly/28RXauu>

B&NES, Swindon and Wiltshire STP:

More information can be found via each area's CCG website, for example:
W: <http://bit.ly/28OLyTP>

Somerset STP:

W: <http://bit.ly/28S1pWb>

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