

How to influence the Sustainable Transformation Plan (STP) development in your area

What are STPs?

NHS providers, CCGs (clinical commissioning groups), local authorities and other health and care services have been put together to form 44 “STP footprints” across England. Each of these footprints are expected to produce a local plan for ‘accelerating implementation of the Five Year Forward View’. The plans cover the period between October 2016 and March 2021 and must show how the area will achieve financial balance by 2021.

Versions of each STP were delivered to NHS England at the end of last year. NHS England have published advice on what consultation is expected on an STP. We are expecting to see engagement with staff and clinicians during 2017 and this guide aims to identify some of the questions you might ask about how your service can contribute and how it may be affected. For more information on STPs you can visit the [NHS England](#) website.

Why is it important for SLTs to find out about them?

STPs will be the main gateway for funding from 2017/18 onwards. Recent reports in the media have suggested that they may result in organisational change.

In the 2017 spring Budget the government said it will invest £325 million over the next three years to support the local proposals for capital investment in those STPs that have made the strongest case to deliver real improvements for patients and to ensure a sustainable financial position for the health. In the autumn, a further round of proposals will be considered.

HEE have also said that they will use them to plan placement demand for AHPs.

STPs are being developed locally - it will be vital that resources for SLT, of the right type and level, are included and provided for as a fundamental part of the system rather than as an add on at a late stage of development.

What should I do now?

- Look at the published version of your STP and what it contains.
- Ensure you know how and when you will be consulted on your STP and ask if that is not clear..
- You may want to discuss with your team/ local management what approach you wish to take and how to put forward views.
- You could feed in to your NHS England comms lead for your STP and check whether there are local events.
- Feed in to your Trust/CCG/ local authority as appropriate and respond to the consultation on your STP.
- Find out who the local [STP lead](#) is.

Questions to ask and information to find out

Governance structure

- What is the governance structure? Who has accountability?
- How will decisions be made and how will they be published?

Engagement

- Who has been involved in developing the plans? Has my Trust/ Local Authority/ organisation been involved?
- When will I be consulted on the design and implementation?

STP priorities

- What are the priorities of my local STP and why?
- How can Speech and Language Therapy provision help you deliver those priorities in this area? SLT makes a contribution across clinical health, social care and public health - have all aspects of SLT been covered?
- What will the planned changes mean for local services? Why will it work better than what there is now? What is the evidence base?
- How will funding change with the planned changes?
- How is public health incorporated into the plans?
- Which services will be affected? How will it affect my day-to-day work?

Timescales

- What is the timeline for implementation?

Resources you can use to make the case for SLT

See our pages on [local influencing](#) for further help. In particular the following factsheets are likely to be helpful:

[Key Facts](#)

[Children](#)

[Dementia](#)

[Reducing pressures on care](#)

[Social disadvantage](#)

[What is slt](#)

[Economic value of SLT](#)

[Public Health](#)

Contact at RCSLT

Please get in touch Berenice.napier@rcslt.org with any questions, we would like to hear what local discussions are taking place.