

Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP)

Questions and Answers

November 28, 2016

1. What is the STP

The STP is the vision of how organisations involved in delivering health and care think they need to transform in the coming years to ensure the population is provided with the best possible services.

2. Why was it decided there should be an STP?

STPs are a national initiative. There are 44 STPs being produced across the country covering geographical areas called footprints.

3. Who has produced the STP

It is a joint venture between all the organisations delivering health and care services in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin

4. Did Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire have to have a joint STP. Couldn't there be one each?

When the footprints were being drawn up there were various considerations. These included working relationships between organisations and where patients go to receive treatment. That made the the two areas a natural fit.

5. When did work on the STP begin?

Work really started at the beginning of 2016

6. What has happened since then?

The organisations involved have been working to identify the challenges faced in delivering the best services and how those challenges can be overcome based on the needs of local patients and communities. This has been brought together in the form of the STP document published today.

7. Why has there been no public involvement yet?

STP footprints are essentially discussion forums for the organisations involved. The discussions have first helped shape a shared vision of what is needed to transform services. But they are only a first step. Any proposed changes will be subject to engagement, and a consultation on NHS Future Fit is already planned.

8. Has there been any scrutiny of the plans yet?

Yes, all STPs have been submitted to NHS England – the overall body responsible for providing NHS care nationally. This was done in October to ensure we set realistic goals and were in line with national priorities.

9. What is it aimed to achieve?

There's general agreement that there needs to be closer working between the organisations providing NHS care. That is because the challenges are growing with a growing population, more people living for longer and more people living with complex long-term conditions. This means we have to find new ways of working in the most effective way possible.

10. What are the financial considerations?

Demand is rising more quickly than the resources we have. That means that every pound we spend has to be spent as effectively as possible. We believe around £74 million a year could be spent more effectively. We also aim to make efficiency savings of £62 million.

11. How can such large-scale savings be achieved?

We believe it is realistic if we do things differently. But that does not mean compromising patient safety. For instance, bringing services closer to where people live in their neighbourhoods can be better for patients but also has the potential to realise significant savings. New technology also has the potential to help through initiatives such as remote monitoring of the conditions of patients.

12. What are the priorities?

We have identified four: Our workforce challenges join our financial challenges as a priority – we need to be able to recruit and retain staff with the right skills; we want to be able to allow people to access services as locally as possible; we want safe and effective hospital care; we want to harness the benefits of new technology to improve healthcare.

13. Has the STP replaced NHS Future Fit

No. NHS Future Fit is now essentially our plan for safe and effective hospital care, so it forms a fundamental element of the STP and is continuing in that way.

14. How Can you hope to achieve savings if more people have complex conditions?

Many long-term conditions are preventable and stopping people from becoming ill is always preferable from treating them once they are poorly. For instance Type 2 Diabetes accounts for around 10 per cent of all NHS spending, but is largely preventable. Educating people to safeguard their health can be done. For instance, although far too many people still smoke it is far less than it in previous generations.

15. Why is Powys Teaching Health Board involved in the STP when STPs are an initiative that covers only England

Many patients from Wales rely on accessing services provided in England.

16. When will people learn more about these ideas.

Some are more advanced than others. For instance we plan to launch a public consultation on NHS Future Fit in the New Year. Other ideas will take longer to develop. If any major changes are planned local people, our workforce and other stakeholders will always be involved.

17. How can I have a say?

Any comments can be sent to shropstandwstp@nhs.net

People can also ring the Patient Advice and Liaison Teams of any of the partner organisations – details are available through websites

There will be more opportunities to participate as work progresses.