**NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs)**

(Aka: Slash Trash and Privatise)

Since 2016, with no public debate and no statutory basis, the English NHS has been quietly reorganised into 44 completely new area-based ‘footprints’. The footprints consist of all the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), NHS Trusts and all the local authorities in their area. Each footprint has been required to produce a 5-year ‘Sustainability and Transformation Plan’ (STP). The Government expects STPs to be signed off by the end of 2016.

Each STPs must include plans to wipe out the NHS ‘financial deficit’ in their area – a total of £22bn pa - by 2021. The STPs are expected to achieve this through implementing ‘new models of care’. Failure of footprints to come up with a satisfactory STP will result in the area being denied access to a vital share of Transformation funds – and NHS England can sack and replace the footprint leader.

The NHS is funded far below the levels of similar countries (and 25% below the EU average), so further cuts of £22bn are a devastating blow. But the ‘new models of care’ represent a frightening degradation of NHS services. They are based on the assumption that people will be able to keep themselves healthier, stay out of hospital and require fewer services. The future NHS is intended to be far cheaper than current NHS provision. The plans to achieve this include:

* closing hospitals and A&E and cutting the number of hospital beds
* not developing new hospitals even in areas of great population growth (eg 18% in E London)
* substituting ‘self care’ with digital monitoring and family carers (overwhelmingly women) looking after very sick family members.
* reducing the number of sites for GPs and community healthcare,
* downgrading jobs –replacing skilled professionals with unskilled, poorly trained ‘new’ roles, including replacing doctors with physician assistants (PAs) who have just 2 years’ training.

There is no valid clinical evidence for the safety or effectiveness of these proposals –NHS ‘Vanguards’ and pilots designed to test the new models have barely started their work.

STPs have been drawn up with ‘support’ (at great expense) from international consultancies such as McKinsey and PWC. Most of the STPs have now been made public – however most of the published versions are little more than PR documents, carefully worded to hide the reality of the plans behind baseless assertions that the public will in future be able to keep ourselves healthy and out of hospital.

The detail of STPs is set out in the Financial, Workforce and Estates Appendices – and in the two year STP Operational Plan. In most places these documents are still secret. Attempts to get them released through Freedom of Information (FoI) requests have been refused. Neither local clinicians, local authority nor local people have been consulted about STPs.

Although area-based planning marks a complete change in policy direction, the 2012 Health and Social Care Act, including requirements to tender services, remains intact. New contracts will be needed and the new models set out in STPs are designed to attract privatisation.

The links below give more information about STPs and links to campaigning literature. All the information here can be copied or adapted and used by local campaigners and groups. Information here gives some examples – however for comprehensive information about STPs over England, see the  **Health Campaigns Together (HCT) website.**

**Sections in this pack**

1. Health Campaigns Together (HCT): Comprehensive ‘STP watch’ information
2. Background papers on the STP programme
3. Examples of STPs and campaigners’ responses to them
4. Briefings, Model letters and petitions to MPs, local councillors
5. Model resolution for union and political party branches
6. Leaflets about STP
7. Postcards for MPs and councillors
8. How to get details of your local STP / Freedom of Information (FoI) requests.
9. Consultation requirements – guidelines and caselaw
10. STP Template for analysing your local STP and comparing with others

**1. Health Campaigns Together (HCT): Comprehensive ‘STP watch’ information**

* [www.healthcampaignstogether.com/](http://www.healthcampaignstogether.com/)
* <http://www.healthcampaignstogether.com/STPplans.php>
* [stpwatch@gmail.com](mailto:stpwatch@gmail.com)(please send all useful info to STP watch)

**Health Campaigns Together in an umbrella group for organisations and trades unions campaigning to support the NHS. Keep Our NHS Public is a founder member of HCT.   
  
HCT provides a comprehensive resource on STPs, including an up to date list of STPs and information about local action to challenge them. All NHS campaigners are urged to send updates on their local STP to STP watch using the email above.**

**2. Background information on the STP programme**

**This section includes links to some useful articles and information about STPs.**

**Open Democracy: Our NHS. Article by John Lister. Councillors must look before they leap**

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/ournhs/john-lister/councillors-must-look-before-they-leap-into-secret-nhs-cuts-plans>

**Very useful Timeline from the Kings Fund, with links to all key NHS England documents**

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/projects/sustainability-and-transformation-plans/timeline>

**NHS Support Federation: Sustainability and Transformation Plans**

<http://www.nhscampaign.org/NHS-reforms/sustainability-and-transformation-plans.html>

**The Telegraph: Almost half of NHS authorities to cut hospital beds and third to close A&E**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/10/30/almost-half-of-nhs-authorities-to-cut-hospital-beds-and-third-to/>

**Patients4NHS: Transformation and STPs**

<http://www.patients4nhs.org.uk/transformation-and-stps/>

**CHPI Submission to House of Lords Inquiry on the long-term sustainability of the NHS**

<https://chpi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/CHPI-Long-term-sustainability-NHS-submission-to-House-of-Lords.pdf>

**Diane Abbott: Opposition Health spokesperson; leading debate on STPs. September 2016**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-09-14/debates/16091433000002/NHSSustainabilityAndTransformationPlans>

**The NHS is planning a winter cull of older people in its increasing desperation to stave off an impending financial crisis (satire)**

<https://www.networks.nhs.uk/editors-blog/nhs-england-denies-plan-to-cull-older-people>

**Briefing for Councillors on STP December 2016**



**Notes on NHSE Operational Planning Guidance (by SE London KONP)**



**Quick briefing for councillors on STP consultation issues**



**Short Oxfordshire video about STPs**

<http://www.communityglue.org.uk/infusions/fusion_tube/view.php?cat_id=2&video_id=12>

**3. Examples of STPs and campaigners’ responses to them**

**Health Campaigns Together – an umbrella group which includes Keep Our NHS Public - keeps a comprehensive and up to date list of STPs and associated information. We’re not attempting to replicate this here. This section of the KONP website gives just a few examples of STPs and responses from local groups which might be helpful to campaigners analysing their own STP.**

**Campaigners are urged to send new information about their local STP direct to Health Campaigns Together at the STPwatch email address below.**

* [www.healthcampaignstogether.com/](http://www.healthcampaignstogether.com/)
* <http://www.healthcampaignstogether.com/STPplans.php>
* [stpwatch@gmail.com](mailto:stpwatch@gmail.com)(please send all useful info to STP watch)

**NE London STP and Transforming Services Together- one part of the NEL STP**

<http://www.nelstp.org.uk/downloads/Publications/NEL-STP-draft-policy-in-development-21-October-2016.pdf>

<http://www.transformingservices.org.uk/downloads/draft/Part%202%20Main%20report.pdf>

**CHPI analysis of NE London ‘Transforming Services Together’ – part of NEL STP**

<https://chpi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/CHPI-TSTE.London-paper-17Nov16-Final.pdf>

**NW London STP**



 Campaigners’ response to NW London STP

 Brent Patient Voice critique of STP

**N Central London STP**



**Cheshire and Merseyside STP**

<http://www.westlancashireccg.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/Cheshire-Merseyside-STP.pdf>

comments on Cheshire and Merseyside STP



**South East London STP**

<http://www.ourhealthiersel.nhs.uk/Downloads/Strategy%20documents/South%20East%20London%20STP%20October%202016.pdf>



**Coventry and Warwick STP**





**Oxfordshire**

<https://konpoxfordshire.files.wordpress.com/2016/11/bob-stp-plan-21-oct-2016.pdf>

<https://konpoxfordshire.files.wordpress.com/2016/12/sustainability-and-transformation-plan-a-brief-summary4.pdf>



**Hampshire and Isle of Wight: comments on STP**



**4. Briefings or Model letters and petition to MPs, local councillors**See also the Health Campaigns Together (HCT) website for further information.

[www.healthcampaignstogether.com/](http://www.healthcampaignstogether.com/)

<http://www.healthcampaignstogether.com/STPplans.php>



<https://konpoxfordshire.files.wordpress.com/2016/12/email-to-all-hosc-members-dec-2016.pdf>

 NE London

**Labour Party health team briefing for MPs**



**Model petition**



**5. Model resolution for union and political party branches**Additional information can be found on the HCT website.  
[www.healthcampaignstogether.com/](http://www.healthcampaignstogether.com/)

<http://www.healthcampaignstogether.com/STPplans.php>

 Comprehensive motion passed by Oxfordshire City Council (709 words)

 (brief motion: 249 words)



**6. Leaflets about STP**

**See KONP Resources section**

<http://keepournhspublic.com/support-konp/products-campaign-resources/>

**Sussex leaflet**



**7. Postcards for MPs and councillors**

**Sussex Defend the NHS**



**8. How to get details of your local STP / Freedom of Information (FoI) requests.**



**9. Consultation requirements – guidelines and caselaw**



**10. STP template – please complete this and send to STP watch**



[stpwatch@gmail.com](mailto:stpwatch@gmail.com)