

NHS

SUSTAINABILITY &

TRANSFORMATION PLANS (STPs)



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The 44 Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) covering all of England are set to **devastate** the NHS.

The NHS is already severely underfunded compared with healthcare in other EU countries*. Yet the Government plans a further £22bn cuts by 2020.

The STPs are the regional plans that will impose these cuts. A recent survey of NHS Commissioners (the people responsible for NHS budgets)¹ found that:

52% plan to close or downgrade a community hospital

46% plan to reduce the number of hospital beds (including areas facing 18% population growth!)

31% plan to close or downgrade A&E departments

23% plan to end provision for children and young people in one or more hospitals

The STP plans will mean:

- **Lives lost** and health damaged through lengthy journeys to A&E
- Over 20% of maternity and children's hospitals **will be cut**
- GPs and health services relocated to hubs – **more travel for all**
- **Long or impossible journeys** for hospital visitors
- Patients **expected to avoid NHS** through 'self-care' – with no evidence this works
- Family carers (mainly women) **forced to care** for very ill people at home
- **Massive extra pressure** on social care – already cut by 1/3 since 2010
- The future: a "rump" NHS (one offering limited services); and private healthcare and insurance if you can afford it.

*We spend only 75% as much per head on healthcare as the average for the EU as a whole: \$3,971 per head per year compared with \$5,119 in Germany or \$6,787 in Switzerland.

¹By the *Health Service Journal* – the leading magazine for NHS managers and policy-makers.

The STP plans will mean:

- More care classified as 'social care' – **not free NHS care**; subject to charging
- **No growth in NHS services** despite population growth (18% in some areas)
- **Replacing qualified doctors** with 'Physician Associates' – who have 2 years' training (compared with 6 for a newly qualified doctor)
- **Replacing other healthcare professionals** with unqualified 'assistants'
- **Loss** of up to 25% of community **pharmacies**
- New structures leave the NHS **vulnerable to takeover** by private healthcare corporations

OUR SOLUTION

We want elected politicians to back:

- Full funding of the NHS – to at least EU average levels
- No changes without sound evidence, full clinical and patient consent
- Support for the NHS Bill that will restore the NHS (due to get its second reading in Parliament 24 February 2017) (www.nhsbill2015.org)

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Find out what's happening locally and join a local group (see the KONP website, www.keepournhspublic.com)

Write to the local press to protest STP cuts and changes (we can help you do this)

Write to or meet your MP and local councillors to gain their support



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