

Revised Deputation

Submission for deputation to HOSC on the Sustainability and Transformation Plan

Summary of financial arrangements imposed by NHS England

- Although the government fulfilled its NHS funding commitment – with funding increasing by an average of 0.8 per cent per year in real terms – the increases delivered were less than the estimated growth of 3 to 4 per cent per year required to meet higher costs of new medical technologies and increases in demand for health care. Over the same period local government has seen a real reduction in spending on adult social care of 12%.
- All but one of the 44 STPs is in deficit overall, according to research carried out by the HSJ, and about a third have deficits of more than 4% of their turnover. The STP must show how local services will become sustainable over the next five years. It must set out initiatives to manage demand, increase provider efficiency, reconfigure services and, the most important of all, balance the budget in the local area. The Kings Fund has said “It is inconceivable that the NHS will be able to achieve both financial sustainability and large-scale transformation within these financial constraints.”

Local democracy and Equalities impact

STP was introduced in December with no parliamentary mandate, no democratic accountability and no legal basis. 21st October is the deadline for submission. Details of Plans elsewhere have been released but our regional Plan has been kept secret from the public.

There is already a rapidly growing equality gap in the local health and social care economy – successive cuts and privatisation taking their toll. Since 2012 the Public health department budget has reduced by 18%, a reduction projected to reach at least 25% by 2020. GP practices and NHS services have (or are being) closed. Such developments have the biggest impact on the most vulnerable and most in need in the most deprived neighbourhoods. With the level of savings necessary to balance the STP budget this equality “gap” can only widen further.

To break even STP Boards will have to implement massive change – across the board workforce reductions, sale of NHS estate, greater influx of private companies, with serious implications for the local economy. In April the LGA highlighted the democratic deficit underlying STP - “The pace of implementation of STP undermining local ownership and squeezing out LA and community involvement.” Not only will STP have devastating implications but it is becoming clear that the existing governance structure of the NHS is being torn up and started again. As our democratic representatives should you not question this headlong contraction, some would say destruction, of a once comprehensive but still cherished local health service?

HOSC councillors requested action:

- The full council recommended that the HWB call public consultation meetings on STP at the earliest opportunity. It has since become clear that councillors and officers will participate in the proposed new STP governance structures. The lack of any public

consultation or engagement in decisions of this magnitude flies in the face of democratic and legal (see Gunning) principle. Urgent action should be taken to redress this.

- The most effective means of soliciting the opinion of city residents on the tendering out of local NHS services should be identified along the lines of the University of Brighton Citizens' Health services survey examining attitudes to privatisation.
- In view of emerging information about wholly new NHS governance structures councillors communicate their disquiet about the proposed STP arrangements to the STP Board and request the attendance of the Board Chair at a specially convened HOSC meeting.
- A recommendation be made back to full council to propose a delay in acceptance of the STPlan pending much fuller objective consideration of its consequences.