

Ref: CCG September 031 2016

Corporate Services
NHS Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group
The Department
Lewis's Building
Renshaw Street
Liverpool
L1 2SA

Email: foi@liverpoolccg.nhs.uk

18th October 2016

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request that we received on 27th September, with regards to the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP).

Request/**Response**

1) I would appreciate it if you could let me know by what authority the STPs will be implemented since there no legally binding obligation is placed on providers of NHS services to carry out these plans.

The local, statutory architecture for health and care remains, as do the existing accountabilities for chief executives of provider organisations and accountable officers of CCGs. The Sustainability and Transformation Programme (STP) has been set up to ensure that organisations can work together at scale and across communities to plan for the needs of their population. The programme was also established to help deliver the Five Year Forward View – improving the quality of care, health, and NHS efficiency by 2020/21. Each organisation is still accountable for their individual organisational plans, which should form part of the first year of their footprint's STP.

STPs are a mechanism for capturing and accelerating work that has been taking place since the NHS Five Year Forward View was published in October 2014, to create a future-fit NHS by 2021. The programme is an over-arching framework, designed to help drive forward existing plans, partnerships and initiatives across the region.

2. I would also like to know the extent to which the consent of the “local populations” referred to in George Freeman’s reply above, which I take to mean the general public, will be required in the implementation of these plans?

The Cheshire and Merseyside Sustainability and Transformation Programme (STP) isn't a body in its own right and this isn't a new approach. Programmes like Healthy Liverpool, The One Halton Programme, The Waste Not Want Not Campaign and Wirral Care Record have been working towards the aims of collaboration, efficiency and better care, laid out in the NHS Five Year Forward View, since it was published in October 2014.

The STP has been developed and informed by ongoing local engagement across the region; conversations have already begun with local communities. In the North Mersey area, this incorporates the Healthy Liverpool and Shaping Sefton initiatives, both of which have already been subject to ongoing engagement with these neighbourhoods.

Further engagement on proposals suggested in the STP will commence when the plan is published - the document as it currently stands is a conversation about potential changes and will remain so up until the point at which it is published. The opinions of all sections of the local community will be sought and considered as part of engagement and consultation that follows.

There are a number of legal requirements for us to do this. Health organisations are legally obliged to engage fully and fairly around any proposed changes to services (the gunning principles,) whilst any substantial changes to health services or significant service changes would trigger a requirement for us to fully consult with those who would be affected by any changes and to take into consideration any views expressed as part of the consultation.

The legal requirement to involve patients and the public are referred to in the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Legal requirements are also mentioned in the National Health Service Act 2006: section 13Q (NHS England), 14Z2 (CCGs) and 242 (NHS foundation trusts and NHS trusts). NHS England, CCGs, NHS foundation trusts.

Communications and engagement on the overarching plan and any specific service change proposals will be delivered using a wide range of channels, such as online engagement and information, face to face forums, via local media and scrutiny from Health & Wellbeing Boards and local authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

We wish to take this opportunity to inform you that a formal complaints and internal review procedure is available to applicants who are unhappy with responses provided to FOI requests. You can formally request an internal review within a reasonable period of time (2 calendar months) from the date this response was issued.

Where you are not satisfied with the decision of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a further review of that decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints procedure in the first instance.

The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk

Should you require any further information, clarification regarding this response or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact us to discuss.

Yours sincerely,

Sallyanne Hunter
Customer Relations Lead
NHS Liverpool CCG