

Ref: FOI/CAD/ID 4018

Please reply to:
FOI Administrator
Trust Management
Service Centre
Maidstone Hospital
Hermitage Lane
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 9QQ
Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net

05 June 2017

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP).

I write to request the following information (including copies of any documents relating to the following things), in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

What steps, if any, your organisation has taken to implement a:

Footprint

Sustainability and Transformation Plan;

Sustainability and Transformation Partnership; Accountable Care System;

Accountable Care Organisation;

What plans you have to implement any or all of the above and the proposed timescale for doing so and decision-making processes to be followed in doing so.

Any documentation or instruction that you have received from NHS England describing the action your organisation is required to take, or may take, to establish the above organisations and/or otherwise to implement the new care models described in the Next steps on the NHS five year forward view and the Five year forward view.

An explanation of the legal and organisational nature of the governance arrangements for the "footprint", as described in the Next steps on the NHS five year forward view and the Five year forward view, of which your organisation is part.

Your organisation's understanding of the consequences if it does not implement a Sustainability and Transformation Plan, a Sustainability and Transformation Partnership, an Accountable Care System, an Accountable Care Organisation and/or any of the other new care models described in the Next steps on the NHS five year forward view and the Five year forward view, and the documents on which that understanding is based.

It may help you to know that Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships are not new statutory organisations, but a new way for the NHS and local government to work together. We are developing a credible plan to improve patient health and wellbeing, care and quality and make better use of resources through partnership working and harnessing new technologies. Building on long standing relationships, we will be continuing to engage local communities on our plan and, where required by law, will consult on proposals for service improvements.

On question 1:

1. What steps, if any, your organisation has taken to implement a:

- Footprint

We started working together as a formal Kent and Medway footprint in spring 2016. The Programme Board comprises all the NHS commissioners in Kent and Medway, the major NHS providers, Kent County Council and Medway Council.

It builds on work that has been going on in individual organisations and different parts of Kent and Medway over many years to improve people's health and wellbeing, the quality of care, and make best use of staff and funds. In line with the recently published NHS England document, Next Steps on the NHS Five Year Forward View, we are now thinking about footprints for accountable care organisations but this work is at an earlier stage.

- Sustainability and Transformation Plan;

The Programme Board published its draft Health and Social Care Sustainability and Transformation Plan on 23 November 2016. It sets out a vision for improved prevention, local care, mental health and hospital services, with many more people being cared for out of hospital. You can download a copy from our website: <http://kentandmedway.nhs.uk/stp/stp/>

Over the last nine months, we have held a number of listening events and roadshows to raise awareness among the public of the vision set out in the Kent and Medway STP, and to gather their views on different aspects of the work so far.

We are not at the point of implementing any aspect of the plan as yet, but are aiming to move towards public consultation on some aspects of acute services in east Kent and on stroke services towards the end of this year or early next.

- Sustainability and Transformation Partnership;

The collaboration of NHS organisations in Kent and Medway with Kent County Council and Medway Council described above is now known as our Sustainability and Transformation Partnership. It meets as a Programme Board; the governance arrangements are set out in our published Sustainability and Transformation Plan.

- Accountable Care System; Accountable Care Organisation

There are no NHS Accountable Care Systems or NHS Accountable Care Organisations operating in Kent and Medway but we are starting work to consider the development of these in line with the NHS England Five Year Forward View Next Steps document.

On question 2:

What plans you have to implement any or all of the above and the proposed timescale for doing so and decision-making processes to be followed in doing so.

In Kent and Medway we have no definitive implementation timetable at the moment: our plans are at a formative stage. As described above, and in other public communications, we are aiming to move towards public consultation on some aspects of acute services in east Kent and on stroke services towards the end of this year or early next, but we cannot confirm a timescale. We are exploring the potential for joint decision-making by the eight clinical commissioning groups in Kent and Medway about service changes, but no decisions have yet been reached on possible changes to current governance arrangements. Any changes would have to go through an assurance and approval process.

On question 3: Any documentation or instruction that you have received from NHS England describing the action your organisation is required to take, or may take, to establish the above organisations and/or otherwise to implement the new care models described in the Next steps on the NHS five year forward view and the Five year forward view.

This information is already available in the public domain and can be accessed at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/stps/> particularly <https://www.england.nhs.uk/stps/resources> and at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/deliver-forward-view/>

On question 4: An explanation of the legal and organisational nature of the governance arrangements for the "footprint", as described in the Next steps on the NHS five year forward view and the Five year forward view, of which your organisation is part.

STPs are not new statutory organisations but new ways of working. The footprint and Sustainability and Transformation Partnership have no statutory role. Each partner within our STP retains their existing statutory responsibilities. The governance arrangements are published in our STP which is available at <http://kentandmedway.nhs.uk/stp/stp/>

On question 5: Your organisation's understanding of the consequences if it does not implement a Sustainability and Transformation Plan, a Sustainability and Transformation Partnership, an Accountable Care System, an Accountable Care Organisation and/or any of the other new care models described in the Next steps on the NHS five year forward view and the Five year forward view, and the documents on which that understanding is based.

Over the next 15 years the number of people in the UK aged 65 and over is projected to increase by two fifths. The number of people with long term conditions will continue to grow as a result of increased life expectancy. The latest research has found that over half of those aged 60 and over report having a long-term condition; with a quarter of over 60s diagnosed with two or more. This is all placing significant pressure on our local health and care systems, and means councils like Kent County Council and Medway are in an increasingly challenging position on the provision of social care.

In addition to challenges in managing long term conditions, as a nation we also have significant public health issues. One in five of those aged over 16 smoke; two thirds of adults are overweight/obese and 45 per cent of those who drink alcohol consume a third of their weekly limit on a single day.

The NHS Five Year Forward View, published in October 2014, set out how the NHS would work with local government to adapt and meet the aforementioned challenges by 2020/21. This led to the creation of five new models of care, 50 pilot programmes across England known as vanguards, and 44 STP areas. Building on this success, NHS England published the delivery plan Five Year Forward View: Next Steps in March 2017. The document summarised the progress the NHS has made, and the next steps we need to take to deliver integrated and improved patient care.

Completing the implementation of the Five Year Forward View is critical to providing improved patient care.

Caroline Abrahams, the Charity Director of Age UK, the country's largest charity dedicated to older citizens, has said STPs are too big an idea to fail and the best chance we currently have of updating services so they are a better fit with today's population, rather than yesterday's.