

### What is it?

NHS planning guidance is published annually, and sets out what organisations that commission and provide NHS services in England should do in the coming financial year.

This year the Planning guidance is a bit different. While local providers and commissioners have been asked to produce a plan for their own organisation's activities over the next financial year (2016-17), they are also being asked to produce local five year **Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs)**. You can download the full planning guidance from: [www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/futurenhs/deliver-forward-view/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/futurenhs/deliver-forward-view/)

The **STPs** should set out how local areas will respond to some of the big challenges facing health services, i.e. pressures on funding, the need to change and improve the quality of care services to meet the current needs of patients, and the need to do more to support people's wellbeing and prevent health problems developing in the first place. These challenges are described in more detail in the **NHS Five Year Forward View (5YFV)**.

### Why has the guidance been issued?

To put the **NHS Five Year Forward View (5YFV)** into practice. Up until now implementation has been focused mainly in specific local areas that have been testing some of the new ways of working described in the 5YFV (known as 'new models of care vanguards' and 'integrated care pioneers'). The rest of the NHS now needs to set out how it will respond.

### What changes will the guidance bring about?

Potentially lots! The guidance is a big shift in approach, as the central bodies are asking local leaders to write a single plan for a whole local area, rather than just have separate plans for each organisation. The aim is to get better coordination between services provided by different organisations, so that people who use services receive person centred care.

The guidance also specifies that local areas should have an "open, engaging, and iterative" process for developing the plans which involves patients, carers and the public, as well as clinicians, local community partners including the independent and voluntary sectors, and local government in both development and delivery of STPs.

### Where does the guidance apply to?

The planning guidance relates to England. Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), NHS trusts and local authorities are able to decide their own '**footprint**', based on what they feel works for their area.

Further guidance will be published to support local areas to develop their STPs, including four 'Roadmaps' aimed at Local Authorities, CCGs, Hospitals and GPs to help them understand their role in implementing the planning guidance.

## Who developed the guidance?

All six of the Department of Health **Arm's Length Bodies** came together to produce the guidance. In the past these different national bodies have issued separate guidance, and it hasn't always lined up.

National Voices has been involved in shaping the guidance through our leadership of the Five Year Forward View People and Communities Board. The guidance document itself links to the **six principles of engaging people and communities** hosted on National Voices website.

## Who is developing the Sustainability and Transformation Plans?

Good question. As the plans are to be place-based, rather than organisation-based, they should be developed by lots of different partners working together. For the time-being, we are seeing Clinical Commissioning Groups as the lead organisations for the planning process.

## When does all of this have to be done by?

There is a very tight timetable: Local areas submitted their proposed 'footprints' by 29 January. The completed Sustainability and Transformation Plans have to be submitted to NHS England by the end of June 2016 for review and assessment in July 2016.

### How can National Voices members influence plans?

The guidance says that local planners should develop a shared vision with the local community. It also specifies that the success of plans depends on 'harnessing the energies' of patients, carers, citizens, and the voluntary sectors, amongst others. Members with local networks can be holding planners to account for delivering against this guidance.

National Voices has drafted a template letter that can be sent to Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) asking for full information on how they will involve patients, service-users and citizens more broadly, and requesting to be involved in the process where relevant. You may wish to send this to CCGs yourself and/or to share it, and this briefing with your networks to help them contact their local decision makers. You can download the template letter from the National Voices website: [www.nationalvoices.org.uk/news-media/news-item/briefing-nhs-planning-guidance](http://www.nationalvoices.org.uk/news-media/news-item/briefing-nhs-planning-guidance)

If members receive responses from CCGs, we would like to collate them to build a picture of the levels of engagement across the country. Please email responses to [sarah.hutchinson@nationalvoices.org.uk](mailto:sarah.hutchinson@nationalvoices.org.uk).

## Jargon buster

### Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs)

Sustainability and Transformation Plan (not to be confused with the forthcoming Shared Delivery Plan that will set out the Department of Health and Arms-Length Bodies' plans)

### Footprint

The geographical area that the Sustainability and Transformation Plans will cover. Local CCGs, Trusts and local authorities can decide the footprint based on what they feel makes sense for their area.

<b>Arm's-Length Bodies</b>	The Department of Health's Arm's-Length Bodies are: NHS England, Public Health England, NHS Improvement, the CQC, Health Education England and NICE.
<b>NHS Five Year Forward View (5YFV)</b>	A vision for how the NHS needs to change over the next five years, and what steps need to be taken in order to create a modern and sustainable NHS. It was published by the Arm's-Length Bodies in October 2014. Implementation is being led by a central Five Year Forward View team, supported by seven governance boards. Read more at <a href="http://www.nationalvoices.org.uk/fyfv">www.nationalvoices.org.uk/fyfv</a> .
<b>Six principles of engaging people and communities</b>	The Five year Forward View People and Communities Board is one of the governance boards supporting 5YFV implementation. The Board developed a set of six principles for changing the way that health and care relate to people and communities. These 'six principles' set out the basis of good person centred, community focused health and care. Read more at <a href="http://www.nationalvoices.org.uk/fyfv">www.nationalvoices.org.uk/fyfv</a>