

# STP checklist for governance and engagement

Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) are the latest mechanism to drive system-wide collaboration and planning and bring with them an important opportunity to improve the way the whole system works together to deliver high quality and sustainable services across a place. Since STPs do not change the statutory responsibilities of individual organisations they raise important questions for how governance and engagement will be managed to support collective decision-making. This checklist is for CCG lay members, provider non-executive directors (NEDs), councillors, local Healthwatch organisations, the voluntary sector, and other key community partners. It provides a series of questions that can be asked locally and within boards to support effective dialogue and decision-making within 'STP footprints'.

## GOVERNANCE, SCRUTINY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- ✓ What systems or processes are available to help clarify the different levels at which decisions will be made within the STP?
- ✓ Given that STPs have no legal accountabilities, how will collective decisions be reached (eg formal schemes of delegation, committees in common, terms of reference, etc)?
- ✓ How are provider NEDs, CCG lay members, and councillors represented throughout the STP decision-making process, and what role do they play in scrutiny and assurance?
- ✓ What needs to be in place to ensure that individual statutory responsibilities can still be delivered?
- ✓ How involved have local authority health and overview scrutiny committees and health and wellbeing boards been in developing and scrutinising STPs? What are the plans for involving them during implementation?

## SYSTEM-WIDE FINANCIAL CONTROL TOTALS

- ✓ As system-wide financial control totals are developed, how will resources be shared and financial flows operate across the STP footprint?
- ✓ Have shared financial frameworks or other financial management processes been established?
- ✓ Are you clear about what is included in the system-wide financial control total within your STP?
- ✓ How will financial flows within the STP be agreed and delivered? What processes are in place to help support and monitor financial integrity and audit the flow of resources in terms of cost and value?



## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- ✓ How does the STP communication strategy support meaningful engagement with patients, carers, the public and their representatives? Is the substance of your STP being communicated in a way that is understandable and meaningful to different populations?
- ✓ How has your STP engagement plan made the case for 'public value'? Do plans clearly communicate what changes mean for patient experience and outcomes and help explain how efficiency savings will be made and the impact on patients?
- ✓ How are plans being co-produced with patients and the public? What more can be done to involve patients in developing the plans and supporting the delivery of proposals?
- ✓ Does your STP engagement plan clearly link to existing plans and demonstrate how STPs are a continuation of plans already being delivered within your footprint? Or does the plan contain new ideas that go beyond existing plans?

## PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIVE WORKING

- ✓ How do STP leaders anticipate involving partner organisations throughout the STP decision-making process? Is involvement taking place beyond the chief executive level?
- ✓ Have the differing planning timelines of local government and the NHS been considered and incorporated into the implementation plans?

## EXISTING RESOURCES TO SUPPORT PLACE-BASED GOVERNANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

The evolution towards place-based systems of care requires the whole health and care system to work together in increasingly integrated ways. A number of important resources already exist highlighting the principles of good place-based governance and engagement that may support dialogue and collaboration locally within STP footprints:

- ***Stepping up to the place***, NHS Confederation, NHS Clinical Commissioners, the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services
- ***Changing care, improving quality***, NHS Confederation and National Voices
- ***Six principles for engaging people and communities***, National Voices and the People and Communities Board
- ***Engaging local people: A guide for local areas developing STPs***, NHS England
- ***Piecing it together***, Centre for Public Scrutiny and the Local Government Association