

Model motion opposing STPs

We have provided two sets of background notes for this resolution – one you can tailor to your particular area. In the first example, *Change the italicised text to reflect the situation in your footprint*. This is (arguably) more likely to be successful. The resolution text, together with the example 1 background notes, was passed unanimously by Darlington CLP.

Background notes – example 1

Darlington Constituency Labour Party should oppose the Government's continued attacks on the NHS. A doctor's surgery is shutting its doors every 10 days on average and the British Medical Association has warned that the closures will become daily within a year. Last winter 17 overflowing hospitals were forced into emergency measures in 48 hours and this winter looks set to bring similar. Dr Andrew Simpson, clinical lead of A&E at North Tees Hospital said he had seen nothing like it in 25 years as a doctor, and that all rooms in A&E were so full that they couldn't move any patients through the system.

Against this background of crisis, 44 area "footprint" "Sustainability and Transformation Plans" (STPs), have been drawn up in conditions of secrecy imposed by NHS England, and they will accelerate NHS cuts and privatisation. *The STP for our area released by Hartlepool Borough Council, against the direction of NHS England, reveals that the plan is to close either Darlington or North Tees A&E department, and that whichever survives will only have consultant cover for 16 hours a day.*

The NHS is currently dangerously underfunded, and STPs are based on prioritising meeting arbitrary financial targets (£22b 'savings' by 2020), rather than meeting people's health needs. STPs are nothing more than a cynical attempt by this government to deny people health care and force people to start paying for services as they are closed or rationed.

Even if Darlington Memorial Hospital's A&E remains open, if North Tees A&E closes, Darlington will see unprecedented demand, queues will lengthen and lives will be at grave risk. Therefore the STPs must be stopped.

This motion needs to be voted on at this meeting. On December 23rd, the operational contracts to deliver the next 2 years of the Sustainability and Transformation Plans ie 2017/18-2018/19 will be signed.

Background notes: example 2, general notes

This Branch / constituency notes that Government requires 44 Footprint Areas across the UK to prepare NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) for their area which will:

- i. Contribute to cuts of at least £2.5bn nationally this year, and £22bn within the next five years, to wipe out the NHS so-called financial deficit.
- ii. Achieve this by implementing 'new models of care' that are set out in NHS England's *5-Year Forward View* (2014).
- iii. By NHS England's own admission, thus provide an "enormous opportunity" to the private sector.

NHS bodies are severely limited in how they can oppose these cuts because they risk losing access to the £8bn NHS Transformation Fund. However, local authorities are in an excellent position to make clear their complete opposition to the programme, and particularly to the failure to publish detailed proposals and the completely illegal lack of consultation on the plans.

Resolution text

That Constituency Labour Party opposes the Government's continued attacks on the NHS. We must act to oppose the Sustainability and Transformation Plans now. We call on all councillors to oppose this threat to our hospital and ask

- that they call for the release of all documents relating to the STPs, including the STPs' crucial financial and staffing appendices
- for councillors involved in Scrutiny to use all the powers available to them to call in the STPs for scrutiny and to block them on the grounds that they will damage health care for the local population and will not meet their health care needs, and refer the proposals to the Secretary of State.
- for all councillors to do everything in their power to prevent the STPs from being implemented, and to actively campaign against them.

..... CLP commits to urgently supporting local campaigns and protests against STPs and service closures and to opposing NHS cuts and privatization, and we call upon Labour branches and Constituency Parties throughout the region to do the same.