

## What are STPs and why are Momentum campaigning against them?

- The Government is now pushing forward huge cuts and further privatisation under the banner of 'Sustainability and Transformation Plans' (STPs), based on meeting arbitrary financial targets (£22bn cuts by 2020), rather than meeting people's health needs. A 'successful' STP will attract Transformation Funding, but this can be likened to a short-term bribe to cash-starved Trusts to introduce long term cuts and closures.
- There are 44 areas called 'footprints', each of which is drawing up an STP. These plans have not gone through the normal legislative process, instead Parliament has been bypassed and the plans therefore have no statutory basis or democratic mandate.
- The STPs are not based on local needs, but are based on profit-driven models, which lack an evidence base. We will lose even more hospital beds and even more pressure will be placed on already overstretched GPs and social care. Buildings are going to be sold off and lower paid staff will replace more highly skilled ones.
- These plans have been kept secret, without Parliamentary or public scrutiny. Now, following public pressure and several councils refusing to agree to the STPs, some of the plans have been published, but often not in full.
- The plans that have been published confirm and exceed campaigners' fears about the extent of cuts and privatisation, which will significantly shrink services so that many more people are denied access and forced to buy private healthcare.
- A major aim of the STPs is to reorganise health services along the lines of US health firms, such as Kaiser Permanente, by establishing Accountable Care Organisations (ACOs). These are a profit driven, insurance friendly model of providing healthcare. Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt has described this process in Parliament - it has already begun and will accelerate hugely under STPs. Personal Budgets are being introduced. We have good reason to believe that there will be proposals for charging in the near future.
- A&Es and other acute hospital services will be closed or downgraded in many areas, meaning that people will have much further to travel in an emergency.
- As stopthestps.org.uk says, 'STPs are bringing withdrawal and restriction of treatments... like special feeding for the frail and elderly, and treatments like hip replacements and cataract removal, that are not life-saving but if not provided, leave people in pain and with disabilities.'
- STPs emphasise 'prevention', 'self-care' and 'self-management', but in the face of massive cuts to the public health budget and increasing restrictions on services available, it is difficult to see how this will amount to much more than denying people healthcare on the grounds that they should have acted to keep themselves well.
- STPs emphasise 'Care Closer To Home' which will mean that the lines between health and social care become increasingly blurred. Given that the overwhelming majority of social care has already been privatised, this will be another route to bring the private sector into the NHS. 'Discharge To Assess' models will mean that frail elderly people will be discharged into the community without a social care package. Adult social care services are already hugely overstretched and unable to cope. People who need social care will increasingly rely on an overstretched voluntary sector, family and friends.
- Care will be increasingly impersonal. 'Care pathways' increasingly dictate what treatments a doctor can give, undermining their clinical judgement. More care will be given via Telehealth - remote, interactive digital technologies that reinforce the 'Care Closer to Home' model.
- If STPs are implemented, it will be the end of a universal, comprehensive, publicly-funded service that is free at the point of use - which is what we think of as the NHS. The 'NHS' that remains will be a shrunken, rationed service of last resort, like Medicare in the US - and we may also be expected to pay for it, like we do for NHS dentistry now. People will have to take out additional insurance to get all the care they need.

Call on your local councils to demand full publication of all the STP documents submitted to NHS England, **and to refuse to sign up the plans, as Hammersmith and Fulham, Ealing, and Liverpool City councils have done.** Ask them to refer the STPs to the Secretary State. The contracts will be signed on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Call on your council to refuse to sign up to the STP now, and try to block them, before it's too late.

You can write to your councillors here: <https://weownit.org.uk/blog/its-our-nhs-dont-slash-trash-and-privatise>

For more campaign information, visit: [www.peoplesmomentum.com/momentum-nhs](http://www.peoplesmomentum.com/momentum-nhs)

You can also find useful information and resources at [www.stopthestps.org.uk](http://www.stopthestps.org.uk)