

STP Area - possible Actions

NHS England has imposed a planning area covering Western Berkshire, Oxfordshire, and Buckinghamshire for its STP (sustainability and transformation plan) planning.

Western Berkshire itself is well advanced in integrated planning and we hope that within the larger area Western Berkshire will be able to get on with planning for social care, frail elderly, childrens' health, public health, non-specialist care, community care, mental health care, most acute care and so on.

However, we note that the current plans of the CCGs in the Western Berkshire federation propose that the following topics be commissioned on the larger STP scale:

- Specialised commissioning
- Workforce issues
- Clinical priorities and procedures of little clinical value
- Primary Care provider development
- Commissioning Support Unit (commercial, comms, medical, technical support to commissioning)
- Urgent and emergency care
- Digital technology innovation

We are particularly concerned that early public involvement may not be possible over the large STP scale and that without this changes to urgent and emergency care and primary care provision may not command public support.

Further, Reading Borough Council has expressed its concern to this scale of commissioning, and the possible integration of commissioning staff over this large area as an apparent economy measure and asks for involvement of elected councillors and public. We understand that Reading Healthwatch is also concerned.

Resolution

South Reading Patient Voice resolves to write to its CCG, Western Berkshire federation planners, and Reading MPs expressing these concerns over commissioning on the larger scale and offering to meet with them to see how local authority and public engagement can continue to function.