

Questions for the Health Committee Cambridgeshire County Council

Submitted by Margaret Ridley , on behalf of Jean Simpson

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) was published on the 21st November 2016 and is required to cut the health service budget by £500 million by 2021 .There has already been a great deal of disquiet from the public, both locally and nationally , about whether the STP plans are achievable. For instance, only 16% of NHS Finance directors think that they are financially achievable (NHSE survey).Questions:

1. Is the Health Committee confident that it has enough information to evaluate the impact of the STP cuts on the local health services. Does the information include the financial and workforce appendices that were not published in the public document? Aidan Thomas, CEO of CPFT said that there needs to be additional investment to ensure the success of the existing OPACS model. Is there any likelihood that this will be forthcoming in view of the savings that the STP is required to make?

The Health Committee is not yet confident that it has enough information to evaluate the impact of the STP and has requested full access to financial documents. The scrutiny of the STP will be a continual process building on a series of questions that were submitted to the CCG.

2. Is the Health Committee looking at external sources of evidence to evaluate whether the new models of care described in the STP will deliver the required savings?

The Health Committee will consider any external sources of evidence that are available to evaluate the STP. A working group was established and these members have met with representatives for Healthwatch Cambridgeshire in regards to the STP. Representatives from the Health Committee will also be participating in an Eastern Region scrutiny skills session on the STP delivered by the Centre for Public Scrutiny in February.

3. I understand that the Health Committee has already agreed to the Council signing the STP (D.Jenkins. Monthly report to parish and community Councils, November 2016). Can you tell me the date of that decision? When I questioned the Health Committee at their last meeting on 10 November, the feeling of the members was that they needed a lot more information and training in evaluation to come to a reasoned decision on the STP. Does the Health Committee feel that it has had sufficient time to make this important recommendation?

Cllr Jenkins provided a point of clarification at the Health Committee meeting on 15th December. His monthly report to parish and community councils was referring to signing off, in the capacity of Chair of the Health Committee, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) around the local health and social care system partners working together. This was not a sign off to the STP but rather a document about collaborative working.