

Save South Tyneside Hospital Campaign



Press Release - November 22 2016

Sustainability & Transformation Plans (STPs) - Save South Tyneside Hospital Campaign Calls on everyone to get involved to block these STPs

The Northumbria Tyne & Wear and north Durham Sustainability and Transformation Plan (NTWND STP) released on November 9th which will cut by 2020/21 the annual health and social care budget for our area by nearly a billion pounds. For health this will be a massive annual cut of £641 million which will mean cuts to vital acute and Accident and Emergency services, hospital maternity departments, GP and other community and preventative services all over this region.

The South Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group has announced on their website that “the engagement on the current draft (NTWNDSTP) will formally start on 23rd November and will continue to Friday 20th January (8 weeks). They say they “will be organising some events so please sign up to MY NHS or check back for more information when these become available.” They say: “This period of engagement will then inform the next version of the STP.”

Commenting on this “engagement on the current draft” the Save South Tyneside Hospital Campaign is calling on everyone to get involved with this engagement on the “draft” STP to block these plans. No serious plan for the NHS can be decided upon under the threat of massive reduction in the budget of the NHS and with out establishing public bodies and public services accountable to the people and local communities to provide the services they need.

The plan whilst hiding all the detail of of the “Alliance” between South Tyneside Hospital and City Hospitals Sunderland claims that it is an “the urgent need to rebalance services across both organisations as it is no longer safe or sustainable for either organisation to duplicate the provision of services in each location.” SSTHC believes that this is an untrue statement that is deliberately misleading and should be removed from the document immediately. It seems to reveal a systematic intent to close down all services that are duplicated at our two hospitals by claiming that they are “unsustainable” and “unsafe”. No such claim has been made by the South Tyneside Foundation Trust, City Hospitals Sunderland or by the inspection body Care Quality Commission (CQC). On the contrary South Tyneside Hospital won a 2016 award and was in the top 40 performing hospitals. Our stroke unit which has already been transferred on a “temporary basis” has won an award for its care over recent years. Our consultant led and community maternity services also are among the top performing in the region. Our staff were praised in the STFT annual report by “recognising the outstanding level of care provided by our staff” which was highlighted in particular by the recent Care Quality Commission inspection. It is the cuts driven by the NTWND STP which is clearly calling for the loss of all consultant led acute services including maternity services and not the sustainability and safety record of our hospital. The resulting loss of acute services will be a disaster for the people of South Tyneside and also for the people of Sunderland whose access to acute services will also be under even further pressure by the closure of acute services in South Tyneside.

SSTHC cannot accept these plans that will lead to the downgrading of our acute services and our full Accident and Emergency services and we will be preparing a detailed campaign against these plans. No one should sign up to plans which are intent on wrecking, massively underfunding and privatising health care regardless of the consequence to the well being of the people.

Roger Nettleship Chair of the SSTHC said: “Far from being Sustainability & Transformation Plans it is these plans that will create an unsustainable health service with people travelling further and further for

even more diminishing NHS services. No one should sign up to these plans which are intent on wrecking our health service. Health care is a right and the people should decide on the basis that it is a right and it is a claim on the economy that must be guaranteed. We are calling on everyone to join with us to block these plans and organise to get people involved in the fight with us to safeguard the future of our hospital and our NHS.”

People can join the CCG's “MY NHS” to input their views at:

<http://www.southtynesideccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/involve-me/sign-up-to-my-nhs/>

register:

<https://secure.membra.co.uk/MyNHSCNTWApplicationForm/>

Save South Tyneside Hospital Campaign

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