



Friday 24 February

Hello my name is Rob, and welcome to the STP update for this week

What's been happening this week?

First, the government must be prepared to back radical changes to health services to secure the future of the NHS, according to a new analysis of sustainability and transformation plans (STPs) published by [The King's Fund](#). For those of you who haven't had chance to read the report, it argues that STPs offer the best hope of delivering essential reforms to NHS services and reinforces that the STPs are here to stay.

The King's Fund calls on the government to support reforms to services where the case for change has been made. This includes changes to the role of hospitals to concentrate specialist services where the evidence shows this will deliver better outcomes for patients. Critically the report also argues that **additional investment in social care and the NHS** is needed to deliver the proposals set out in STPs.

It has been a busy week with good conversations taking place around our STP programmes of work, namely the **urgent and emergency care meeting** on Monday which discussed future priorities for the network when the Vanguard funding ceases on 31 March 2017.

There was also a useful discussion around the services which have to be operating 7 days a week from November 2017, for example major trauma, children's intensive care and acute stroke. Dr Andy Withers, Chair of the WY&H Clinical Forum is on the national programme for 7-day delivery and gave people an update on the work from a national perspective.

We are waiting to hear whether there will be any further funding for the **West Yorkshire and Harrogate Acceleration Zone**, which received £5.4million revenue and £3.2million capital funding from NHS England until the end of March 2017. You may recall we were chosen as a pilot because we have a history of partnership working across the area on urgent and emergency care. The funding is being used to demonstrate rapid improvement in key areas of care. For example when a person needs to attend A&E, they may see a local GP or practice nurse in the department rather than an A&E doctor, where deemed more appropriate. The funding is also being used to expand the support available from NHS 111, namely offering advice from pharmacists, dental nurses and mental health nurses via the clinical advice service. Mental health nurses on the clinical advice service has now gone live and seems to be doing well – there is more sharing of records as well. Problems in recruitment and retention to the clinical advice service continue and further work is being done to address this.

Residents of a care home in Leeds are also seeing the benefits from the WYAZ pilot. All 34 residents at a care home in Crossgates can now have their health assessed using a new telehealth service. Telehealth enables people to talk directly to senior nurses and doctors – to allow remote assessment of peoples' condition. The technology has also helped to reduce hospital admissions as any potential health issues can be identified early and treated in the care home before they worsen. There are currently 558 care homes in WY&H and Ruth Holt (NHS England) explained that they are hoping to roll out this way of working to more care homes in the near future.

We also continue to build on the work of Airedale and Wakefield care home Vanguard. This includes sharing good practice and further developing working relationships with all care homes across WY&H.

The **smaller steering group** met this week to discuss finances and planning for the leadership day on the 7 March. Jonathan Webb, from NHS England, will be providing some financial support to the STP now that Mark Bradley has moved on to the Yorkshire Ambulance Service. Jonathan was at the meeting and will also be preparing information to support the financial discussion at the leadership day - it's good example of NHS E and STP working together to prioritise work.

Ian and I, alongside [Carers Leeds](#) and colleagues from NHS England and CCGs met with Fatima Khan-Shah and Portia Roberts-Popham from Investors in Carers this week to discuss the [Carers Charter](#). This has been created to support organisations to maximise carer resource in a sustainable and transformative way. The Carers Charter was developed together with carers, local authorities and clinical commissioning groups.

One in 10 people in the UK will be a carer at some point in their life. There are an estimated 260,000 carers living in West Yorkshire and Harrogate, including children and young people caring for parents with long-term health conditions. Many carers are 'hidden' i.e. providing the majority of care without formal support. Being a carer can be stressful and have a major impact on their health, relationships, education and employment, with this in mind the meeting discussed how carer identification and support could be further embedded within our STP. This includes developing ways to support the existing and future workforce who balance caring responsibilities, signposting and identifying service standards for all organisations – not just in the public sector. Supporting carers (or being a carer) won't be new to many of you. However I do feel it is important that we keep the momentum going and keep carers firmly in view. For more information about the Carers Charter contact fatimakhanshah@northkirkleescg.nhs.uk or Portia@investorsincarers.com

Finally– Mike Curtis and Ros Tolcher will be meeting with each of the WY&H programme leads to map out **workforce challenges** in terms of transformation and planning for the future.

What's happening next week?

- The West Yorkshire Health and Care Consultative Group will meet for the first time on Wednesday. Ian and I are attending. There will be a focus on healthy places, governance and decision-making at the meeting. This is an informal forum set up to facilitate political consideration of the broad range of issues which impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of health and care services in West Yorkshire.
- Standardisation of Policies meeting takes place on Tuesday.
- Ian Holmes will be talking to the HSJ on Monday around the role of the Joint Committee with the potential of doing a story in the future. We'll keep you posted.
- There is a national STP communication and engagement conference in Birmingham which Karen and Dawn Pearson from Calderdale CCG will be attending.

What's coming up?

- [Kings Fund one-day event](#) – STPs: moving towards implementation. Taking place in London on Thursday 24 May and Manchester on Tuesday 6 June (Rob is a guest speaker), this one-day event has been designed to help leaders involved in sustainability and transformation plans (STPs) to strengthen their proposals into fully developed plan.

For information...

- iNews: [Staffing shortage is forcing a drop in number of NHS stroke units](#). Following this, on Tuesday (21 February) a story ran on ITV Calendar with a particular focus on South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw STP and Dr Andy Withers, Chair of the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Clinical Forum gave an interview about our stroke engagement which was edited much shorter.
- The King's Fund published their latest report, "Delivering sustainability and transformation plans: From ambitious proposals to credible plans" alongside the press release, "[Politicians must be prepared to back NHS plans.](#)"
- A national demonstration is planned for Saturday 4 March from Tavistock Square, through London, to Parliament. Arranged by Health Campaigns Together and the People's Assembly.
- The NHS England website has a [sub-section on STPs](#). With information ranging from how to apply for funding, links to each STP and blogs from GPs, and the equality, diversity and human rights lead.
- Chris Ham's Kings Fund Blog talks about [What's next for STPs](#)

Have a good weekend