



Craig Whittaker MP

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Sustainability And Transformation Plans

Thank you for contacting me about Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs).

The NHS today helps more people to receive higher quality care than ever before. The Government is backing the NHS with an additional £8 billion over the next five years, and the employment of record numbers of doctors and nurses.

Nonetheless, the NHS faces substantial challenges, and only a Conservative Government, which knows how to build a strong economy, can possibly help meet these through a combination of increased financial commitment and reforms which deliver efficiency savings while improving services for patients.

I recognise the important role played by A&E departments across the country. I know the NHS is under pressure, and to ensure the best standards of care in the future we need an updated system which even better prioritises GP access, cancer care and mental health treatment. The NHS is using sustainability and transformation plans to help deliver this change.

The Five Year Forward View, produced by the NHS itself, sets out its own vision for the future. Its vision is one where the NHS provides more care closer to home, prioritises prevention and empowers citizens with the tools and information to manage their own care.

In each of 44 local areas, NHS commissioners and providers have come together to decide how to improve services and realise this vision. Far from being secret, STPs were publicly announced by NHS England in December 2015. These plans are not about making cuts, but to ensure that increased resources for the NHS lead directly to better care for patients.

STPs were submitted to NHS England on 21 October 2016. All plans have now been published. All areas will be engaging with their communities, and where significant service alternations are proposed a full public consultation will take place before any changes are made. Furthermore, Ministers are committed to ensuring full transparency and accountability about how the plans are being implemented and local health services are performing.

Alongside this, at the recent Budget, additional capital funding was announced to support the NHS, with £325 million to help deliver STPs and £100 million to improve A&E services.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP