

Welcome – an update from the Chairman

If you have been watching and reading the news over the past few months, you may already have heard about Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) in the NHS. If you haven't – you'll certainly hear about them over the coming months. Across the country STPs are being developed to help the NHS keep pace with growing demand and Somerset is no different.

Our STP is challenging and requires all the providers of health and social care in Somerset to work together. We have to find ways to support everyone in Somerset to lead healthier lives and, when people do get ill, we need to find better ways to deliver care. Whenever possible, we believe that should be in your own home or in your own local community.

To make this a reality, the NHS Foundation Trusts which run Yeovil District Hospital and Musgrove Park Hospital, Somerset County Council, Somerset's GPs and our Trust, Somerset Partnership, will have to work more closely together as one health and social care system.

Our vision is to stop people needing to be admitted to a hospital in the first place and, when hospital treatment is needed, to treat and then get patients out of hospital much more quickly with care and support at home. To do this we will need to invest in GPs and in nurses and carers who can support people in their own homes. We also need to make better use of modern technology in monitoring health.

We will also need to make better use of our buildings and equipment and by being even more efficient in the way we manage our services. In the long term we will need fewer beds in our district general and community hospitals so we can put staff and funding into providing services in the home. These changes will not be easy to make, and in some places might be controversial, but make them we must if we are to improve the health of people across the County, deliver better outcomes and ensure we have a sustainable NHS in Somerset.

More information about Somerset's STP is featured in this edition of *healthmatters*, along with information about how you can get your copy and have your say.



*Trust Chairman,
Stephen Ladyman*

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Stephen Ladyman'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Stephen Ladyman

Somerset's Sustainability and Transformation Plan

What is an STP?

Somerset's Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) is one of 44 across the country. It sets out the challenges we are facing, and describes our ambitions for improving services. How we realise those ambitions will be shaped by the discussions we will have with local people, patients, service users, and staff.

Our STP has been developed and published by the Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group, Somerset County Council, Yeovil District Hospital, Musgrove Park Hospital, Somerset's GPs and our Trust, Somerset Partnership. Its publication marks the start of wide-ranging discussions with local people before firm proposals are drawn up.

Why do we need it?

Somerset has great health and care services, and great staff. The problem is, the way some of these services are organised isn't helping them to provide great care.

We simply haven't kept up to speed with a changing, ageing population and the cracks are really starting to show in longer waiting times, overspent budgets, overworked staff, and underinvested services.

We know we could improve the way we care and support the people of Somerset, and that's what we intend to do. The STP is the starting point for a better health and care system for Somerset.

It will mean the entire health system – GPs and hospital staff, mental health and social care workers, community nurses and support staff – working more closely together to provide easier access to care and support closer to home. It will mark a move away hospital-based care towards care and support provided in people's own homes and communities.

How can I find out more?

You can read Somerset's STP in full or read the summary document published on Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group's website

<http://www.somersetccg.nhs.uk/news/somerset-five-year-health-and-care-plan-published/>

Paper copies can also be requested by emailing STPfeedback@somersetccg.nhs.uk, phoning 01935 385240 or writing to:

Somerset Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP)
NHS Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group
Freepost RRKL-XKSC-ACSG (No stamp required)
Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 8HR

You can also provide feedback in the same way.

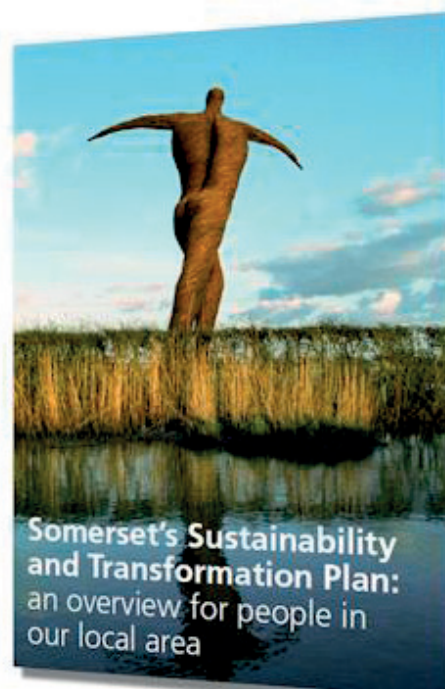
Next steps

The STP is a high level plan to improve services for our local communities. The next step is to identify more detail about what changes we propose.

Critical in all this will be involving patients and our staff – their active engagement and support will help develop the right solutions and make sure those solutions are delivered on the ground.

A priority for the STP will be to engage local people and communities, our patients, their carers and families, to make sure the patient voice is heard and remains central to our plans for Somerset.

Any changes affecting patients will be subject to a public consultation.



Somerset's STP: overview for the local area

A follow up visit from the Care Quality Commission

As part of their inspection programme, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) has returned to the Trust to see how our services we have improved since their last inspection in 2015. This was an opportunity to demonstrate what we have achieved over the last 18 months and the findings from this re-inspection are a chance to improve the ratings that we received last year.

The next step will be for the CQC to consider the findings from all of the services inspected and to issue a report with their new ratings. Once those new ratings are published, we will make results available on our website (www.sompar.nhs.uk) and display them in our premises for patients, carers and visitors all to see.

Changes to healthmatters

After much consideration at Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, we have taken the regrettable decision to stop publishing a paper version of *healthmatters*. We took account of the money it takes to print and post each copy of this newsletter, and the cost savings we need to keep making each year, we have decided to stop sending members their own personal copy in the post.

Instead, we will continue to publish an electronic version of *healthmatters* on our website at www.sompar.nhs.uk. We will also email a copy to those members with an email address.

If you would like to keep receiving copies of *healthmatters*, please email your request to governors@sompar.nhs.uk.

New Minor Injury Unit opening hours

On 6 February 2017, our new MIU opening hours came into force. Changes have been made so we can make best use of our specialist nurses and keep unplanned closures to a minimum. Services remain available 7 days a week at each of our 7 MIUs.

Name of MIU	Location	Opening times	Phone number
Bridgwater	Bridgwater Community Hospital	8am – 9pm <i>(last patient booked in at 8.30pm)</i>	01278 436 720
Burnham on Sea	Burnham on Sea War Memorial Hospital	10am – 6pm <i>(last patient booked in at 5.30pm)</i>	01278 773 122
Chard	Chard Community Hospital	8am – 9pm <i>(last patient booked in at 8.30pm)</i>	01460 238 229
Frome	Frome Community Hospital	8am – 9pm <i>(last patient booked in at 8.30pm)</i>	01373 454 770
Glastonbury	West Mendip Community Hospital	8am – 9pm <i>(last patient booked in at 8.30pm)</i>	01458 836 454
Minehead	Minehead Community Hospital	24 hours, 7 days a week (no change)	01643 701 715
Shepton Mallet	Shepton Mallet Community Hospital	8am – 9pm <i>(last patient booked in at 8.30pm)</i>	01749 341 101

How to contact us

We are always pleased to hear from members, and happy to answer any questions you have on anything related to our work.



01278 432 026



<mailto:governors@sompar.nhs.uk>

You can also write to us at

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Express Park
Bristol Road
Bridgwater TA6 4RN