

# Health Campaigns Together

● Defending Our NHS ● [www.healthcampaignstogether.com](http://www.healthcampaignstogether.com) ● @nhscampaigns

## Following the Footprints **CHALLENGING the STPs**

National Conference

**Saturday SEPTEMBER 17**

11-4pm Carrs Lane Conference Centre

**BIRMINGHAM B4 7SX**

Since January NHS England has driven through a massive new reorganisation of the NHS.

They have carved the country into 44 "footprints" in which commissioners, NHS Trusts and local authorities are now required to collaborate – but the collaboration is to develop 5-year plans to generate massive cash savings.

Each Footprint has to submit a "Sustainability and Transformation Plan" (STP) to NHS England by the autumn and be ready to implement the changes quickly to balance the books: only plans which satisfy NHS England will ensure access to £1.8 billion of "transformation funding".

NHS England boss Simon Stevens has made clear he sees the reorganisation as a way to create "combined authorities" which pool their powers – making it possible to override any local "veto" that might prevent controversial cuts or closure of popular local hospitals and services.

The danger is that whatever little local influence and accountability there is in the NHS will be eliminated.

**The new system leaves no room for serious consultation before 5-year plans are drawn up behind closed doors and imposed on local communities.**

The system has no legal basis. Steven's plan simply sidelines the Clinical Commissioning Groups – but leaves them still obliged by the

Health & Social Care Act to continue to carve up services into bite sized, fragmented chunks to be opened up to "any qualified provider" or put out to competitive tender.

This means the whole fragmented, wasteful costly market system remains intact, even though scrapping it would save billions.

So what are the plans that local health bosses are hatching up in secret?

Who is in charge, and how can campaigners and local communities make them accountable and prevent them cutting and centralising services and worsening access problems for patients needing care?

With jobs and services at stake, how can health unions collaborate with local campaigners and political parties to maximise the impact of their efforts?

Come and discuss at a conference that seeks to develop understanding of local plans as a basis to strengthen and unite our efforts.

**Open to all. LUNCH provided. Registration £7.50/£5 in advance, £10/£7 on the door.**

Book now with Eventbrite on <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/challenging-the-stps-tickets-26483480804>.

Check out our STP Watch pages at [www.healthcampaignstogether.com](http://www.healthcampaignstogether.com), and share your thoughts and local plans: email us at [stpwatch@gmail.com](mailto:stpwatch@gmail.com)

