

Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 23 October 2017

Subject: STP Financial Savings

Question PQ02 submitted by: Shaun Murphy

The papers before the Committee today do not appear to contain any financial details. Is the immediate financial aim of the STP to make savings of £83million in 2017-18 as reported in a recent article in the Health Service Journal, and does the longer-term aim remain that expenditure in the BNSSG area should be capped by 2020/21 to £305 million less than is required to maintain current services?

Nor do the papers contain details of current proposed cuts to health services such as the fertility service and breast reconstruction procedures after cancer, details of which can be found on the website of Bristol CCG. These and other proposed cuts, and the many which will follow in the coming months, are driven by the aim of capping the local NHS budget at a level at which it is not possible to provide the current level of service.

Will the Scrutiny Committee have a standing item on its agenda starting at the next meeting for which the NHS will provide a current list of proposed cuts to health services and a financial report showing the extent of NHS budget cuts within year in the BNSSG area?

Reply from BNSSG STP Programme Director

- Papers submitted to the JHOSC meeting explained the work that is ongoing on our BNSSG case for change. Initial work has been undertaken to understand the finance and efficiency aspects and this will be further developed over the coming months.
- NHS budgets across the UK are determined centrally. It is understood that there is a current financial gap of £92.8m across the BNSSG area which is estimated to reach £324.8m in four years if nothing changes. Overall levels of funding for the NHS in BNSSG will continue to grow (approx. 3% per year) in line with a growing population and to cover some cost increases, but spending is predicted to grow at a faster rate which we cannot afford (approx. 7% per year).
- There are opportunities to provide services in a way that will reduce waste and improve care – for example, more joined up care approaches. Working together we are trying to identify ways to improve care and treatment to make sure it is efficient, high quality and designed around the people who use the services. Proposals are being worked on, based on firm evidence and evaluation to ensure best possible value in terms of outcomes and results for patients as well as financial investment.

Reply from the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee first formally met on 23 October 2017 and will continue to receive regular updates as the BNSSG Sustainability and Transformation Partnership plans emerge, so that Joint Committee has the opportunity to comment and provide input at the appropriate points.