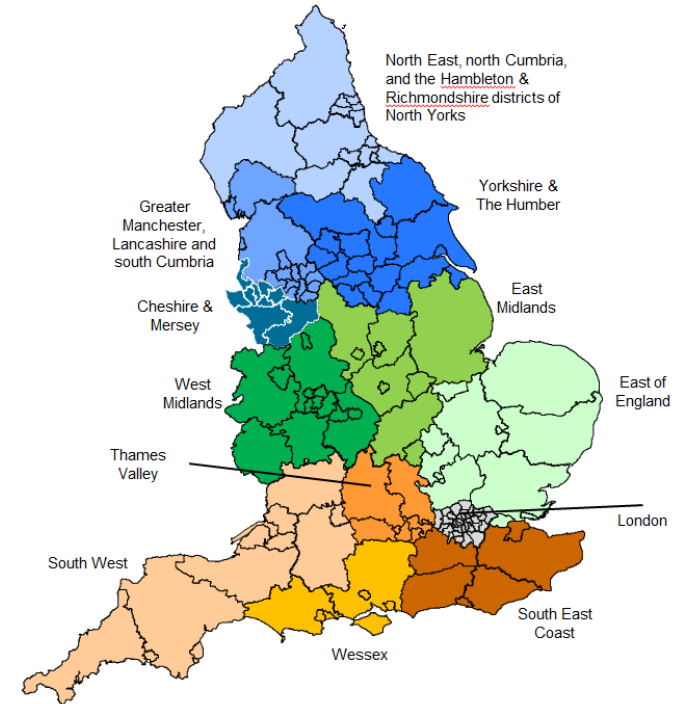


How clinical senates can support commissioners in transforming services

Dr Lawrence Goldberg
Chair, South East Clinical Senate

Clinical senates: background

- Created 2013 (HSC Act)
 - NHS Future Forum:
 - there should be clinical advice and leadership at all levels of the system
 - clinical senates should be created to provide a forum for cross-specialty clinical expertise, collaboration and advice
 - Housed by NHS England
 - Validated following the Smith review of ALBs (2015)
- Provide advice that is:
 - Clinical
 - Impartial
 - Strategic
 - Multi-professional

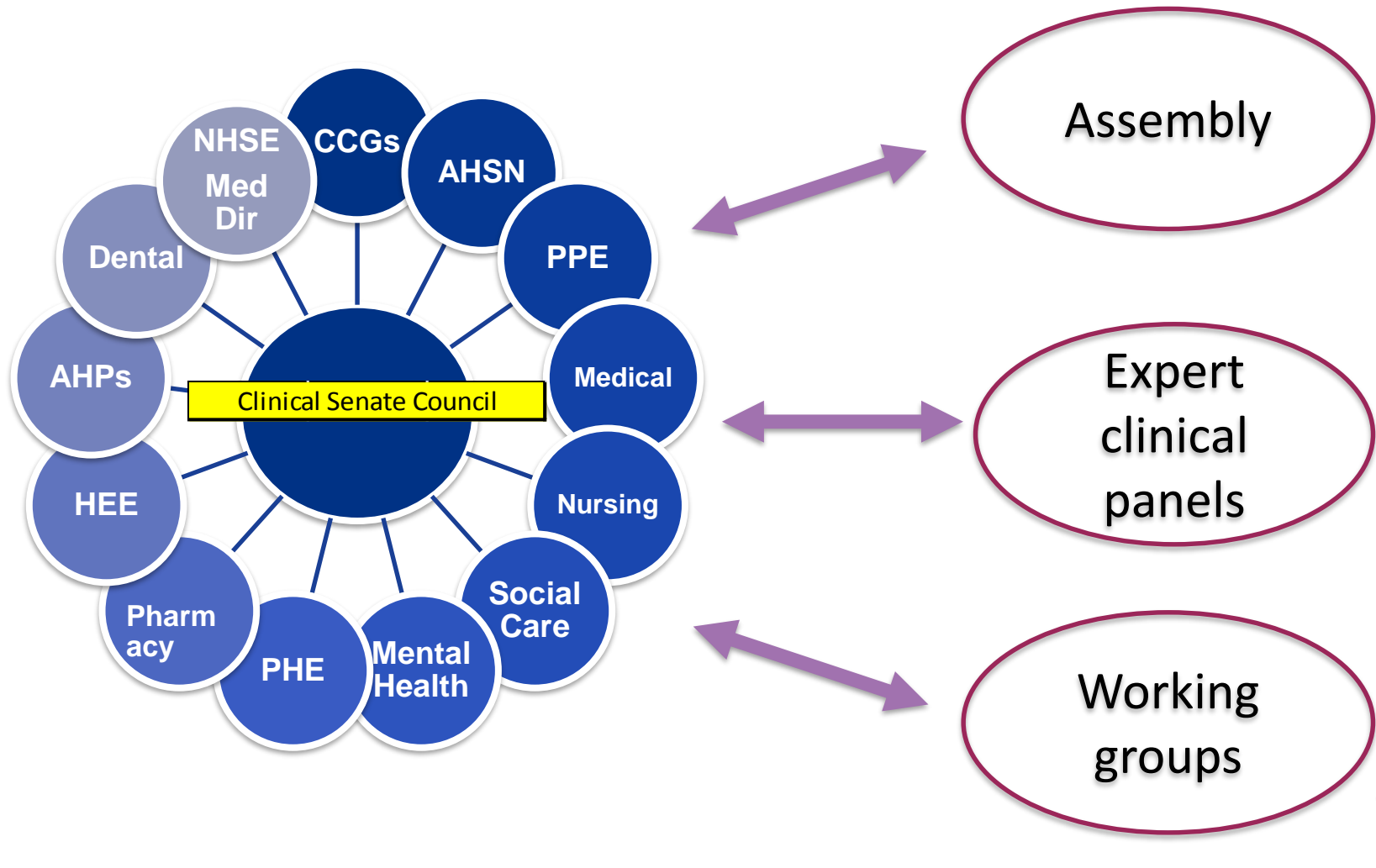


Clinical senates: remit

- To take a broad, strategic view of healthcare
 - overview of major service change (>1 CCG)
 - address cross-cutting issues not otherwise being addressed
- Assist commissioners and health systems to:
 - ensure outcomes and quality are at the heart of the commissioning system
 - promote the needs of patients above the needs of organisations or professions
 - advise on clinical pathways and service change when there is lack of consensus in the local health system
- Work can be:
 - 'Pro-active': senate-initiated topics
 - 'Reactive': responding to requests from commissioners and health systems
- Advisory, not statutory



Clinical senates: structures



Benefits of using clinical senates

- Independence (from commissioners, providers, NHS England)
- Multi-professional (including PPE)
- Evidence based approach to achieving clinical consensus
- Alternative to royal college or other professional body reviews (and NCAT replacement)
- Alternative to expensive consultancies: free (currently)!
- Potential facilitative/convener role
 - Honest broker
 - Can host system-wide events
- Can provide challenge, re-assurance, air cover



Potential limitations of clinical senates

- Finite capacity for multiple synchronous programmes of work
- Time scales from request to production of report
 - 3-6 months for full panel review and report
 - Shorter time scale for tabletop reviews.
- Avoiding conflicts of interest without outside input
- Resources
 - Chair (2-4 sessions), manager (0.5-1.0 WTE), admin support.
 - Clinician participation voluntary



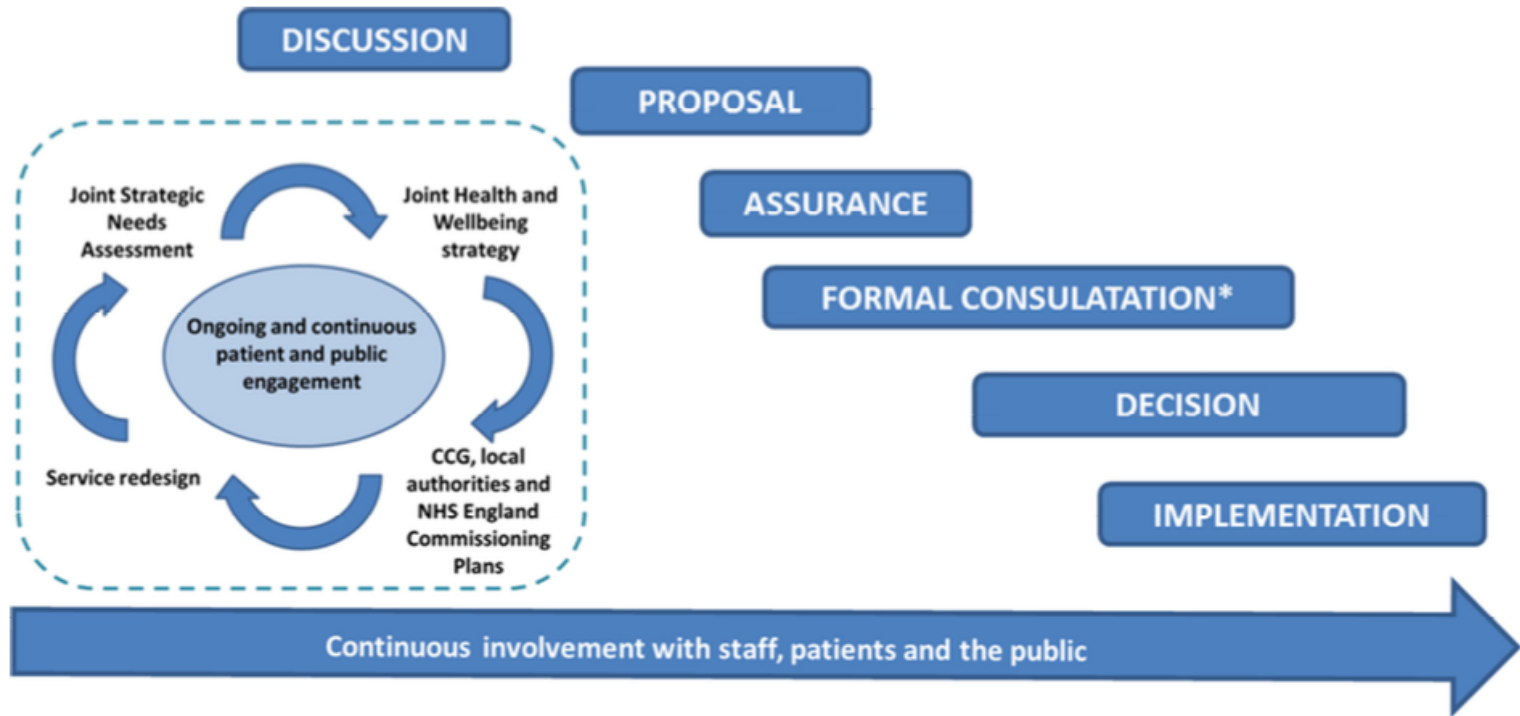
Role in service change

- Algorithm and reference to NHS England document
- 5 tests
 1. Strong public and patient engagement.
 2. Consistency with current and prospective need for patient choice.
 3. Support for proposals from commissioners
 4. **Clear, clinical evidence base**
 5. **Conditions met for any planned closures of hospital beds**



Phases in the reconfiguration process

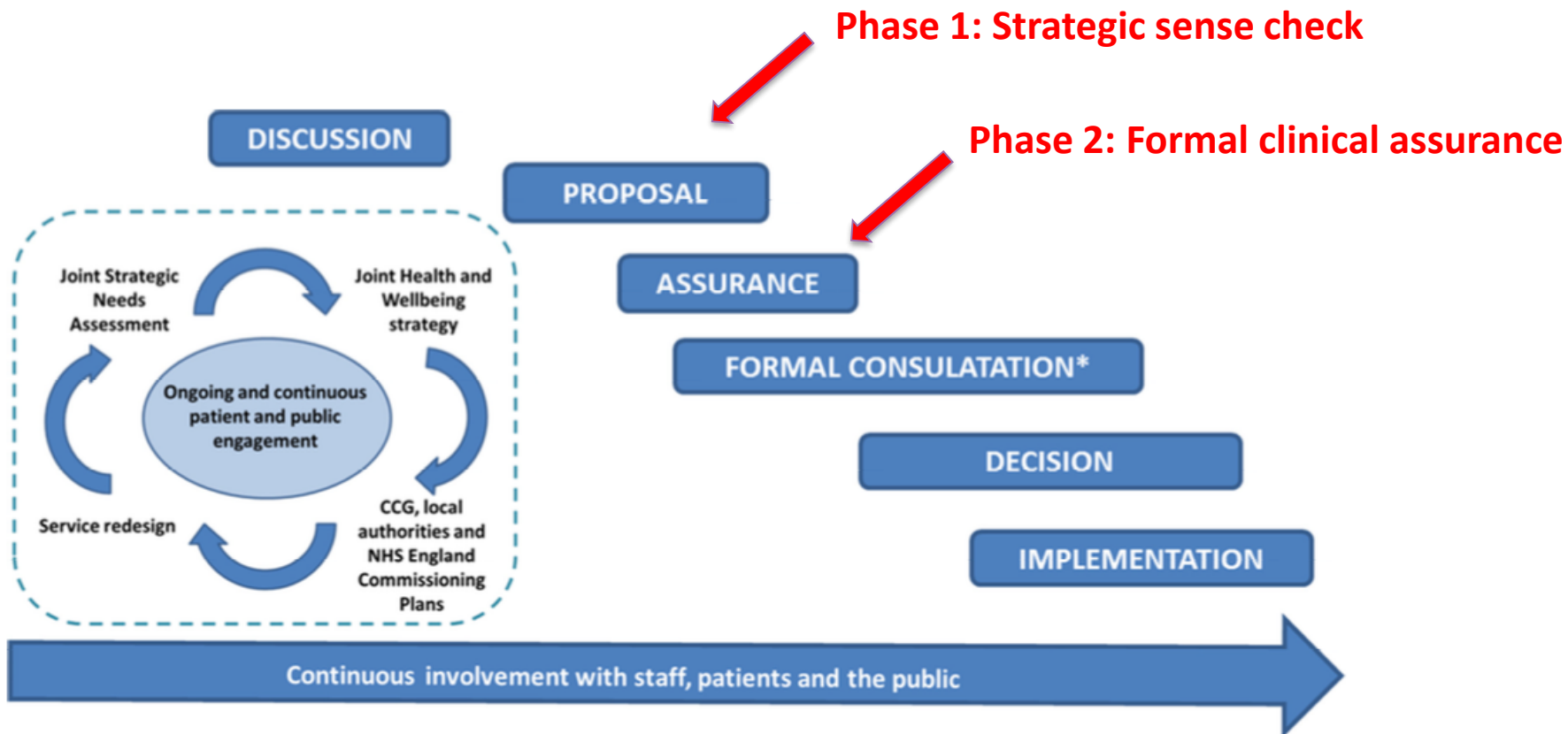
Planning and delivering service change for patients. NHS England Nov 2015.



<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/plan-ass-deliv-serv-chge.pdf>



Clinical senate support for reconfigurations and service re-designs



Examples of clinical senate work supporting commissioners

- **Case for change reviews** (e.g. STPs, specific services)
- **Clinical service re-design** (taking whole system perspective):
 - Acute Services
 - Stroke
 - Vascular, Emergency, Specialist Surgery
 - Dermatology, Ophthalmology, Rheumatology
 - Maternity, Paediatrics
- **Hospital reconfigurations**
 - Review of specific proposals
 - Underlying principles (e.g. clinical co-dependencies)
- **Integrated care**
 - E.g. 'Re-Thinking Out of Hospital Clinical Pathways'
<http://www.secsenate.nhs.uk/clinical-senate-advice/published-advice-and-recommendations/reducing-avoidable-hospital-based-care-re-thinking-out-hospital-clinical-pathways/>
- **Theme based cross cutting topics**
 - Helping Smokers Quit (London)
 - Physical Activity and Exercise Medicine (East Midlands)
 - Advance Care Planning (South East)



Practicalities

- Discuss possible reviews at an early stage with clinical senate management teams
- Agree the question and scope
- Agree timescales, reporting arrangements
- PID-based approach recommended



Clinical senates and web addresses

Clinical Senate	Web address
Cheshire and Merseyside	http://www.nwscnsenate.nhs.uk/clinical-senate/
East of England	www.eoesenate.nhs.uk
East Midlands	www.emsenatescn.nhs.uk
Greater Manchester, Lancashire and South Cumbria	http://www.nwscnsenate.nhs.uk/clinical-senate/greater/
London	www.londonsenate.nhs.uk
Northern England	www.nesenate.nhs.uk
South East	www.secsenate.nhs.uk
South West	www.swsenate.org.uk
Thames Valley	www.tvsenate.nhs.uk
Wessex	www.wessexsenate.nhs.uk
West Midlands	www.wmscnsenate.nhs.uk
Yorkshire and Humber	www.yhsenate.nhs.uk

