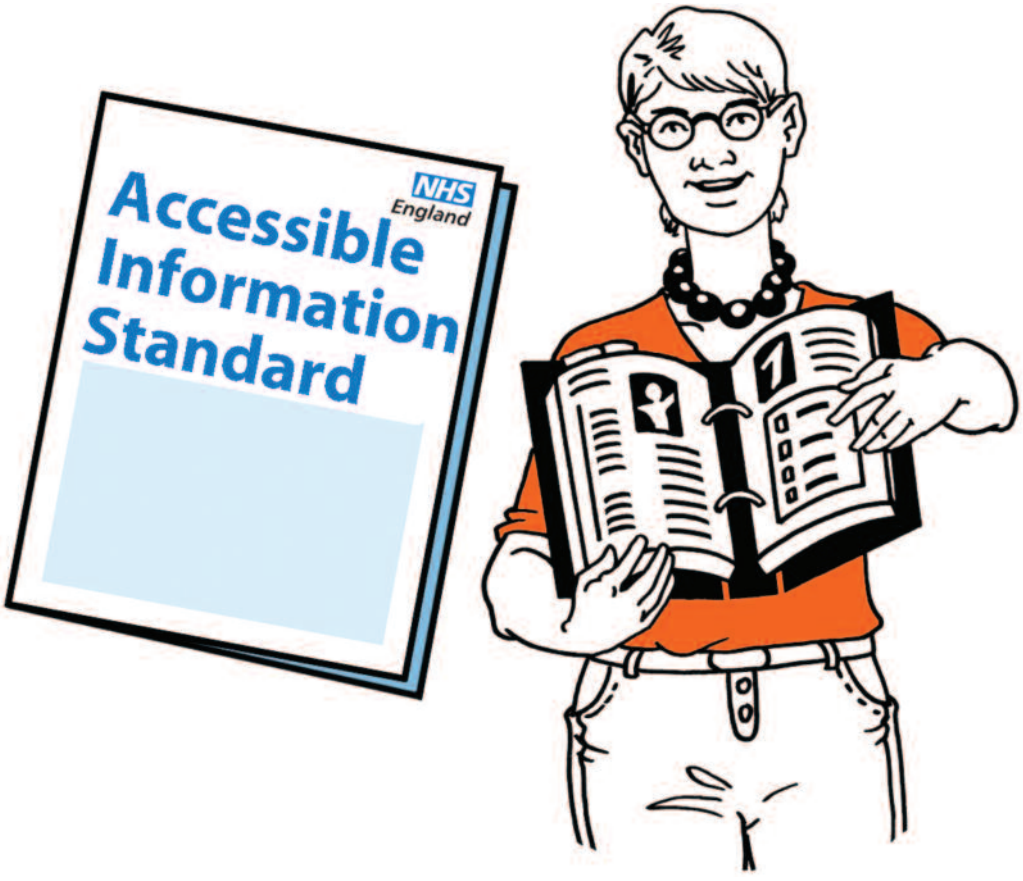
Easy Read

NHS England

Making Health and Social Care Information Accessible

Summary of how we are moving forward with the project and next steps - spring 2014



Making health and social care information accessible

Summary of how we are moving forward with the project and next steps – spring 2014

Introduction

NHS England is moving forward with a project called 'making health and social care information accessible.'

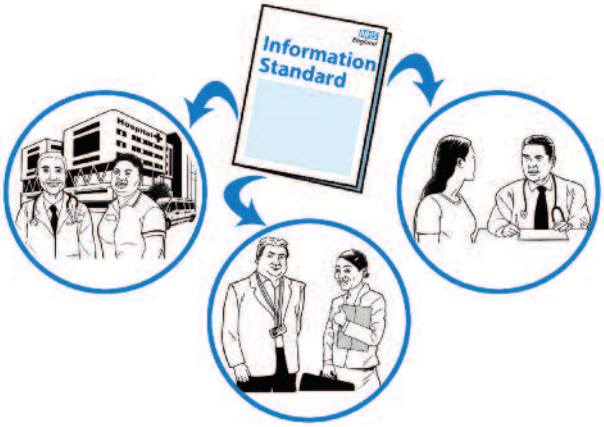
The project will make an Information Standard around accessible information and communication support.

This is a set of rules that health and adult social care bodies must follow.

The aim of the work is to make sure that patients, service users and carers get information in the right format for them, and any support they need to communicate.

The standard will set out how organisations should find, write down and share details of people's accessible information and communication support needs.

It will also tell organisations how they should meet those needs.



The standard will cover all providers and commissioners of NHS and adult social care, including GPs and hospitals.

It will include providing letters and patient information in other formats such as:

braille

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and face-to-face communication support such as from a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter or advocate.

The standard is following the proper rules to be approved as a new Information Standard for the health and social care system.

SCCI Standardisation Committee for Care Information

The Standardisation Committee for Care Information (SCCI) has a short time ago taken over the job of approving Information Standards from the Information Standards Board for Health and Social Care (ISB).
You can find out more about SCCI at:
www.england.nhs.uk/iscg/scci/

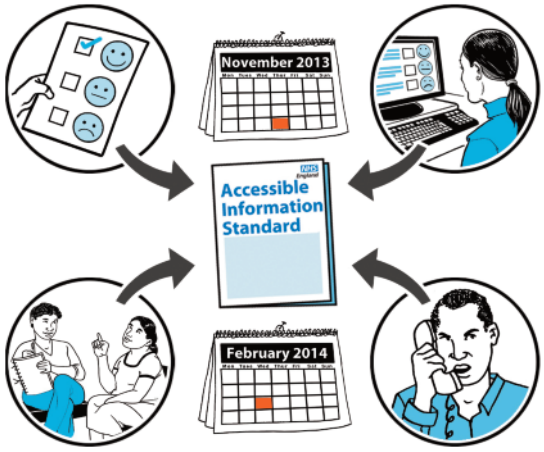
How we are getting on until now

The Accessible Information Standard passed through the first stage in the process – called Need Stage – in June 2013.

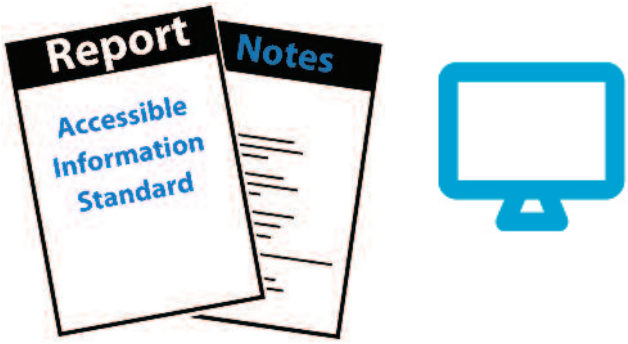
This stage shows us that there is a clear need for the standard, and that it fits with up to date policies and plans.

The second stage in the process is called the Requirements Stage.
The Accessible Information Standard successfully completed this stage on 27 November 2013.

This stage shows us that there is a clear use for the standard, and thought has been given to how it will be put into action.

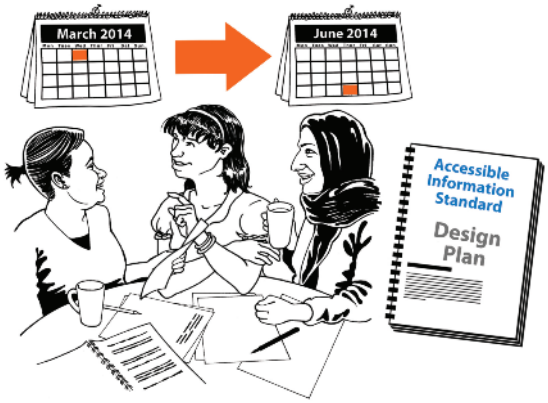


From late November 2013 until 21 February 2014, people and organisations who are interested in accessible information were invited to say what they think.



A report of this work will be published on the NHS England website at: www.england.nhs.uk/accessibleinfo in spring 2014.
Notes from workshop events are also available from this site.

Next steps



From March to June 2014, NHS England will write the plan for the design of the standard – to explain what organisations must do.

During this stage – called 'Draft' – we will work closely with some organisations to test out ideas for parts of the standard, to see if they will work in a 'real life' setting.

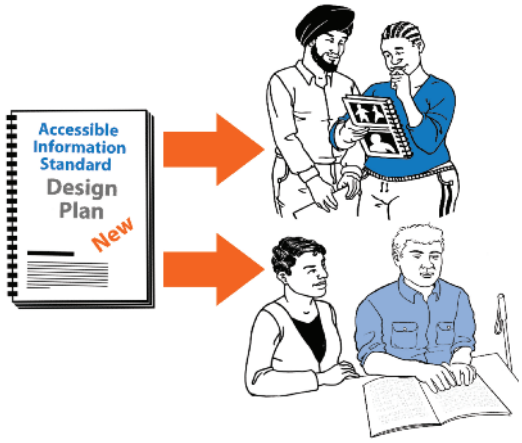
Future goals

After testing, a draft plan of the design for the standard will be put forward to the SCCI for them to think about.

We think that this will be in summer 2014.

There will be 12 weeks when people can say what they think about the Draft standard.

We think that this will take place over summer 2014.



After this time of talking about the standard, the plan of the design may be changed and a final plan will be tried out by different organisations to make sure it will work in health and social care settings.

After being tried out, the final standard will go to the SCCI for them to say it's ok.
We think that this will be in winter 2014 / 2015.

Organisations will need to carry out the standard once it has been accepted by the SCCI.
They can start right away after the SCCI say it is ok but will have up to 12 months to put it into action.

More information

For updates about the standard and all other documents about it, please visit:

www.england.nhs.uk/accessibleinfo

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