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| **How to … Suggest a deliberative topic to the South West Clinical Senate**  **Seeking independent clinical advice** |  |  |

**Introduction**

The South West Clinical Senate plays a pivotal role in shaping healthcare services across the region. It provides independent, clinical advice to commissioners on proposals for service reconfiguration and service change, and ‘wicked’ issues that have a clinical element.

The South West Clinical Senate invites topic suggestions from commissioners and other stakeholder organisations in the region, to inform its Senate Council deliberations.

**Who Can Submit?**

Any groups or organisations that have an interest in health and social care can submit a topic. Some examples are:

* Commissioners
* Integrated Care Boards or Systems
* NHS England
* Specialised Commissioning
* Local Authorities
* Clinical Networks
* Provider Organisations
* Proposed by the Senate to a Commissioner

**Topic Criteria**

The Senate Council will assess the relevance of the suggested discussion topic against the following guiding principles:

* Topics where the Clinical Senate can add value.
* Topics of significant and strategic importance to health and social care transformation

**Recent Deliberative Topics**

See listed below some of the topics that the Senate Council has recently deliberated:

* **Risk stratification and prioritisation of children and young people waiting lists.** The recommendations contained within the report will help ensure that children and young people are appropriately prioritised and receive safe, high-quality, and timely care. [Read the Senate Council Recommendations Report](https://www.swsenate.nhs.uk/south-west-clinical-senate-recommendations-on-how-we-might-ensure-that-children-and-young-people-waiting-for-paediatric-specialties-and-community-pathways-are-appropriately-prioritized-and-receive-sa/3949/) here.
* **Building a sustainable NHS for the next 75 years** The Senate Council met to discuss how a sustainable NHS might be built for the next 75 years against a backdrop of increasing high demand, workforce challenges, industrial action, and the legacy of the COVID-19 pandemic; that would enable innovation and support the restoration of evidence-based interventions. The ideas from this session are documented in a Thought Piece. [Read the Thought Piece](https://www.swsenate.nhs.uk/south-west-clinical-senate-recommendations-there-is-a-recognition-that-the-system-faces-significant-pressure-increasing-high-demand-dealing-with-post-pandemic-elective-recovery-w/3783/) here.
* **Reducing and preventing harm from opioid medication for those living with pain.** The recommendations contained within the report will help healthcare professionals, providers, and patients take positive steps to reduce harm from opioid prescribing for those living with pain. [Read the Senate Council Recommendations Report here.](https://www.swsenate.nhs.uk/presentations-contributed-to-how-can-we-support-people-in-the-south-west-to-live-well-with-pain-whilst-reducing-and-preventing-harm-from-opioids-medication/3734/)

Other Senate Council Recommendations are available on the South West Clinical Senate website. [Access the Senate Council Recommendations Reports](https://www.swsenate.nhs.uk/senate-recommendations/) here.

**Proposing a Topic**

* **Identify Your Topic:** Your topic should be relevant to more than one ICS area and should have the potential to improve healthcare services or patient care.
* **Describe Your Topic:** Set out the background, supporting evidence, potential impact of your topic. The template in Appendix 1 is a guide.
* **Submit Your Topic:** Email your proposed topic to the South West Clinical Senate at [england.swclinicalsenate@nhs.net](mailto:england.swclinicalsenate@nhs.net) with **“Proposed deliberative topic”** in the title.
* **Any Questions?** Contact us at [england.swclinicalsenate@nhs.net](mailto:england.swclinicalsenate@nhs.net).

**Topic Review & Feedback**

Upon receipt of your topic suggestion, the Senate Management Team / Senate Council will:

* Review the proposed topic for relevance and potential impact.
* May request additional information or clarification.
* Decide whether to include the topic in the agenda for deliberation.

The Senate Council values all submissions and will provide feedback on the outcome of your suggestion.

**Appendix 1: Proposing a Deliberative Topic Template**

This template is a guide to what to include. All the fields in the form do not need to be completed. However, providing this information will help the Senate Management Team and/ or the Senate Council in choosing the topic.

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| 1 | Describe the topic or issue (include background/ context). |
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| 2 | Why? What is the rationale for exploring this topic (include any data, evidence base, case studies, research, etc.) |
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| 3 | What is the benefit or impact on patient care or healthcare delivery? |
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| 4 | Who are the stakeholders and contributors? (include details of any expert speakers, or knowledge brokers in the South West region that could contribute to the discussion or provide background material/ data). Who is the target audience for the report? (include details of commissioners, networks, providers, or other groups) |
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| 5 | Anything else |
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