



South West
Clinical Senate

The South West Clinical Senate [SWCS]



South West Clinical Senate

The Clinical Senates were established in England in 2013, as part of the clinical advisory structures in response to the Health and Social Care Act 2012 which created Clinical Commissioning Groups and abolished the Strategic Health Authorities and their clinical advice fora.

The role and purpose of the Clinical Senates:

“Clinical Senates will help make the best decisions about healthcare for the populations they represent by providing advice and leadership at a strategic level”

“brings together a range of professionals to take an overview of health and healthcare for local populations and provides a source of strategic, independent advice and leadership on how services should be designed to provide the best overall care and outcomes for patients” (Ref: [NHS England: The Way Forward, Clinical Senates](#))

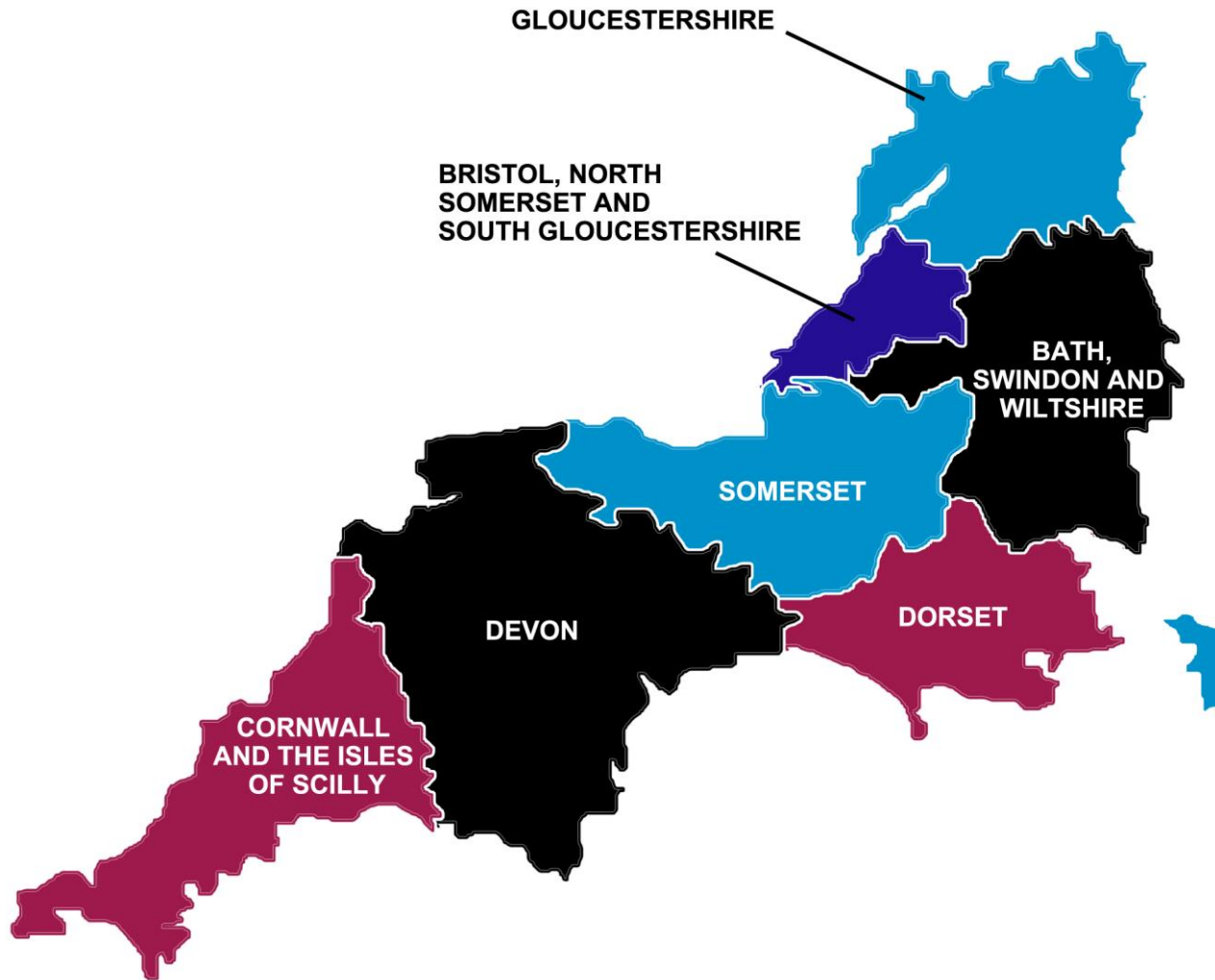


Sally Pearson, Chair



David Halpin, Vice Chair

Geographical footprint



Role of the Clinical Senate

Clinical Senates have two core functions:

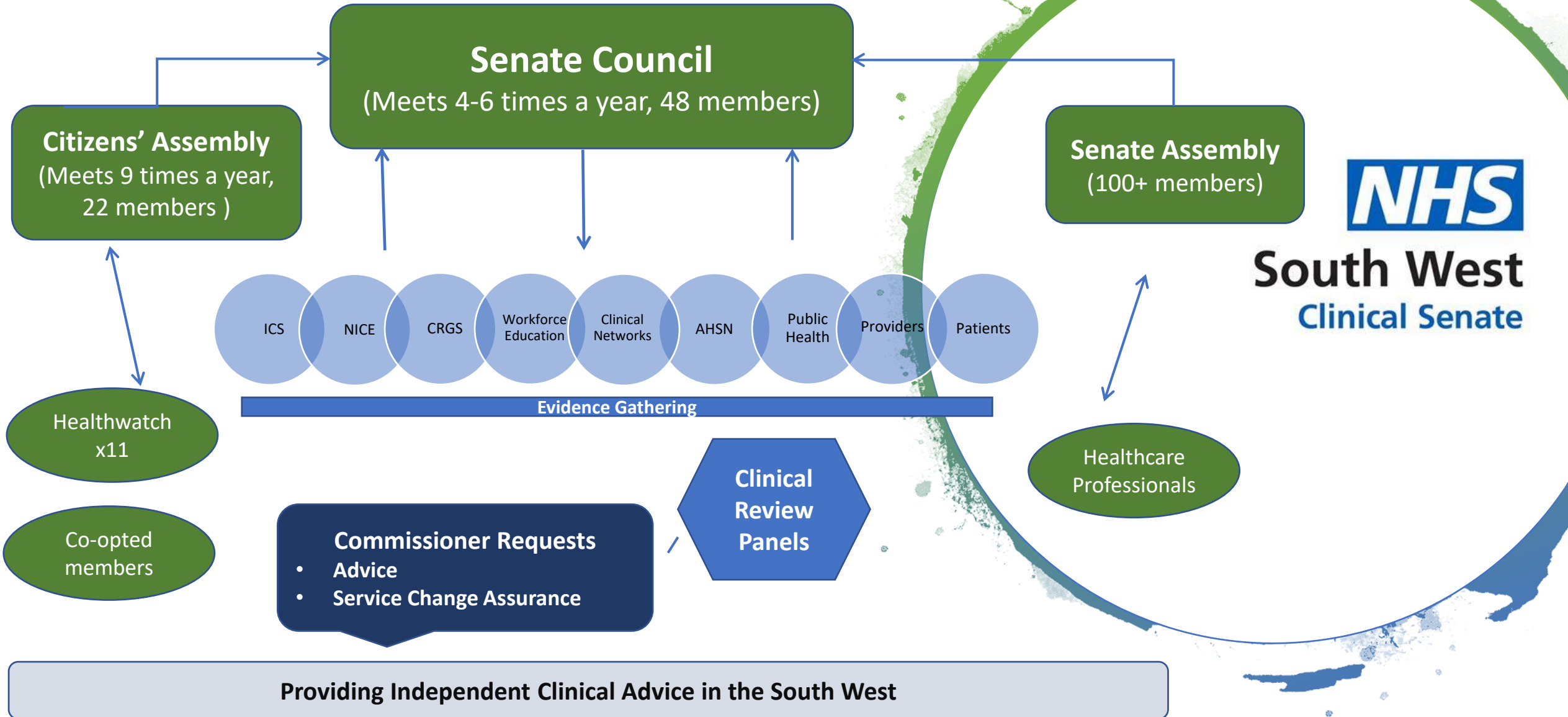
- To provide **independent clinical advice** via **Senate Council meetings** on topics primarily referred to us by commissioners but also by providers and the wider.
- To provide **independent clinical advice** via **formal review panels** that inform **NHS England Assurance process** for large scale service change



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Structure of the South West Clinical Senate



The Senate Council

- The Senate Council is the 'steering group' of the Clinical Senate.
- Core membership: **48 health & social care senior leaders, clinical experts, patient & public reps.** from across the SW.
- It is responsible for the formulation and provision of independent advice.
- Appointment by applications demonstrating experience and contribution at local, regional, national level. As vacancies arise, these are advertised on website

The Senate Assembly

- The Senate Assembly is a multi-disciplinary professional collective providing the Senate Council access to a wide range of health and care expertise.
- Core membership: **100 health and care professionals** from the SW
- Senate Council membership is drawn from the Senate Assembly.
- Appointment to the Senate Assembly is by application (ongoing, rolling recruitment via Clinical Senate website).

The Citizens Assembly (CA)

- The Citizens' Assembly provides a **strong patient and public voice** to support the work of the Clinical Senate.
- 22 representatives, **2 nominees from each of the 11 Healthwatch organisations** in the South West.
- The CA ensures that the **patient and public perspective** is at the heart of everything the Clinical Senate does.



Nick Pennell, Citizens' Assembly Interim Chair

The Senate team

The Senate team provides coordination, management, and secretariat of all aspects of South West Clinical Senate business activity.

Ajike Alli-Ameh is the Head of the South West Clinical Senate.

Trish Trim is the Senate Administrator



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Ajike Alli-Ameh, Head of Senate



Trish Trim, Senate Administrator

Get involved with our work

- Are you actively involved in health or care delivery?
- Do you have a passion for delivering the best possible health and care services in the South West?
- Do you want to make a difference to patients, their families and local communities in the South West?

Why not contribute to the work of the South West Clinical Senate and help to shape health and care services to deliver better outcomes for patients, in the South West.

Apply to join our **Senate Council** or **Senate Assembly**

(see website for details: [Home - South West Senate \(swsenate.nhs.uk\)](https://www.swsenate.nhs.uk))



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Why should you join the Senate Council?

- Strategic leadership development: An opportunity to gain in-depth insights into important issues faced by the NHS.
- Develop a greater understanding of thorny subjects in the NHS, from the wider perspective of colleagues (outside area of clinical expertise), patient and public partners, and experts.
- Participate in reviewing service reconfiguration proposals, and providing advice to help shape healthcare services in the region – for better patient outcomes.
- Gain knowledge of the NHS England Service Reconfiguration and System Transformation processes.
- Involvement in NHS deliberations on topics that are of strategic importance in the region, and help develop independent clinical advice.

What our members say ...

“Being a council member has broadened my thinking and improved my ability to make informed appropriate decisions based on the information I have. When all work and decisions sit within my field of expertise one can become somewhat blinkered in considering all information. Discussing areas outside of my field has reminded me to look more strategically at the whole picture to get a fuller understanding of any subject.” Carol Stonham

“The clinical senate council meeting provides a great opportunity to learn from senior colleagues. The meetings are also very informative and keep me up to date with some of the latest research and clinical practice. I often learn a lot from presenters and council members which I take back to my own system and share. The attendance at the Senate Council meetings counts towards my NMC validation.”
Dr Marion Andrews-Evans

“I am at a stage in my career where I am involved in an increasing number of management and advisory roles in addition to my clinical work. My experience as a Senate Council member has provided me with additional perspectives, strategic insights and leadership skills of definite benefit in my day to day and extended practice. The in-depth discussions, reports and recommendations have furthered my education into areas of NHS practice for which I would otherwise have a more superficial understanding.”

Dr Clare Barlow

Interested? Your next steps

- We are always looking for enthusiastic health and social care professionals from across all disciplines to join us. If you are actively involved in healthcare delivery, have a passion for delivering the best possible health and care services for patients, this is your opportunity to get involved and support the work of the South West Clinical Senate.
- The SW Clinical Senate regularly runs recruitment drives for the Senate Council. **Please check our website for details of current vacancies.** [Home - South West Senate \(swsenate.nhs.uk\)](https://www.swsenate.nhs.uk)
- If there are no current vacancies, you are welcome to apply to join our Senate Assembly which has an ongoing, rolling recruitment, please follow link to our website for more details: [Senate Assembly - South West Senate \(swsenate.nhs.uk\)](https://www.swsenate.nhs.uk)
- If you have any questions, please contact info@SWSenate.org.uk

Contact us



info@SWSenate.org.uk



[Home - South West Senate
\(swsenate.nhs.uk\)](http://swsenate.nhs.uk)



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