

WEST MIDLANDS ISDN Newsletter

June 2025 Edition



ACUTE SITE VISIT FOLLOW UPS

As part of our continued follow up site visits with acute stroke centres, this month the ISDN met with the stroke teams at Russell's Hall Hospital (RHH) of Dudley Group Hospital Trust and University Hospitals Coventry & Warwickshire (UHCW). It was great to hear about the updates on our recommendations and progress made with delivering the acute pathway and the efforts to improve thrombectomy and thrombolysis referral rates.

At RHH, we noted three examples of exemplar work by the Trust 1) participation in TASC 2 programme 2) provision of 24/7 OOH weekend service 3) collaborative working with SWBH on the integrated rehab pathway. We will share with other spoke sites for learning and good practice

At UHCW, we heard about a number of improvements made, these include all stroke patients are now seen on arrival, the introduction of Tenecteplase in April, extension of thrombectomy hours from end of July and planning to participate in the pre-alert video triage (PVT) programme.

We praised both Trusts for their hard work and sharing the learning /good working practices across our region is one of the key purposes of our site visits.



MIDLANDS SQUIRE EVENT

On 4th June, projects from across the region came together for a dynamic and inspiring SQuIRe shared learning event. The day was designed to showcase progress, reflect on learning, and create space for collaboration across teams, services, and systems, all with the common goal of improving stroke care pathways and outcomes.

The event opened with a warm welcome and introduction to SQuIRe by Georgina Charles, followed by reflective insights from Rebecca Fisher and a powerful presentation from Stuart Cooper of the Stroke Association, joined remotely by Louise Harris who shared her story.

Throughout the day, five project teams shared their experiences, challenges, and successes - from improving life after stroke services in South-East Staffordshire to developing a young person's stroke pathway. Each presentation was rich in learning and demonstrated the passion, commitment, and innovation of teams working to deliver better care. A recurring theme across all sessions was the importance of phased planning, being realistic with timelines, and embedding patient and workforce voices into every stage of development.

Key takeaways from the event included:

- The value of collaboration across services, including voluntary sector partners.
- The need to understand and respect others' priorities and pressures.
- The importance of engaging clinicians in wider learning events.
- The potential to replicate successful approaches in other areas using data, outcomes, and efficient use of resources.

A renewed focus on integrated care, equity, and working across multiple trusts to reduce duplication and deliver seamless patient experiences.

Attendees shared impactful reflections on the day:

"Taking back inspiration to my team from projects brought forward today." – Keeley Cox, Physiotherapist, LCHS

"General ideas that could improve acute transition into community services." – Richard Lee, Acute Stroke Therapy Clinical Lead, UHCW

"On QI, PPV—how ideas should be co-created, KPIs and business development... sharing not only success stories but also learning ones." – Andrea Kocurkova, Clinical Psychologist in Training, UHCW

"Very good to network and hear the ideas from others—looking at smaller venues that may offer free venues." – Katie Summers, Team Lead Specialist Physiotherapist, Sherwood Forest

"Demonstrate the costs of lack of investment in services... invest and develop further the blood pressure support and prevention in the community to aid in prevention of future admissions." – Alycia Mkwanzzi, Associate Project Manager, MPFT

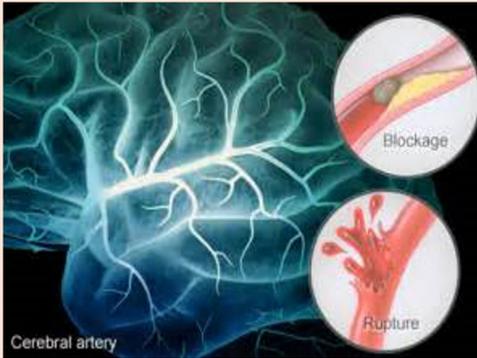
The day concluded with an engaging Q&A and a reflective session titled "Words into Action", expertly facilitated by Carron Sintler, Fozia Ikram-Bashir, and Rebecca Fisher, encouraging attendees to take forward their learning and consider actionable next steps.

Thank you to all the speakers, presenters, and attendees who made the day a success. Your energy, honesty, and commitment are what continue to drive meaningful change through SQuIRe.



SIMULATION TRAINING IN WORCESTER

Our Worcester stroke team will be hosting a masterclass in stroke using simulation training:



4th of July, 9am-5pm
Worcester Royal Hospital CHEC
Limited spaces available. E-mail
chantellehadwick@nhs.net for availability.

UK STROKE RESEARCH WORKSHOP 2025

Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th September 2025

Newcastle University Medical School

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN: <https://www.strokeworkshop.uk> The registration site also links to a hotel booking site with negotiated rates

Meeting registration cost: £80 The UKSRW three course dinner cost: £20

Come along to hear updates from national and international speakers about the latest stroke research and evidence including sessions on:

- ⇒ Brain and heart
- ⇒ Intracerebral haemorrhage
- ⇒ Less common causes of stroke
- ⇒ Translational rehabilitation research
- ⇒ Vascular cognitive impairment

Also featuring:

- ⇒ A workshop on big data and machine learning for early career researchers
- ⇒ Platform presentations and poster tours with prizes
- ⇒ Medical student bursaries
- ⇒ Networking opportunities
- ⇒ An optional evening dinner
- ⇒ CPD credits (TBC)



JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ This month's West Midlands Thrombectomy Network meeting hosted presentation on the BIASP workforce survey carried out in 2024 by our East Midlands ISDN team. Stroke clinical leads also shared examples of missed/rejected thrombectomy cases and this will form a regular agenda item for discussion.
- ⇒ Following the national thrombectomy visit with University of Birmingham (UHB) and University of Coventry & Warwickshire (UHCW) NHS Trusts last month, there were concerns with regards to the low referral numbers from spoke sites. The national team will be visiting Russell's Hall Hospital, Dudley and Midland Metropolitan University Hospital, Sandwell on 25th June, followed by Wye Valley County Hospital, Hereford on 27th June as part of the outcome / recommendations of that visit.
- ⇒ The ISDN is working on our annual report alongside other documents for the ICBs to demonstrate our work and to ensure stroke remains a priority. We aim to submit by the end of the month.
- ⇒ We hosted our final rehab pathway meeting this month and working on finalising the data collated from teams across the patch. We will be sharing a slide deck of our findings for teams to use as a tool for any future modelling work. We would like to thank all teams involved in collating this data.
- ⇒ Stroke quality improvement in rehabilitation (SQuIRe) hosted a Quality Improvement Collaborative Virtual Workshop on 24th June. There were three catalyst projects presentations 1) Devon psychology project (south west) 2) Transition support worker project (Sussex) 3) Orthotics pathway (Lancs & South Cumbria)

CLINICAL STROKE EDUCATION WEBINAR

Clinical Stroke Education Webinar



West Midlands ISDN will be hosting a stroke education session as follows:

Date: 8th July 2025

Time: 14:00 to 16:00

The session will provide opportunities to share/ discuss good working practice and case studies and is aimed at clinical staff working in stroke/neurology and neuroradiology including consultants, trainee doctors and stroke nurse practitioners.

Topics – focusing on haematology:

- The patient presenting with thrombocytopenia thrombosis - Speaker Dr Will Lester, UHB
- Antiphospholipid syndrome (what's new) – Speaker Dr Gill Lowe, UHB
- Reversal of anticoagulation – Speaker Dr Philip Nicolson, UHB
- Case studies – Speaker Dr Ala Bawazir, UHB

Each topic will be followed by a Q&A session.

If you would like to join the webinar, please contact WestMidlandsISDN@uhb.nhs.uk

The session will also be recorded and available on our FutureNHS platform [West Midlands Integrated Stroke Delivery Network \(ISDN\) - FutureNHS Collaboration Platform](https://www.futurenhs.org/)

The next webinar will take place in the autumn.



Social Handles – Twitter/X @WM_ISDN – LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/wmidn/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

UK and ROI Acute Stroke Simulation Course Dates available from June onwards. For more information [please click here](#)

SQuIRe Upcoming Event Dates:

Support After Project Completion-Remote Event(via Teams)- Date: Wednesday, 6th August | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
ICSS Model Implementation Challenges and Support - Remote (via Teams) - Wednesday, 1st October | 10:00 AM -12:00 PM
Measurement for Improvement - Remote (via Teams) - Wednesday, 3rd December | 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM
For more details on SQuIRe Projects, please contact: midlands.squire@uhb.nhs.uk

IN THE NEXT EDITION

[July highlights] SQuIRe update and much more