

WEST MIDLANDS ISDN Newsletter

July 2025 Edition



NEW STROKE ASSOCIATION SERVICES

The Stroke Association is pleased to announce two new Stroke Recovery Services across the West Midlands taking referrals as of 1st July 2025. A new Stroke Recovery and Post Stroke Review Service has been commissioned in South Warwickshire and are accepting referrals for newly diagnosed stroke survivors from the area. In addition, there is now a commissioned service to deliver support to newly diagnosed stroke survivors living in Herefordshire (only accepting referrals from Herefordshire CST due to funded capacity). Both services are currently commissioned for 12 months. For further information on what our Stroke Recovery Services offer please contact jessica.bagguley@stroke.org.uk



240 people wake up to the impact of a stroke every day.

RESPONSE TO THE NHS 10 YEAR HEALTH PLAN

The Government has recently announced a new **10 Year Health Plan**, setting out its vision for the future of health and social care in the years ahead. This plan will shape decisions about NHS services, social care, and support that many people affected by stroke rely on.

The Stroke Association has shared their initial reaction to the plan here. Now, they are hoping to hear your thoughts.

As someone working in stroke, your experience and perspectives are incredibly important in helping us make sure decision-makers understand what matters most. If you feel able, **please take a moment to share your views with us here.** Your feedback will help us continue to push for better support and care for stroke survivors across the UK. You should also feel free to share this with colleagues and anyone affected by stroke.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts.



PATIENT AND PUBLIC VOICE GROUP

Our PPV Group met this month, and there was a presentation on psychology and stroke delivered by representatives from local teams in Coventry and Warwickshire. The group explored what psychological support should be delivered, if possible, such as using the stepped care model for low mood and anxiety. The presentation was linked to the scoping and benchmarking work delivered in November 2024, as well as the work of the psychology working group established by the ISDN, which is identifying psychological provision and gaps across the region.

Members also shared their experiences of limited access to psychological support. It was clear that both individuals with lived experience of stroke and staff members highly value psychology and support the need for increased resources.

Other resources discussed included Compassion-Focused Therapy (CFT), a type of talking therapy that helps individuals develop self-compassion to manage feelings of shame, self-criticism, and other emotional difficulties. We will share a wellbeing toolkit related to CFT in a future edition.

We would like to thank Dr Becca Casey, Clinical Psychologist, and Dr Andie Lees, Clinical Neuropsychologist, from the North and South Warwickshire community teams for their presentation.



JULY HIGHLIGHTS

- This month's West Midlands Thrombectomy Network meeting focused on our regions Q2 thrombectomy data. There is still a lot to do to improve our thrombectomy targets, however thrombolysis rates have seen an increase in some areas. There were a number of actions for the ISDN to support, and these include the need to escalate extending CTP provision at MMUH and for UHB to consider reviewing their referral pathways at QEH.
- The ISDN met with the stroke team and executive representative at Worcester Acute Hospital Trust on 15th July as part of our continual acute site visit follow ups. We were pleased to hear of the great progress and improvements made to our recommendations in our previous visit. A summary report will be circulated once finalised.
- Our next acute site visit places will take place with Wye Valley Trust (Hereford) stroke and Exec Team on 29th July and UHB stroke and Exec team on 30th July. More details to follow in the next edition.
- The ISDN is working on our annual report for the ICBs to demonstrate our work and to ensure stroke remains a priority. We aim to submit by the end of the month.
- The BSOL CPD stroke programme hosted a drop in feedback session on 15th and 23rd July via MS Teams for teams involved to share updates and feedback.
- This month's SSNAP community group discussed the changes to the SSNAP criteria. We heard from teams that reports received were difficult to pull meaningful data from to share with others for learning, and that 75% of cases need to be discharge in data period to get a report.
- Our Mood and Cognitive QI Project from the benchmarking working met on 7th July. We will be collating all the information received from assessment questionnaires from all teams to review at next meeting.

CLINICAL STROKE EDUCATION WEBINAR

We hosted our clinical education webinar on 8th July focusing on haematology and stroke. We had very good attendance and have received lots of positive feedback. Thank you to all those who joined the session. We would appreciate a few minutes of your time to share your thoughts/experiences of the session by completing a short questionnaire: <https://forms.office.com/e/X3QMAAGZe>

For those that were unable to attend, you can watch the recording on our FutureNHS platform. [Clinical stroke education webinar-08.07.2025-Recording - West Midlands Integrated Stroke Delivery Network \(ISDN\) - Futures](#) You will need to create an account if you do not have one and join our WM ISDN FutureNHS Platform workspace.

For UHB colleagues, please click to request permission if you would like to access the recording here: [Clinical stroke education webinar-20250708_140238-Meeting Recording - Trim.mp4](#)

We would like to thank our speakers Dr Will Lester, Gill Lowe, Dr Pip Nicolson, and Dr Ala Bawazir for delivering this session.

Our next webinar will take place on 15th October.

Please do get in touch if you have any queries.



NHSE STROKE TEAM VISITS ACROSS THE WEST MIDLANDS

Following the national MT visits to Queen Elizabeth Hospital University Hospitals Birmingham and University Hospitals Coventry & Warwickshire, a recommendation was made for the national stroke team to visit referring sites. In June, Dr David Hargroves, NHS England National Clinical Director for Stroke, visited Midland Metropolitan University Hospital of the Sandwell & West Birmingham Trust, Russell Hall Hospital of the Dudley Group Trust and Hereford County Hospital at Wye Valley Trust. The visits focused on reviewing how the current stroke services align with national standards, TASC (Thrombolysis Acute Stroke Collaborative) and diagnostics/pathway review, listening to the valuable experiences of our frontline staff and identifying areas of good practice as well as opportunities for further improvement.

This collaborative visits also allowed the team to hear direct feedback on the thrombectomy referral process. Local consultants and ISDN colleagues highlighted the benefit of a clear consultant to consultant pathway to support swifter decision making and better patient outcomes. The ISDN has formally requested that UHB consider reviewing this pathway to ensure our region remains at the forefront of delivering timely, expert stroke care. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to open and constructive discussions.



ID STROKE: THINK ALOUD INTERVIEWS

The University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) is exploring variation in current UK clinical practice for investigating the aetiology of stroke. The project, Identification of Stroke Aetiology to Reduce Reoccurrence of Stroke and Vascular Events (ID-STROKE), is led by Dr Clare Gordon in the School of Nursing and Midwifery and is funded by the Burdett Trust for Nursing (UCLan Ethics Ref: HEALTH 01236). This work is a follow-on from a survey on the same topic, which NHS organisations may have supported UCLan in recruiting for last year.

Research Opportunity
Clinician Case-Discussion Interview

Who are we looking for?
We are looking for health care professionals that work in a NHS stroke service, and who have decision-making responsibility for the investigation of stroke aetiology.

What's involved?
A case-discussion interview, followed by a reflective discussion that should take 60-90 minutes.
You will be presented with a clinical case, and asked to talk through the decisions you would make to investigate the aetiology of the stroke.
You will be guided on how to do this.
You will be offered an £80 thank you voucher for your time.

How do you get involved?
Email Dr Clare Gordon on the email below to express an interest. You will be sent a study information sheet giving you further information on the research. You can then decide if you want to take part, and schedule your interview.

Contact: Email: IDStroke@uclan.ac.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

UK and ROI Acute Stroke Simulation Course Dates available from July onwards. For more information [please click here](#)
UK Stroke Research Workshop 2025 taking place on 3rd and 4th September @ Newcastle University Medical School
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

SSNAP| August highlights| SQuiRe update and much more