Workshop a:
Help shape the Stroke Association’s policy positions

Mark MacDonald and Roger Lambert
About us

• **Mark MacDonald**, Senior Policy & Influencing Officer, Stroke Association

• **Roger Lambert**, Policy & Influencing Reference Group, Scotland Reference Group
Aims of this workshop

• Explaining why we need policy positions
• Sharing information about our new policy positions
• Getting your views and ideas to help shape the Stroke Association’s work in this area
What is a policy?

• Course or principle of action adopted or proposed by an organisation or person
• Expressions of ‘what we think’ about something and what we’re going to do about it
Why have policy positions?

Key statistics

- There are more than **100,000 strokes** in the UK each year; that is around one stroke every five minutes.
- There are over **1.2 million stroke survivors** in the UK.
- Every two seconds, someone in the world will have a **stroke**.
- Stroke is the **fourth single leading cause of death** in the UK.
- There are over **400 childhood strokes** a year in the UK.
- Black people are **twice as likely** to have a stroke compared to white people.

Stroke is a leading cause of disability in the UK – **almost two thirds of stroke survivors** leave hospital with a disability.

More than **8 out of 10 people** in the UK who are eligible for the **emergency clot-busting treatment thrombolysis** receive it.

Only **3 out of 10 stroke survivors** who need a **six month assessment** of their health and social care needs receive one.

The NHS and social care costs of stroke are around £1.7 billion a year in England.

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Why have policy positions?

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Irwin Mitchell Solicitors

UK Stroke Assembly
Why have policy positions?

• Give us confidence to speak out on important issues on behalf of you and make changes
• Help us be clear and consistent when communicating to you and others
• Help us respond quickly to questions
• Help us be more credible with decision-makers so they make stroke a priority

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How does this session fit with our work?

POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Ideas → Prioritising → Working groups to gather evidence

Draft policy position

Final policy position agreed! → Sign off

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How does this session fit with our work?

POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- **Ideas**
- **Prioritising**
- **Working groups to gather evidence**
- **Draft policy position**
- **Final policy position agreed!**
- **Sign off**

With thanks to our sponsor
Our new policies so far

- Devolution of health & social care
- National Stroke Strategy in England
- Reorganising acute stroke services
- Using animals in research
- Using stem cells in research
Group exercise: 20 minutes

• What are the big issues affecting you?
• What changes would you like to see?
• Imagine you had 3 wishes for a better world for people affected by stroke. What would they be?
• No issue too big or too small!
Group exercise: 20 minutes
Thank you

• Get in touch with more ideas: mark.macdonald@stroke.org.uk