



Role title	Helpline Information Officer	Directorate	Stroke Support
Location	Bromsgrove, Life After Stroke Centre	Accountable to	Stroke Helpline Manager
Travel requirement	Occasional	Accountable for	N/A
DBS check	No	Core Role Anchor Level	Deliver

Hours	35	Grade	E	Salary	Circa £26,000 per annum
Contract type			12 month fixed term		

Stroke Association. Rebuilding lives after stroke.

When stroke strikes, part of your brain shuts down. And so does a part of you. That's because a stroke happens in the brain, the control centre for who we are and what we can do. It happens every five minutes in the UK and changes lives instantly. Recovery is tough, but with the right specialist support and a ton of courage and determination, the brain can adapt. Our specialist support, research and campaigning are only possible with the courage and determination of the stroke community.

We believe everyone deserves to live the best life they can after stroke. And it's a team effort to get there.

We provide specialist support, fund critical research and campaign to make sure people affected by stroke get the very best care and support to rebuild their lives.

Every five minutes, stroke destroys lives. Help us rebuild them and join our team.

Directorate

Our Stroke Support Directorate is responsible for the effective delivery of high quality commissioned and non-commissioned support to stroke survivors and carers. We provide a range of support for people from the early days after stroke throughout their recovery and into the longer term, working closely with our network of volunteers, stroke clubs and groups and via our helpline. This provides information and support to people affected by stroke across the UK via telephone, email and letter. Our support services provide a regional presence for the charity enabling a far reaching impact through the delivery of other organisational activities such as awareness campaigns and fundraising.

Join us and help to make a difference to the lives of people affected by stroke.

Purpose of role

The Stroke Association has a new strategy with three overarching goals: make stroke the priority it needs to be; ensure that everyone affected by stroke has access to the rehabilitation and lifelong support they need; partner with people and communities to help them take action on stroke.

Helpline Information Officers are responsible for providing information, guidance and support to people affected by stroke and to:

- Ensure the needs of enquirers are identified and addressed through a range of channels including telephone, letter, email and social media
- Work collaboratively with the Stroke Helpline team to deliver an effective and high quality national stroke helpline and information service
- Work with colleagues across the organisation to realise our corporate objectives.

Key responsibilities of role

Responsibility areas	Performance indicators	Key competencies
To accurately identify, respond to and record practical and emotional enquirer needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of needs and signposting/support provided are consistently logged on CRM and in written responses. 	Customer focus
Provide a timely response to enquirers about stroke and related topics via a range of channels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses are within service standards • Responses provided using original channel of enquiry 	Customer focus
Provide accurate information about the Stroke Association, stroke and related topics via a range of channels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring demonstrates use of evidence-based stroke information and helpline reference tools. 	Customer focus
Contribute to the development and maintenance of helpline guidelines, policies and procedures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of reviewing practice and updated guidelines. 	Improvement and innovation Communication and Collaboration Change readiness
Appropriately deal with challenging or unusual enquiries, including those concerning adults at risk, repeat callers, complaints, angry/emotional callers and those relating to sensitive PR activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant policies and procedures implemented • Enquiry responses reflect media briefings 	Communication and Collaboration Customer focus Leadership
Work well under pressure and remain emotionally resilient in relation to volume and nature of enquiries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience framework is utilised • Time management strategies employed 	Leadership Communication and Collaboration Customer focus
Share knowledge and skills about stroke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active participation and/or 	Leadership

and helpline practice with helpline team	<p>leadership of training sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing skills/knowledge through informal opportunities 	Customer focus Improvement and Innovation
Contribute to the smooth running and the delivery of the helpline service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate responsiveness and flexibility in day to day conduct 	Communication and Collaboration Business acumen Leadership Customer focus
Contribute to keeping essential service information up to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of updating, storing and/or sharing information 	Communication and Collaboration Leadership Customer focus Improvement and Innovation
Work with other directorates and external agencies to achieve business objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and share knowledge, expertise, views and insight • Stroke Association colleagues are treated as internal customers 	Improvement and Innovation Communication and Collaboration Leadership Business acumen Change readiness
Ensure personal development through identifying and addressing knowledge, skills gaps and aspirations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal training record 	Improvement and innovation Leadership

Mandatory responsibilities of role

To undertake any other duties commensurate with the purpose and remit of the post.

Responsibility areas	Performance Indicators	Key Competencies
To ensure that you manage and develop your own performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidenced attendance at training sessions/events • All mandatory training is completed • Performance and Development Review completed to standard. 	Leadership Improvement and Innovation
To follow the Stroke Association's policies and procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Familiar with competency framework including values, mission and vision. • Accessed and read the Staff Handbook and any relevant policies and procedures to your role. • Willing to travel during the course of your duties with possible overnight stays away from home. 	Leadership Change Readiness Business Acumen
To contribute to any project work as required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of project work completed to specification. 	Communication and collaboration Business acumen Improvement and Innovation

Person specification

Education	Essential/Desirable
Educated to A level standard or equivalent or have relevant demonstrable industry experience	Essential
Willingness to undertake training and professional development	Essential
Experience	
Significant experience of working with the general public in a helpline/information provision setting OR significant experience of working directly with people affected by stroke	Essential
Experience of providing high quality support and evidence-based information to others, verbally and in writing	Essential
Experience of working with colleagues across an organisation to respond to enquiries beyond the remit of the helpline	Essential
Experience of assimilating and summarising complex information in Plain English for a range of audiences	Essential
Experience of maintaining computerised and manual information systems	Essential
Experience working with a customer or membership database	Essential
Experience of handling difficult or emotive conversations	Essential
Skills and abilities	
IT literate and fully conversant in Microsoft Office Word, Excel, Outlook and the internet	Essential
Ability to identify a caller's information and emotional needs, and to search for/retrieve and communicate information on a wide range of possible topics while on call	Essential
Ability to deal with enquiries at all levels, over the telephone, in writing and in person,	Essential

with professionalism and diplomacy	
Ability to explain complex scientific information to a lay audience	Essential
Excellent verbal and written communication skills, including excellent grammar and spelling	Essential
Excellent listening skills and the ability to provide empathy	Essential
Ability to deal sensitively with callers who may be distressed or angry	Essential
Ability to work well under pressure and work flexibly according to the needs of the service	Essential
Emotionally resilient with the ability to handle a high number and wide variety of calls in a professional and supportive way	Essential
Ability to work collaboratively and effectively as part of a team	Essential
Ability to work without direct supervision, use your initiative and prioritise your own workload	Essential
Ability to work within a framework of confidentiality	Essential
Ability to manage enquiries received as the result of sensitive PR activity	Desirable
Ability to use social media	Desirable
Other requirements	
Ability to demonstrate an understanding and commitment to our corporate values	Essential
To be committed to the principles of equal opportunities and diversity	Essential
To be familiar with the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations)	Desirable

To have an understanding of stroke, its effects and of wider support systems including disability, health and social care services	Desirable
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This information will be used as part of the shortlisting process.