

# AN OFFER OF SUPPORT FROM THE STROKE ASSOCIATION

## PARTNERSHIP WORKING TO IMPROVE INTEGRATED STROKE CARE

We would like to work in partnership with local systems to deliver service improvement across stroke care.

This document sets out information on the quality improvement support offer from the Stroke Association. It is intended to help ICS's and STP's in gaining further understanding about how our offer can provide local support to accelerate improvements across stroke care.

It sets out the types and level of offers available and the process of expressing interest with the Stroke Association.

### Background - The National Stroke Programme

The Stroke Association is the UK's leading national stroke charity concerned with stroke prevention, research and support. Stroke survivors and their families tell us that there is significant variation in support following a stroke and a huge drop off in care from hospital to going home. 45% of survivors say they feel abandoned when they leave hospital (2016 Stroke Association - A new era for stroke report).

Stroke is now identified as a priority condition in the NHS England Long Term Plan. Alongside this, the National Stroke Programme has been developed by the Stroke Association and NHS England with collaboration from partners. This programme sets out ambitious and deliverable intentions across the whole stroke pathway. It consists of five work streams, with some developments already underway. Further details of the stroke programme and its areas of focus have been released by NHSE and the Stroke Association: [www.stroke.org.uk/strokeprogramme](http://www.stroke.org.uk/strokeprogramme).

### Accelerating Integrated care

The Long Term Plan focuses on community and rehabilitation support post hospital discharge with a continued drive to support effective primary and secondary prevention for those people at high risk through improved early detection and management of CVD. This together with continued improvements across acute

service reconfigurations, now to be part of new integrated Stroke Delivery Networks, brings the opportunity to enhance integration of care across the whole patient pathway.

STPs and evolving ICSs working across larger health and social care population footprints provide the opportunity to embed improvements in stroke services and to begin implementing the National Programme at a local level. The Long Term Plan emphasises integration and partnership working as clear markers of success for ICS's going forward.

Improving and implementing new models of rehabilitation care has been highlighted as a key area where benefits can be realised through closer working the voluntary sector:

*“Out of hospital, more integrated and higher intensity rehabilitation for people recovering from stroke, delivered in partnership with voluntary organisations, including the Stroke Association, will support improved outcomes to six months and beyond. NHS Long Term Plan 2019 – 3.77.*

Achieving your local ambitions and those set out nationally will require a new approach that supports local systems' work in an integrated way with patients and families at the centre.

**We would like to be part of your journey with an offer of support where it's needed to help local systems shape and deliver their plans.**

## What is our Offer?

As a national stroke charity, our core purpose is to be the trusted voice of stroke survivors and their families; and to drive better outcomes in stroke prevention, treatment and lifelong support for everyone affected by stroke.

We understand how stroke affects people lives and local health and care systems through our track record of successful partnership working in service delivery with providers and commissioners across the country. This together with our role in shaping and supporting the priorities set out in the National Stroke Programme means we are uniquely place to support local quality improvement. We have two broad levels of offer:

## **1. Support for all STPs and ICSs**

As we are a key partner nationally across the stroke programme there are number of key outputs from the national work that will be available to assist all areas in local implementation over the coming year.

These include:

- A community of best practice to spread and adopt learning with NHSE (This includes annual best practice sharing events, access to an interactive knowledge hub and bimonthly webinars )
- Strengthening the Patient Voice across local systems
- Join and support local Delivery Networks as expert patient representatives across the pathway
- Linking local areas with relevant advice, support and resources from the National Stroke Programme work teams.

## **2. Tailored offers of support with STPs and ICSs**

We have committed to providing more intensive support in 2- 3 areas at a time as a part of a rolling programme through 2019/20. We are not being prescriptive about the types of support available as we want to ensure offers are co-created and tailored to the local needs.

We will aim to support specific local priorities and accelerate improvements as part of wider stroke pathway work. Some examples of types of support which we may provide include:

- Supporting new pilots or testing initiatives e.g. new workforce roles, 6 month reviews
- Piloting of the Stroke Passport locally, maximising use of technology and patient insight
- Scaling up existing support services or enhancing across wider ICS footprints
- Primary and secondary stroke prevention- realising opportunities locally
- Freeing up clinical time / leadership to support local professional engagement
- Patient and public engagement bringing the views of stroke survivors in shaping local models of care

- Specialist project /business case support and service evaluation i.e. technology enabled prevention.
- Facilitating improvement opportunities following regional GIRFT reviews and working collegiately with local teams and partners
- Connecting local systems with innovative approaches to supporting evidence into practice (supported by UCL Research Fellowship)

## Resource available

Resources available via the Stroke Association will include access to, and working with internal expertise across our national and regional teams. The subject area and intervention required will determine how these skills are deployed as part of the offer. Where funding requests to support delivery and implementation of a particular improvement are made, this will be considered by the Stroke Association on individual offer basis.

Offers could include requests for external recruitment of specialist expertise if needed in some cases when in house expertise or capacity gaps exist. Opportunities for partnerships with other organisations to fund or match fund initiatives should be considered if priorities align. For example linking with other voluntary sector or statutory bodies on areas where additional support can be gained such as around hospital/ rehab at home and transitional care; or working with other NHS facing organisations such as Public Health England or Health Education England as subject area determines.

## Developing an Expression of Interest – what is involved?

### 1. Speak to us

An early conversation will help us and your area gain clarity on your local needs and expectations. It will also allow us to explore the type and intensity of partnership opportunity available. This can be via your local Stroke Association support team or via our National Stroke Programme Manager (see below: How to Access Support)

### 2. Complete an expression of interest form (See Appendix 1).

Where local conversations have already started with the Stroke Association, this will be the next stage in taking forward a request formally. We are very happy to

support areas in completing the form and would encourage this to ensure our local teams have early insight and can support you in offer development.

### **3. Offer review**

The Stroke Association supported by our local teams will review Expressions of Interest submitted against a set high level criteria (such as relevance to the National Stroke Programme / Long term plan and the Stroke Associations strategic goals) and assess deliverability and resource commitment required.

### **4. Confirmation of offer** will be provided to the STP/ICS

This will be followed up with implementation planning as offer delivery commences. Review dates will be agreed in liaison with the ICS/STP.

## **What we expect from STPs/ICSs**

That support offers are time limited with a mutual commitment from the STP or ICS and the Stroke Association to ensure delivery is achieved.

If you have an area of interest and would like to have this considered as a support offer with the Stroke Association we will require STPs and ICSs to complete an expression of interest form

As part of the National Stroke Programme, the Stroke Association is well placed and strongly believes that our role in sharing best practice is central to what we do. We know from conversations with clinicians, patients and professionals across the county, there is a wealth of best practice in stroke care taking place .We will require STPs/ICSs to support sharing the learning from the work undertaken as part of our community network of best practice.

## **How to access Stroke Association support**

If you are part of an ICS or STP and would like to discuss the support the Stroke Association can provide to support quality improvement, please contact Helen Southwell, Stroke Programme Manager at [helen.southwell@stroke.org.uk](mailto:helen.southwell@stroke.org.uk).

Alternatively you can contact your local Stroke Association team via [services@stroke.org.uk](mailto:services@stroke.org.uk)