Workshop: Session 1a

The work of politicians in Wales

Rhodri Davies and Matthew O’Grady
– Stroke Association

#strokeassembly
www.stroke.org.uk/uksa
How we work with politicians

• External Affairs covers what we do to try and influence in Wales to improve prevention and treatment of stroke and services for stroke survivors
• We aim to ensure decision makers hear the voice of stroke survivors
• Also aim to empower stroke survivors to advocate for themselves
• Not just about hard-hitting campaigns but influencing, communications and policy work
Why do we do this?

• Influencing work particularly central to:

  • **Ambition One**: Preventing avoidable strokes
  • **Ambition Two**: Advocating for best care and support

• However many contribute to other aims – such as working to prevent service closures and cuts
Our External Affairs team in Wales

- **Rhodri Davies** – Head of Influencing and Communications
- **Ffion Miles** – Bi-lingual Communications Officer
- **Matt O’Grady** – Policy, Information and Campaigns Officer

- Work closely with the teams in London, Edinburgh and Belfast as well as the wider Welsh team
Our work in Wales

• Currently working on a Welsh influencing strategy

• Will be based on a number of priorities:
  – Atrial Fibrillation
  – Psychological Support
  – Hyper-acute Stroke Units
  – Speech and Language Therapists
  – Thrombectomy
A quick survey!
Welsh Government

- There are two Governments running Wales – the UK Government and the Welsh Government
- They have different roles and functions
- In devolved areas the Welsh Government is solely responsible
- In non-devolved areas the UK Government is solely responsible
Who is in charge?
Assembly Members

• Welsh Government and Welsh Assembly are not the same thing
• Welsh Government creates and implements laws, the Assembly votes and scrutinises
• All AMs are part of the Welsh Assembly, but not all AMs are part of Welsh Government
• Welsh Government made up of First Minister, 8 Cabinet Secretaries and 5 Ministers and a lot of civil servants
Politics of Wales

Welsh Assembly
• 28 Welsh Labour
• 11 Plaid Cymru
• 11 Welsh Conservative
• 5 UKIP
• 4 Independent (although none elected as such)
• 1 Welsh Lib Dem

MPs
• 28 Welsh Labour
• 8 Welsh Conservative
• 4 Plaid Cymru
Is it that different?

• Health and social services has been devolved since 1999
• But has it made a difference?
• Free prescriptions in Wales, assessments for carers, free hospital parking, Stroke Delivery Plan
• Patchy thrombectomy, poorly performing stroke units, high ambulance waiting times
Cross Party Group on Stroke

View film on You Tube about the Cross Party Group on Stroke:
https://youtu.be/mFl54XXWygA
Cross Party Group on Stroke

- A key method for influencing politicians
- Chaired by Dr Dai Lloyd AM and all political parties involved
- Makes recommendation to Cabinet Secretary for Health
- Already made recommendations on psychological support and AF
Campaigning for change

- Can be about big, high profile events such as protests and petitions….
- ……but also often about meetings and letters
- Could include social media, press, politicians, Doctors and services
- Speak Out for Stroke a good example of this
- Decision makers hearing from real people and those impacted one of the most important tools
Communications

Twitter

Facebook

Gorkana

WalesOnline

BBC Cymru Wales

ITV Cymru Wales

UK Stroke Assembly Wales
How can you help?

• Join the **Campaigns Network**
• Quick and simple way to campaign
• Key element of forthcoming work such as our thrombectomy campaign next year
• The more people who take our actions the bigger our impact…but every individual who does so makes a difference
• Sign up on our stand at lunch time!
How can you help?

• Contribute your views to our policy work – we need to be informed by experts (you!)
• Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and share campaign related posts for friends and family to see
• Carry on being an excellent example of what the Stroke Association is about!