

Reshaping Stroke Services in Northern Ireland: A Public Conversation

Update 1: 6 September 2017

What is the purpose of this Conversation?

To involve you in how we reshape services for stroke patients in Northern Ireland into the future

No decisions about the future of stroke services in Northern Ireland have been made.

The pre-consultation for reshaping stroke service in Northern Ireland commenced on 13th of June 2017 and **ends on the 15th September 2017.**

Over the last 12 weeks, we have held a series of meetings, engagements and workshops, with stroke survivors, carers, staff, politicians and the media as part of a pre-consultation process, to listen to a wide range of views and to discuss and debate how best to enhance stroke care.

Public Meetings

It is important that we fully consider people's opinions about these proposals, and we are inviting patients, staff, clinicians, professional bodies, or anyone that may be affected by or who have opinions about the proposals to give us their views.

In particular, Health and Social Care are keen to hear from people who may be using stroke services or those caring for people who have used stroke services, people who are working in affected services, and groups representing people who might be affected.

We have already held meetings in Derry/Londonderry and Coleraine this week with further meetings organised as follows:

Date	Time	Venue
7 September 2017	6.30pm to 8.30pm	The Ballroom Stormont Hotel Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3LP
11 September 2017	6.30pm to 8.30pm	The Lisgoole Suite Killyhevlin Lakeside Hotel Dublin Road, Enniskillen BT74 6RW
12 September 2017	6.30pm to 8.30pm	The Millar Suite Canal Court Hotel Merchants Quay, Newry BT35 8HF
13 September 2017	6.30pm to 8.30pm	The Great Hall Downshire Hospital Ardglass Road, Downpatrick BT30 6RA

What we are proposing?

Together with stroke professionals, survivors, their carers, and stroke charities, we have developed seven proposals to reshape stroke services in Northern Ireland and it is vital we hear what you think about these:-

- Provide seven day assessment at an appropriate number of Stroke Units for patients experiencing a suspected mini-stroke (TIA).
- Provide assessment for clot busting treatment 'thrombolysis' on an appropriate number of sites.
- Provide a clot removal service 'mechanical thrombectomy' 24 hours a day and seven days a week for suitable patients.
- Provide an appropriate number of Hyperacute Stroke Units to deliver specialist early inpatient care to every stroke patient.
- Establish an appropriate number of Acute Stroke Units co-located with Hyperacute Stroke Units whenever possible.
- Provide community stroke services that are resourced to deliver Early Supported Discharge, the recommended amounts of therapy and respond over seven days.
- Ensure that stroke survivors and carers have timely access to services from both Health and Social Care and voluntary sector organisations to optimise recovery.

We believe changes to stroke services will lead to better, faster access to experts and rehabilitation services for stroke patients, fewer life-long disabilities and, will ultimately save more lives. Stroke patients would also be better supported at home.

What we have heard so far

Over the last few months people have highlighted the following key issues:

- Change is needed
- Recovery should come first
- Variable quality of care
- People have concerns about:
 - Service locations
 - Travel time
 - Ambulance
 - Standards of care
 - Cross border opportunities
 - Workforce
 - Money
 - Purpose of pre-consultation

- Losing local services
- Rural communities
- Applying research to NI
- Long-term support
- Complex rehabilitation needs

We will be including notes of all discussions that have taken place in our evaluation report when this period of pre-consultation ends and it will be published publicly at

www.hscboard.hscni.net/stroke

Reshaping Stroke Task and Finish Group

This is a small group with a membership of clinicians, Health and Social Care Trust managers, stroke charities and service users. These individuals were asked to take forward the work of co-designing a new model of stroke services in Northern Ireland. As individuals they bring particular skills and expertise and do not represent a particular locality, service or Trust but will ensure a model is developed that improves outcomes for stroke patients and places recovery and excellence at the front and centre.

This group meets fortnightly and is working towards the ultimate goal of developing recommendations on a new model of care to be published as part of the future public consultation.

How to respond

We are keen to hear from people who may be using stroke services or those caring for people who have used stroke services, people who are working in affected services, and groups representing people who might be affected.

Responses should be returned to the Health and Social Care Board by 5.00pm on **Friday 15 September 2017**.

- Email us at: reshapingstroke@hscni.net
- Write to us at: Reshaping Stroke Services, Commissioning Directorate, 12-22 Linenhall Street, BELFAST, BT2 8BS
- Complete the online response form: Reshaping Stroke Services in Northern Ireland pre-consultation proposals – online response form. www.hscboard.hscni.net/stroke
- You may also respond to the summary findings of a draft Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) by completing the EQIA online response form.

Further Information

More information about the pre consultation on Reshaping Stroke Services and a list of Frequently Asked Question are available at www.hscboard.hscni.net/stroke

What happens next?

As well as the public meetings we have had many individual meeting with local councils, charitable groups, politicians, staff in all the stroke services, and workshops with over 150 stroke survivors.

Information from all these events and the online and paper responses we receive will be evaluated and will be used to inform the recommendations of regional Reshaping Stroke Task and Finish Group working to design the new model of services for Northern Ireland into the future.

These proposals will then go out for formal public consultation in 2018.

Following formal consultation the Group's recommendations will be submitted to the Department of Health and Minister for Health for final decisions/approval.

We will keep you updated regularly on our progress at www.hscboard.hscni.net/stroke