

NHSE&I Integrated Stroke Delivery Network (ISDN) Monthly News Bulletin Monday 29 March 2021

Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of the Integrated Stroke Delivery Network (ISDN) news bulletin. Published on a monthly basis, this platform has been designed to keep stroke colleagues informed of activity along the stroke pathway and to guide the ISDNs for formally launching on 1st April 2021. Future drop-ins will be focussing on stroke prevention and rehabilitation. Please reach out with suggested topics for discussion by emailing the Clinical Policy Unit (england.clinicalpolicy@nhs.net).

What's the Latest?

- The development of a Stroke Leadership Academy is underway following the identification of a gap in stroke specific leadership and the need to empower ISDN colleagues with key skills to operate well within and between ISDNs.
- A revised SSNAP data set for Thrombectomy is currently being piloted – thank you to all units participating
- ISDN KPI dashboard prototype should be available by May 2021.
- NHS/SBS developed a National framework for AI procurement for decision support tools using CT imaging. Please reach out to (andrew_payne@nhs.net) for further detail if you are interested in procurement options for your ISDN.
- Post-organisational Audit 1-2-1s with Louise Clarke and Rebecca Fisher are on-going. To book a session, please contact Rebecca.Fisher@nottingham.ac.uk
- King's College London Demand Signalling workshops were held last month. NHSE and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) are keen to prioritise research questions around stroke medicine and how it relates to the evidence gap.



Key Highlights

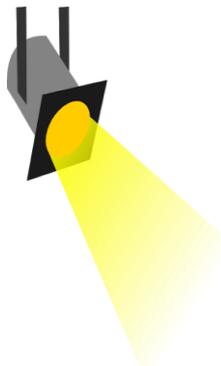
Recent ISDN Drop-in's

- **Vaughan Lewis** (Regional Medical Director for South East region) provided insight from a RMD / SRO's perspective on supporting the ISDNs during the operational stage.
- **Soma Banerjee** (Head of Specialty and Consultant in Stroke Medicine, Chair of Pan London Thrombectomy Group) shared London's approach to the delivery of thrombectomy
- **David Hargroves** (GIRFT lead) presented the National Optimal Stroke Imaging Pathway (NOSIP)
- **Sarah Rickard** (ISDN Manager, Greater Manchester) presented GM's approach to the roll-out of Blood Pressure Monitors (BPM)@Home, building momentum around stroke prevention.

Community Drop-in

- **Austin Willett** (CEO, Different Strokes) shared information around the support Different Strokes (DS) can offer, with a focus on younger stroke survivors. DS are keen to explore how they can work most effectively with ISDNs.
- **ICSS Model** - Teams shared ideas around what key activities could unlock barriers to implementing the ICSS model.
- **Rehab Pilots: Phase 2** to will focus on barriers to effective delivery of the ISDNs. There are plans to share the minimum dataset with community teams in due course.

ISDN(s) in Focus



Integrated Stroke Delivery Network Footprints

Version 1: December 2020

Please note that this map is iterative and will be refreshed in 6 months time (June 2021) to include community and other providers.



Do the neighbourly thing...reach out to your ISDN peers, offer support and share learning! Use the link below to the interactive map to find out who each other are.

Please get in touch if you want to shine a spotlight on your ISDN and share your recent successes for the next issue of the bulletin.

Stakeholder Engagement

This month, the Stroke Association says;

- [Stroke Association Connect](#) provides vital support for people affected by stroke at the very start of their journey to rebuild their life. Within days of leaving hospital, stroke survivors are contacted by an expert Stroke Association Connector who provides essential reassurance, help with immediate questions or concerns and, crucially, connection to ongoing support which they can access at any time in the week's months and years after their stroke.
- The service is accessed by NHS referral on discharge from hospital and is available in areas with no access to a Stroke Association Stroke Recovery Service (or equivalent). So far, 92 NHS teams have signed up to refer their patients, and [evaluation](#) has demonstrated the service is making a real difference for both people affected by stroke and the wider system.
- Please help us to ensure that no stroke survivor missed out on essential follow-up and support. You can find out more about how to sign up for the service and refer patients by visiting the [website](#).



Patient/Public Involvement

Please share contact details of your ISDN's patient representative to build and support the PPV network.

Act FAST campaign

The exciting launch took place on 8th March 2021!

Useful Resources

For more information, please click the following links;

Future NHS <https://future.nhs.uk/connect.ti/strokecommunity/grouphome>

ISDN Interactive Map <https://future.nhs.uk/strokecommunity/view?objectId=89522405>

Discharge to Assess (D2A) document <https://future.nhs.uk/strokecommunity/view?objectId=93273957>

Stroke Association <https://www.stroke.org.uk/>

Different Strokes <https://differentstrokes.co.uk/>

NHS site (updates ongoing) <https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/clinical-policy/stroke/>

GIRFT Guidance <https://www.gettingitrightfirsttime.co.uk/medical-specialties/stroke/>

Annex A: Meet the Team!

The Clinical Policy Unit

The National Stroke Programme Team is part of the Clinical Policy Unit (CPU) of the Medical Directorate in NHS England and NHS Improvement.

The CPU works at the cutting edge of national clinical policy development on behalf of the organisation, to improve health, care and use of NHS resources for the people of England. Its remit is to design, develop and advise on clinical policy, to support operational implementation and delivery of the NHS Long Term Plan and tackle future challenges in relation to premature morbidity and mortality.

The CPU is working to reduce the impact of major killer diseases such as stroke, cardiovascular disease and respiratory disease, along with other causes of morbidity such as musculoskeletal conditions. The Unit will continue to provide advice for new and ongoing policy for work programmes and clinical issues across the organisation and externally.

The National Stroke Programme Team: Who are we?



Deb Lowe (National Clinical Director for Stroke)

Deb has worked as a Consultant Stroke Physician & Geriatrician at Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust since 2005 and was appointed the National Clinical Director for Stroke Medicine in Jan 2020. Prior to taking up this role she was Divisional Director for Medicine at her Trust, Strategic Clinical Network Lead for the Northwest Coast and Joint National Clinical Lead within the NHSI GIRFT programme.

She is a proud mum to Charlotte who is 11 years old and is a 'posh scouser' having lived in Merseyside for 30 years, but Wigan girl at heart.

Quote for stroke: "At one time leadership meant muscles, but today it means getting along with people" (Mahatma Gandhi)

Email: deborah.lowe4@nhs.net

David Hargroves (Urgent & Emergency Care Workstream Lead)

David is a consultant and clinical lead for stroke medicine at East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust. David is also the Urgent and Emergency care lead for the National Stroke Programme and Clinical lead for GIRFT. Prior to these roles, David was appointed clinical lead for the Strategic Health Authority in October 2010, and to the South East Coast Strategic Clinical Network and Senate since 2013.

Quote for stroke:

Email: david.hargroves@nhs.net



Sarah Marsh (Deputy Head of Clinical Policy and Programme Lead for CVD)

With over 32 years' experience in the NHS, Sarah is now the Deputy Head of clinical policy and programme lead for CVD with a background in nursing, midwifery, research, local, regional and national large-scale transformation, specialised commissioning and national policy development.

Quote for stroke:

Email: sarah.marsh5@nhs.net

Jodie Powell (Senior Programme Manager)

Jodie is a registered nurse with experience across a variety of fields. In 2018, Jodie joined the Midlands CVD Clinical Network and from May 2020 took up the position of National Stroke Programme Lead within the Clinical Policy Unit - a role that combines her passion for clinical leadership, programme management and policy development and one that is made all that more enjoyable by working with a fantastic team.

Quote for stroke:

Email: jodie.powell2@nhs.net



Katie Walkin (Programme Manager)

Katie Walkin joined NHS England in April 2014 and is currently working part time as a programme manager in the National Stroke Programme as the Urgent and Emergency Care workstream lead and leads on ISDNs. Katie's previous NHS England role was programme manager for older peoples care in the Clinical Policy Unit, leading on ageing well.

Quote for stroke: "Join up where we can, reduce the duplication"

Email: katie.walkin@nhs.net

Rebecca Fisher (Rehab & Life After Stroke Workstream Lead)

Rebecca Fisher started working with the stroke programme in April 2020 and was formally appointed in January 2021 to lead the Rehabilitation and Life after stroke workstream. Rebecca is Associate Director with the Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP) and a Stroke Association Senior Lecturer at the University of Nottingham. Rebecca has a PhD in Neurophysiology and expertise is in the implementation and evaluation of complex interventions in real world settings.

Quote for stroke: "Together Everyone Achieves More"

Email: rebecca.fisher@nottingham.ac.uk



Ben Sanders (Senior Project Manager)

Ben joined the CPU in July 2020, following earlier roles in NHSE&I's Urgent & Emergency Care policy team, the stroke unit at Pinderfields Hospital, and NHSE&I's ICS policy unit. Since joining the CPU, Ben's mainly worked in the stroke workstream, focusing on stroke rehabilitation and data & evidence.

Quote for stroke: "Always ask: do we own the process - or does the process own us?"

Email: ben.sanders3@nhs.net

Kiran Bashir (Business Coordinator)

Kiran joined the team in April 2020 and coordinates all things stroke within the programme to the National Stroke Delivery Board; Thrombectomy Implementation Group; monthly drop-ins and much more.

Quote for stroke: “Organising is a practice, not a project”

Email: kiran.bashir@nhs.net



Cat Bates (Communications and Engagement Manager)

Cat has worked for the NHS since 2016. Cat spent one year with Personalised Care Team and most recently, worked on stakeholder relations and public communications during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the high profile campaign and media, *Help Us Help You* and *Act FAST* (collaboratively with Public Health England).

Quote for stroke:

Email: catherine.bates5@nhs.net



You can find out more about the Clinical Policy team and its areas of work by visiting the [Improving Health Outcomes](#) pages of the NHS England website or by emailing england.clinicalpolicy@nhs.net.