

PLAIN ENGLISH VERSION



NHS

**Greater Manchester
Neurorehabilitation & Integrated
Stroke Delivery Network**

Improving Stroke & Neurorehabilitation Services in Greater Manchester

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 2025



The stroke garden at Stepping Hill Hospital, produced with kind permission of the team

What is the network?

The Greater Manchester Neurorehabilitation & Integrated Stroke Delivery Network is celebrating its 10th birthday! We are an NHS organisation who help support improvement in the region's stroke and neurorehabilitation services.

Over the past decade, we have worked with local NHS Trusts, charities, universities and commercial companies to improve the care delivered to our residents.

Importantly, the voices of those affected by stroke and other neurological conditions are at the heart of everything we do.

How do we include lived experience?

Our Patient & Carer Group ensures we focus on what matters most. Over the past 2 years, we have made a step change in how we involve people with lived experience of neurological conditions in our work.

You can read more about this in our [Plain English Report](#).

Members of the Group meet regularly and influence our work in a number of ways. This includes identifying key issues for us to focus on, as well as working with researchers to develop patient centred studies.

This year, the group also helped design and deliver sex and relationship training to local clinicians.



Network Patient and Carer Group

What has been achieved in the past year?

Preventing Stroke

They say that prevention is better than cure. Over 80% of strokes could be avoided by reducing key risks.

We have been working with others across Greater Manchester to help prevent more people from having a stroke.

Our stroke services have been investigating new ways to help patients reduce their risk of another stroke.

The Stepping Hill Hospital stroke service have been testing wearable cardiac monitoring devices. These detect Atrial Fibrillation after a stroke or Transient Ischaemic Attack (mini stroke).

Early diagnosis of Atrial Fibrillation means anti-clotting drugs can be given earlier to reduce the risk of a further stroke.



Stepping Hill stroke team have been trialling cardiac monitoring devices



GeneDrive point of care testing device

Salford Royal Hospital stroke team have been piloting genetic testing on their ward.

The GeneDrive machine quickly determines if patients are insensitive to a common anti-clotting drug given after a stroke. The test identifies people who may need a different treatment to reduce their risk.



Urgent Stroke Care

Time is brain, with 1.9 million neurons dying every minute that passes following a stroke. We have been working with the North West Ambulance Service to change how their crews notify hospitals of the imminent arrival of a suspected stroke patient.

The change means patients are having their brains scanned around 25% quicker. Patients are now diagnosed and treated earlier, saving more of their brain.

Our stroke and radiology teams have been rolling out advanced brain imaging. This helps identify more patients who could benefit from life changing treatments to remove clots in the brain.



Stroke Unit Care

A decade ago, the region re-organised its stroke services. Research showed concentrating care into fewer hospitals gave the best outcomes for patients.

The region continues to provide some of the best stroke care in the country. Our Hyper Acute Stroke Units at Salford Royal, Fairfield General and Stepping Hill Hospitals are 'A' rated according to national data. The ratings are from A to E.

Our local stroke units specialising in rehabilitation are also high performing. Three out of five are rated 'A' or 'B'.



Rehabilitation (part 1)

Neurorehabilitation is the specialist support provided by hospital and community based teams. Our multi-disciplinary teams include therapists, nurses, psychologists, dieticians and orthoptists.

Clinicians work together to improve physical, cognitive (thinking skills) and emotional wellbeing.

This helps maximize independence and quality of life for patients who have had a stroke or those living with other neurological conditions.



Clare, the new specialist bladder and bowel nurse

In January 2025, a new Neurogenic Bladder and Bowel Service was launched in the region and it recently won an award from Bladder and Bowel UK!

The condition is common in many neurological disorders. Access to timely specialist support is often not available, with many patients ending up in A&E.

The new service is initially being funded by continence supplier Coloplast.

It currently only treats Multiple Sclerosis and spinal injury patients, with plans to expand access to more conditions in future.



Driving is one of the most important ways people with a neurological condition stay independent.

Over the last year, we organised 10 training events for professionals. Our YouTube channel is packed with online education was viewed over 8,000 times!

You will probably have heard that the Government has published a new 10 Year Plan for the NHS. It will involve significant changes to how local services are delivered.

- Bringing care closer to people's homes
- Greater use of digital technology
- Preventing sickness

But we promise to keep listening to those with lived experience to make sure we focus on what matters most.

ANXIETY
APATHY
DEPRESSION
ISOLATION
ANGER
FRUSTRATION
NEGATIVITY
MINIMISING THERAPY
INDEPENDENCE
COMMUNICATION
SERIOUS STRUGGLES
MOBILITY
TIME BUDGETS
JULIA
PLATFORM - EIGHTHING
ATTITUDES OF PROFESSIONALS
FINANCE + BENEFITS
CONFIDENCE
WHAT IS LINKED
INSIGHT
EVERYTHING TAKES CONTROL
MEMORY
BRAIN FOR memory
FATIGUE
PACING
SLEEP
PAIN
MEDICATION
OPTIMISATION
UNDERSTANDING
NOT JUMPING UP
PHARMACISTS BETTER
COLLECTION + ORGANISING
GROUNDBUILDING
APHASIA

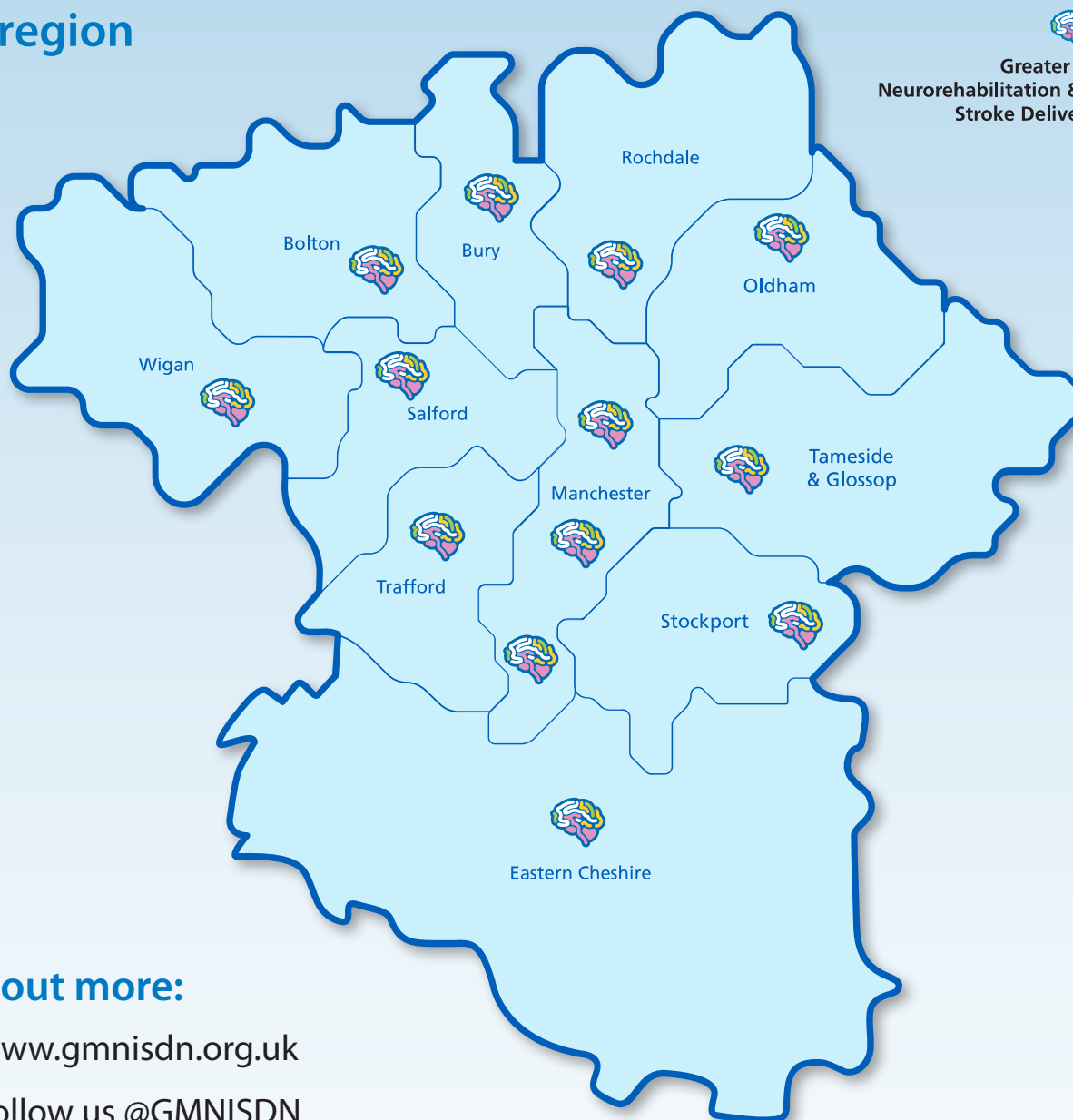
You can find out more about getting involved with the network on our webpage.



Our region



Greater Manchester
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Stroke Delivery Network



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