

August 2025

**NHS**

Greater Manchester
Neurorehabilitation & Integrated
Stroke Delivery Network

PATIENT & CARER NEWSLETTER

Annual Conference Celebrates 10 Years

In June, over **100 professionals** joined the network's annual conference. The **event** featured inspiring talks from people with **lived experience** including **Anna and Martyn** who live with **Motor Neurone Disease (MND)**.

The day also included workshops, and live music from the **Stroke Community Choir**.



Speakeasy Turns 40

Speakeasy supports people living with **aphasia**. The **charity** is celebrating its **40th birthday** this year.

It **began** with volunteers helping people with **communication difficulties** get involved in their communities.

Today, it offers **peer support groups**, digital sessions, and carer help.

Keeping Warm This Winter

ECO4 Flex is a free scheme for people in **Greater Manchester** who have **medical needs** and don't live in social housing. It can provide **home improvements** such as insulation or new heating systems to keep homes warm and **reduce bills**. You can find out how to refer **yourself** on the [GMCA website](#).



Bolton Neuro Voices Update

The **charity** continues to run **hydrotherapy** and gentle **exercise classes**.

These help to **improve** mobility, mood, sleep, and social connections.

A new **assessment course** for clinicians took place recently, with another planned for **October**.

Better Emotional Support for MND

We've started to collect information about **emotional support** for people with MND and their families.

We are asking **clinical services** and also those with **lived experience** to **contribute**.

This will help us **understand** what's **working well** and to help identify areas for **improvement**.





Annual Report

In **July**, the network published its [annual summary](#) of work carried out over the **past year**. The report features many **positive impacts** on patient care.

A **plain English version** is being developed and will be released **shortly**.

Stroke Association Highlights

In **Stockport**, a new project is helping working-age stroke survivors get **back to work**.

Over in **Tameside**, the **Stroke Association** is working more closely with local **commissioners** of services.

A recent **meeting** with them showed how important local **collaboration** is to support the **stroke community**.



Remembering Pippa Tyrrell

A special event in June honoured **Professor Pippa Tyrrell**, a pioneer of **stroke medicine** in Manchester. Colleagues and friends remembered her **leadership**, kindness, and lasting impact on improving **stroke care**.

Each year, the network presents the **Tyrrell Award** for **outstanding contribution** at its conference. This year, **Gill Pearl** (pictured left) from **Speakeasy** was the worthy **winner**.