



Health and
Social Care



Stroke
association

Reshaping Stroke Services in Northern Ireland: A Public Conversation

Update 2: 26 September 2017

Latest: The pre-consultation on Reshaping Stroke Services closed on 15 September 2017. It is important to remember no decisions about the future of stroke services in Northern Ireland have been made.

What's happening now?

The pre-consultation for Reshaping Stroke Service in Northern Ireland **ended on the 15th September 2017**.

Information from all the pre-consultation events and the online and paper responses are currently being collated and evaluated. The results of this evaluation will be used to inform the recommendations of the Regional Reshaping Stroke Services Task and Finish Group which is working to design the new model of services for Northern Ireland into the future.

HSC will be including notes of all discussions that have taken place in our pre consultation Evaluation Report which will be published publicly at www.hscboard.hscni.net/stroke when completed.

The Regional Reshaping Stroke Services Task and Finish Group will next meet to begin the work of designing a new model of care on the following dates: 29th September, 6th October, 20th October, 3rd November, and 17th November.

Engagement Process

A series of engagements were undertaken over the 13 week pre-consultation period as follows:

- Five Stroke Survivor Workshops
- Seven Staff Engagement Workshops
- Political Briefing
- Local Council Meetings on Request
- Six HSC Local Commissioning Groups Public Meetings

- Six Public Engagement Meetings
- Meetings with Campaign Groups on request
- Meetings with Trade unions
- Meetings with Charities
- Meetings with Integrated Care Partnerships
- Meetings with regional and local media.

HSC has also been liaising closely with key charities during this pre-consultation process:-

- “Northern Ireland Chest Heart and Stroke welcome the fact that so many people across Northern Ireland had the opportunity to express their views during the pre-consultation phase. We look forward to the next phase of the process.” (NICHHS)
- Commenting on the pre-consultation process, Brenda Maguire from the Stroke Association said: “New research reveals that the number of strokes in Northern Ireland could double by 2035, so it’s more important than ever that we have a stroke service which is set up and resourced to meet this demand. Reshaping stroke services is an opportunity to save lives and reduce disabilities, but it’s vital that the whole stroke pathway is reviewed. Creating hyper acute specialist stroke units and introducing 24-7 therapy is an important step forward but its only one part of the solution. Stroke survivors also need better access to rehabilitation therapies and long term support to help them make the best recovery possible.”

What we heard

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

- Change is needed
- Recovery should come first
- The quality of care received is variable
- People have concerns about:
 - Service locations
 - Travel time
 - Ambulance Response
 - 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
- Political Leadership
- Need to focus on prevention and public awareness
- Need to consider carer needs

Responses

People were able to use a range of methods to be part of the conversation;

- Public meetings
- Staff engagements
- Online responses
- Email Responses
- Written responses
- Survivor Workshops

Over 700 individual responses to the consultation survey were received. In addition, there were 9 letters, 16 emails, and around 3000 responses from the Fermanagh based Save our Stroke Services Group. Notes and reports of all engagement meetings have also been collated.

What happens next?

Following the evaluation of the responses, a report and recommendations will be submitted to the Department of Health / Minister for Health for consideration and/or approval to proceed to the formal public consultation stage, to be announced in due course.

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

Further Information

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