

# **PE2048/J: Review the FAST stroke awareness campaign**

## **NHS Tayside written submission, 14 November 2024**

### **Public Awareness**

NHS Tayside does not currently run local Stroke Public Awareness Campaigns. NHS Tayside is however supporting the National FAST Stroke Awareness campaign led by Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland (CHSS) which launched on 29th October 2024.

### **Healthcare Professional Awareness**

The Scottish Government have commissioned CHSS to deliver stroke recognition training to frontline NHS teams with the aim of improving recognition of people presenting with stroke to the NHS.

The content of this teaching has been reviewed and developed by Dr Matthew Lambert, Consultant in Stroke and Medicine for the Elderly (NHS Tayside), the National Clinical Lead for Stroke and Stroke Specialty Advisor to the CMO, and Katrina Brennan, Clinical Advisor to the Government on Stroke, in collaboration with the CHSS Education Lead.

This teaching includes details about atypical / posterior circulation strokes as well as FAST symptoms. This is due to be rolled out in the next couple of months and will be delivered to teams in Emergency Departments and GP surgeries in all Health Boards. NHS Tayside Training Plan is currently being arranged.

Linked to this, Jenny Minto, the Health Minister with responsibility for stroke has written to all Executive Leads responsible for stroke care, including Lynn Smith, Chief Officer in Acute Services, asking them to support staff engagement with this training. This is supported.

Other teaching is also delivered to a range of doctors and nurses within NHS Tayside by the Stroke Consultants and includes all types of presentation of stroke, not just those with FAST symptoms.

NHS Tayside Stroke team communicates with General Practitioners (GP) and paramedics through our specialist professional to professional (prof-to-prof) advice service, Consultant Connect. The Stroke team provide senior clinical advice and support to GPs and paramedics about people who may have had a posterior circulation stroke. Consultant Connect (prof-to-prof) allows clinicians to discuss complex or unusual clinical presentations with other frontline NHS staff in the community and give an urgent opinion about whether someone is likely to have had a posterior circulation stroke, or not.<sup>1</sup> It also allows more specificity about people presenting with "balance" or "eye" problems (B and E from BEFAST) and an informal way of delivering clinical education to GPs and paramedics.

The Stroke team also provide an in-reach service to the Acute Medical Unit in Ninewells Hospital to review patients who may have had posterior events.

