

Minutes CPG stroke

13.00-14.00 Friday 20 September

Topic: The Stroke Improvement Plan one year on

Agenda:

- 1 Welcome and apologies
- 2 Review of previous meeting
- 3 Speaker 1 - Matt Lambert National Clinical Lead for Stroke and Stroke Specialty Advisor to the Chief Medical Officer
Speaker 2 - John Watson Associate Director Stroke Association Scotland
- 4 Discussion
- 5 AOB

1 Apologies noted from:

Alexander Stewart MSP, Gillian Capriotti; June Deasy; Linda Campbell; Therese Lebedis; Prof Gillian Mead; Prof Jacqui Morris; Prof Lisa Kidd; Dr Jackie Hamilton

2 Previous meeting Friday 26 April.

Topic: Speedy recognition and treatment of stroke and the importance of improving identification of stroke by health professionals.

ACTION 1 Convenor to write to the Citizens Participation and Public Petitions Committee re FAST/BEFAST petition. Completed.

Response received by email:

Dear Gillian Mackay MSP

Thank you for your recent letter to the Convener of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee in regard to petition [PE2048: Review the FAST stroke awareness campaign](#).

As you have noted, this petition is currently under consideration with the Committee having agreed to invite written evidence from the Minister for Public Health and Women's Health, the Stroke Association, and Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland. [All written submissions received on PE2048 are available on the petition history webpage](#).

It is not possible at this stage to provide an exact date for the next consideration of this petition, however due to the volume of petitions currently under consideration by the Committee, it is likely to be after the summer recess before the petition is looked at again. As you are already noted as an MSP with an interest in this petition, the clerking team will notify you when a date for the next consideration has been confirmed.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours etc

ACTION 2 - Deputy Convener to write to Clerk of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee to encourage FAST stroke awareness as an area of public health they should examine. Completed.

Response:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for the attached letter. I am writing to advise that the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee's work programme is currently at full capacity with a combination of existing commitments and referred legislation and is likely to remain so until the end of this year at the earliest.

I regret therefore that the Committee will not have capacity to undertake scrutiny of this undoubtedly important topic for the foreseeable future.

Best wishes etc

ACTION 3 - Professor Will Whiteley to pull together a summary of research in Scotland for Convener and Deputy Convener. Completed

ACTION 4 - Convener to email Chief Scientific Officer [Catherine Ross](#) to ask to meet Professor Whiteley, Chair of the Scottish Stroke Research Network. Completed

ACTION 5 - Deputy Convener to submit a Parliamentary Question re. commitment in the Stroke Improvement Plan to support the Scottish Ambulance Service on video call triaging. Completed.

"To ask the Scottish Government what progress has been made regarding its commitment in the **Stroke Improvement Plan 2023** to "support Scottish Ambulance Service in exploring the feasibility of using video call technology to more accurately diagnose hyperacute **stroke**".

- **Asked by:** Roz McCall, MSP for Mid Scotland and Fife, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- **Date lodged:** Tuesday, 30 April 2024
- **Current Status:** Answered by Jenni Minto on 13 May 2024

Response: [Question reference: S6W-27128](#)

ACTION 6 - Convener to submit a Parliamentary Question on FAST. Completed

"To ask the Scottish Government what progress has been made on the two FAST (Face, Arms, Speech, Time) **stroke** awareness commitments in the **Stroke** Improvement Plan 2023, and when it plans to run a FAST media campaign."

- **Asked by:** Gillian Mackay, MSP for Central Scotland, Scottish Green Party

- **Date lodged:** Friday, 03 May 2024
- **Current Status:** Answered by Jenni Minto on 20 May 2024

Response: [Question reference: S6W-27275](#)

ACTION 7 – secretariat to share Stroke Association General election manifesto with all members. Completed. Shared with all members with Minutes of the meeting.

ACTION 8 – secretariat to share with all members a request from CPG on Disability re. Jeremy Balfour MSP’s Members Bill. Completed. In the same email.

3 Discussion topic: the Stroke Improvement Plan one year on.

Speakers:

Dr Matt Lambert. National Clinical Lead for Stroke and Specialty Advisor on stroke to the Chief Medical Officer.

John Watson. Associate Director, Stroke Association in Scotland.

Dr Lambert offered his perspective, focussed on stroke as part of the wider health and social care landscape and its connectivity to other areas of health care.

Key points

- Leadership is required to deliver improvements
- Low priority is given to stroke in comparison to other areas - e.g. emergency department four hour waiting time targets, outpatient waiting lists
- Pressures in wider system
- Workforce recruitment and retention

Thrombectomy is still seen as new service and an optional extra rather than standard medical procedure.

Staff recruitment and retention is a major issue for stroke and the thrombectomy programme

Effect of Capital build freeze for thrombectomy also a major problem

Question of whether consideration needs to be given inside Boards as to whether other procedures/activities need to be de-prioritised, given limited capacity

Reflections on plateauing or deterioration in some instances of performance as shown in July’s SSCA figures

John Watson spoke of Stroke Association priority areas including FAST, psychological care, hyperacute care and rehab. Showed RAG chart info and SSCA data.

Key points

- Leadership required
- Latest SSCA data shows Scotland is not performing well.

4. Discussion

General discussion followed, focussed on issues raised by Dr Lambert and John Watson.

Convenor proposed the following actions, which were agreed by the group:

- Convenor to write to Chair of the National Thrombectomy Planning Board re. the funding gap in the East of Scotland, to ask what the delay on payment is and for an explainer on internal workings of Scot Gov funding for thrombectomy programme
- To raise a couple of Parliamentary Questions on recurrent funding and barriers to progress for thrombectomy
- Re. senior leaders from Health Boards meeting 10 October – to write to the Minister responsible for stroke Jenni Minto MSP to ask that she deliver a message of encouragement and expectation to that meeting from this CPG. And to ask for a written update for the CPG on how the meeting goes.
- Ask PQ on Leadership of the 14 Health Board 'named individuals' and how it will measure progress on delivery
- Convenor to write to the Finance Minister re. challenges posed to thrombectomy development by lack of recurrent funding

5. AOB

- CHSS FAST campaign will launch around World Stroke Day 29 October.
- Next meeting is Friday 6 December. Topic – as previously agreed – will be rehabilitation.

ENDS