



THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of meeting: Health and Wellbeing Board

Subject: Stroke Recovery Service

Date of meeting: 28th June 2023

Report by: Jane Walker, Head of Adults Care and Support

Wards affected: All

1. Requested by the Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel.

2. Purpose

To provide an update on the decision to withdraw from recommissioning the Stroke Information and Support Service, commonly known as the Stroke Recovery Service.

3. Information Requested

Background

A four-year Stroke information and advice service contract was originally awarded to the Stroke Association in 2014 funded by PCC Adult Social Care. The scope of the contract was then extended in 2017, to include support to people being discharged from the acute hospital following a stroke. This element was funded through PCC's ASC contribution from the Better Care Fund. In 2018 the contract was extended for a further two years to 30/09/20, utilizing the full extension period within the contract.

Due to the impact of the Covid pandemic, there was not resource available to undertake a procurement exercise at the end of the extension and two direct awards were made in 2020/21 and 2021/22. A further direct award was then agreed to cover the period 30/09/22 to 31/03/23 with the option to extend for 3 months to 30/06/23. This period was agreed to provide time to review the current service provision, reconfirm the availability of ongoing funding and to consider if the service was still needed.

Over the period 2014 to date, the services provided by the Stroke Association have developed and this contract contributes to the delivery of what is currently known and marketed by the Stroke Association as their Stroke Recovery Service.

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Contract cost and funding sources

The current annual cost of the contract is £77,397.66. Of which £16,563.00 is provided through PCC's contribution from the Better Care Fund. The remainder is not linked to a specific budget line but was met through underspends in previous years. Due to pressures across the Adults Care and Support budget there is currently no funding that can be identified to support the remaining £60,834.66 plus uplifts, needed to deliver this contract going forwards. As such it represents an ongoing budget pressure.

As part of the work on the new S.75 schedules all contracts have been allocated to a budget manager and contracts team and as such this situation should not happen again with other contracts.

Contract delivery and performance

The Stroke recovery service is for stroke survivors (including TIAs/mini-strokes), and families and carers of people affected by stroke. The service works with people to identify personal support needs and priorities through telephone contact and in some cases a home visit. It provides:

- Emotional support
- Tailored information
- Assistance with accessing community-based support
- Support for carers and family members
- Signposting to other relevant organisations.

The service received 130 referrals in the first 3 quarters of the 2022/23 year. 65% of referrals came from health practitioners, 26% were self or family referrals, 3% from adult social care and the remaining 6% from voluntary sector and other organisations.

Of the 389 completed actions recorded in the first 3 quarters of the year 309 or 79% involved providing information, signposting and onward referral, 73 or 19% involved support and advice and the remaining 7 or 2% were recorded as other.

Rationale for decision

In February 2022 the NHS published a National Stroke Service model for an integrated community stroke service (ICSS). Since that time health organisations have been reviewing their stroke provision in line with the model. Whilst the model focuses on the core delivery of 3 pathways, 1. Home with ICSS input (most patients) 2. Home with ICSS input combined with daily social care support and 3. Discharged to residential/nursing home; Life after Stroke services including voluntary/charity support services are included within the scope of the model. It is suggested in the guidance that ICSS should work with the voluntary sector to develop appropriate life after stroke and support services.

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Whilst the ICSS model has not been implemented in Portsmouth, a comprehensive stroke service is delivered through the NHS. This consists of Stroke and stroke rehabilitation services, which are provided through inpatient beds at Portsmouth Hospitals University Trust, (PHU). A Community stroke Rehabilitation Team (CRT), which provides a stroke at home service typically for 6-8 weeks and longer-term clinical support, if needed, through the Community Neurological Rehabilitation Team (CNRT).

Adult Social Care also works collaboratively with both the CRT and CNRT to support people when they are discharged from hospital and for those people living in the community with eligible social care needs. This includes providing social work and occupational therapy support and a range of services from equipment and adaptations to reablement and domiciliary care as well as referral to local support services.

Support is also available through a variety of other organisations and services in addition to that available through the current stroke recovery service, which people are routinely signposted to:

- Think Ahead Stroke - a charity providing support, advice and information.
- National Stroke Association - Helpline, online support group, information and advice
- Different Strokes - Portsmouth based support group, providing support and activities.
- HIVE - provide a directory of services and support organisations.
- Age UK - advice information and support for older people
- Citizens Advice - support with various issues including work, housing and finances
- Carers Service - information, advice, and services for carers
- Community Connectors - support people to connect to local resources.
- Social prescribers and primary care support
- Mental Health Hub - support for people experiencing issues with their mental health.

In Portsmouth, the ICB does not have any current plans to commission a specific Life after Stroke provision from the voluntary sector and did not recommission in 2021/22 the stroke communication support service that they previously funded and was provided by the Stroke Association. This was deemed an expensive service that supported a small number of people.

The Stroke Association is a national charitable organisation, which is focussed on supporting people to rebuild their lives after stroke. It provides an online discussion forum, stroke helpline, various stroke publications, hardship grants and several other services, dependent on what is funded and developed in local areas.

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There is a mixed picture nationally across health and social care regarding the funding of voluntary sector stroke recovery services. Portsmouth is now somewhat of an outlier locally, in retaining a commissioned service funded by social care. The service fully funded by health in Southampton has now ceased and whilst the ICB did pilot a stroke recovery service last year it was proved not viable to extend or enter into a contract. A similar decision has also been made by the Isle of Wight Council and their commissioned stroke recovery service comes to an end on 30th June 2023 as a result of financial constraints within their budget setting for 2023/24.

Provision of a stroke recovery service is not a statutory responsibility of the local authority and has previously been provided under its discretionary powers. The clinical needs of those affected by stroke are the responsibility of the NHS and they will continue to meet these needs through the provision of the Stroke and stroke recovery service already in place. Whilst all ICBs are responsible for delivering against the ICSS within the term of the NHS long-term plan, current statutory obligations are being met through the services that have already been commissioned.

Summary

There is no doubt that the Portsmouth stroke recovery service has provided a tailored support service to the residents of Portsmouth, who are recovering from a stroke. However, because of budget pressures in ASC there is no specific funding source, other than that provided through the BCF to support the commissioning of this service beyond December 2023, when the current contract comes to an end. As a result, we are having to make the decision not to reprocure this contract. At this challenging financial time, we must focus on our ability to discharge our statutory duties, which inevitably means that some of the discretionary services we have provided historically, can no longer be provided, as they are no longer affordable.

The landscape around commissioning for integrated stroke services is slowly changing, as a result of the publication of the national ICSS model, with health services increasingly focussing resources on delivering the core elements of the pathway.

As the stroke recovery service funding is the only source of funding for the Portsmouth Stroke recovery service, the impact of the removal of this funding is closure of the service. However, people will continue to have access to the Stroke Association's national service including access to all their online resources; *My Stroke Guide*, which provides access to video resources to help people to understand stroke and manage its effects; a dedicated section for family and friends, which provides information on the impact of stroke and guidance on how to support a loved one.

Survivors can also be empowered to join the online community where friendly forums provide opportunities to connect with others from the comfort of their own home.



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Individuals can share their stroke experience, stories and tips, and find out how others manage recovery.

For people who prefer face to face support there is the successful stroke club - Different Strokes - which has run for many years, where stroke survivors and their families can meet for social interactions and support.

In addition, stroke survivors and their families are able to utilise both universal sources of advice such as those through Age UK or advice Portsmouth as well as the significant range of other statutory and non-statutory services that are available, including specific stroke services such as Think ahead stroke.

Extending the contract for a further 6 months to the end of December 2023, provides us with an opportunity to ensure that all existing customers of the service are offered alternative forms of support if needed. It also provides the stroke association with an opportunity to identify any alternative funding sources that would allow it to continue to provide the service, as it is not necessary for them to be commissioned by Portsmouth City Council to do so.

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Signed by (Director)

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

| Title of document | Location |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| National Service model for an integrated community stroke service | NHS England and NHS Improvement 2022. Publication approval reference: PAR733 |
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