



# Improving stroke care in hospitals in Somerset.

**We want to know what you think.**

**Short Summary – easy read.**



**SOMERSET**

[www.somersetics.org.uk/stroke](http://www.somersetics.org.uk/stroke)

## About this summary



This short summary is written in easy read. It uses easy words and pictures to help tell you about our ideas for stroke care in Somerset.



It also tells you how you can tell us what you think about our plans for stroke care in hospitals in Somerset.



There is a lot of information to think about.



You might want someone to support you to look at this short summary and help you understand it.

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## Introduction



The NHS in Somerset has been looking at how it can improve care for people who have had a **stroke**.



A **stroke** is a serious medical condition that happens when blood can't get to your brain properly.

A **stroke** can damage your brain and affect the way you talk, walk or use other parts of your body.



We have been looking at changing how we provide the care you receive in hospital in the 3 days after having a stroke - this is called **hyper acute stroke care**.



We have also been looking at changing how we provide the care you receive in hospital in the first few weeks after having a stroke - this is called **acute stroke care**.

## Introduction



We have some plans for how **hyper acute stroke care** could be made **better**.

We have some plans for how **acute stroke care** could be made **better**.



We would like to you to tell us what you think of these plans.



We have **not made a decision** on the future of stroke services.

We will listen to what you and other people tell us first.



We will think about what people said to help us make a **final decision** on **hyper acute stroke care** and **acute stroke care**.

## Why stroke hospital care needs to change



Hospital staff work hard to give everyone who has had a stroke the best care.



But sometimes they can't give the best care, because of the way stroke services are organised.



We **don't** have enough **stroke specialists**.

There are not very many stroke specialists in Somerset or in England.

**Stroke specialists** are doctors, nurses and therapists who know lots about caring for people who have had a stroke.



## Why stroke hospital care needs to change



The stroke specialists we have are spread across two hospitals:

- **Musgrove Park Hospital** in Taunton
- **Yeovil District Hospital** in Yeovil.



This makes it difficult to make sure patients get the best care all of the time.



Treatments are ways that health staff help people to get better. For example, medicine or operations.

Some important treatments for stroke work best when they happen in a big stroke unit.

## How we have listened to people so far



We have spoken to:

- people who have had strokes, and
- their families and carers.



## Changes

They helped us to think about what changes we should make to best help people who have had a stroke.

We have worked with lots of different people. We have worked with:



- Doctors
- Nurses
- Other people who work in the NHS
- Groups who help people when they have a stroke
- People who have had a stroke
- Family and carers of people who have had a stroke.

They have helped us plan what **changes** would be **best**.

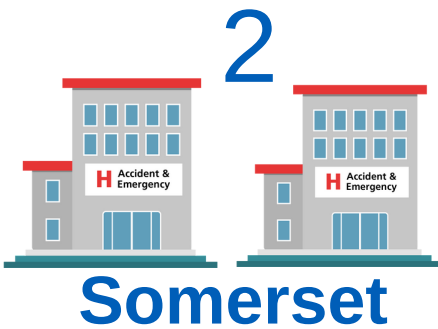


## How people get stroke care now



Now, there are 2 hospitals in Somerset that treat people who have just had a stroke:

- **Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton**
- **Yeovil District Hospital in Yeovil.**



This means there are:

**There are 2 hyper acute stroke units in Somerset.**

There are **2 acute stroke units in Somerset.**



Some people who live in Somerset also go to other hospitals not in Somerset.

This is because these hospitals are closer to where they live



We are only looking at the **stroke care** at the **2 hospitals in Somerset.**

## What we want to do



We would like to have **1 hyper acute stroke unit** in Somerset.



The best place for **1 hyper acute stroke unit** is **Musgrove Park Hospital** in Taunton.



Yeovil District hospital **would not** have a hyper acute stroke unit.

Patients **would not** be taken to Yeovil District Hospital when they had a stroke.



Patients would be taken to the hospital closest to them that gives hyper acute stroke care.

## What we want to do



If patients live closer to a hospital not in Somerset they would be taken there.

Patients who had a stroke and lived closer to **Dorset County Hospital in Dorchester** would be taken there.

1



2

We have **2 options** for acute stroke care.

**1 acute stroke unit at Musgrove Park Hospital**

Or

**1 acute stroke unit at Musgrove Park Hospital and 1 acute stroke unit at Yeovil District Hospital.**

1



If there was **1 acute stroke unit** at Musgrove Park Hospital. **Yeovil District hospital would not** have an acute stroke unit.

Acute stroke care would be at the same hospital as hyper acute stroke care.

If a patient was taken to Dorset County Hospital when they first had a stroke they would stay there for their acute stroke care.

## What we want to do

2



If there was **1 acute stroke unit at Musgrove Park Hospital** and **1 acute stroke unit at Yeovil District Hospital**.

**Both hospitals** in Somerset would have acute stroke units.



If a patient was taken to Musgrove Park Hospital when they first had a stroke they could go to Yeovil District Hospital for their acute stroke care. **If this was closer to where they lived.**



If a patient was taken to Dorset County Hospital when they first had a stroke they could go to Yeovil District Hospital for their acute stroke care. **If this was closer to where they lived.**

## What the changes would mean



We think the changes would mean:

- More stroke patients would get care from **stroke specialists**.



- Patients would be seen by stroke specialists **at all times of day and night**.



- Patients would be **seen more quickly** by **stroke specialists**.



- **Stroke specialists** could make **quicker decisions** about the best treatment.



## What the changes would mean



- More use of treatments for **stroke patients** that **reduce disability**.



- Our stroke care would follow national guidance.



- There would be more staff who are very skilled at caring for people who have had a stroke.



## Ambulance travel



At the moment, patients are usually taken **by ambulance** to their **nearest hospital** that provides emergency stroke care.

This would be:

- Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton
- Yeovil District Hospital in Yeovil.



If these changes were made most people in Somerset would go to Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton.



If someone having a stroke in Somerset lived closer to Dorchester they would go to Dorset County Hospital.



For some people, this would mean that their journey in an ambulance **could take longer**.

## Ambulance travel



Getting to hospital quickly is very important when you have a stroke.



But it is also important to be seen by stroke specialists when you arrive at hospital.



**1 hyper acute stroke unit** at Musgrove Park Hospital would be **better** able to provide the best stroke care.



This means that even if some journeys to hospital were longer, it would still be **better for patients**.

## How much it would cost



These changes **do not** mean:

- Fewer hospital beds.
- Less money spent on stroke care.



It would mean **more money** for stroke care in Somerset.



To make these changes, overall we would need to spend more money than we do now.

**1 hyper acute stroke unit and 2 acute stroke units** would cost an **extra £1.015 million extra to deliver**. But would increase the amount we are short of money overall **by £1.862 million**.

**1 hyper acute stroke unit and 1 acute stroke unit** would cost **£0.255 million less to deliver**. But But would increase the amount we are short of money overall **by £0.5 million**.

## Tell us what you think



Please let us know what you think of our plans.



You can fill out a short survey by visiting this website:

[www.somersetics.org.uk/stroke](http://www.somersetics.org.uk/stroke)



You can also email or phone us to ask for a paper survey

Email: [somicb.fitformyfuture@nhs.net](mailto:somicb.fitformyfuture@nhs.net)

Phone: 01935 384 124



There are other ways to tell us what you think about our ideas.

You can:

- **Come to an event** where you talk to us.

Visit our website to find where we will be:

[www.somersetics.org.uk/stroke](http://www.somersetics.org.uk/stroke)



## Tell us what you think



- Write to  
Opinion Research Services,  
FREEPOST SS1018,  
PO Box 530,  
Swansea,  
SA1 1ZL

You do not need to put a stamp on the envelope.



You will need to tell us what you think by  
**Monday 24 April 2023.**

## What happens next



A company called Opinion Research Services will look at what people tell us and write a report.

We will put the report on our website in Autumn 2023.

Our website: [www.somersetics.org.uk/stroke](http://www.somersetics.org.uk/stroke)



We will look at what people have told us.

We will look at other information to help us make a decision. We would need to know how many staff and how many beds we would need.

We will then make a decision.



We will tell people what decision we made at a public meeting we will hold.

We will also tell people what decision we made on our website.

Our website: [www.somersetics.org.uk/stroke](http://www.somersetics.org.uk/stroke)





## More information



If you want information about our ideas you can visit our website.

Our website has more documents and videos with information.

They are not in easy read. You can contact us if you need any of the documents in other formats.

Website: [www.somersetics.org.uk/stroke](http://www.somersetics.org.uk/stroke)



Email: [somicb.fitformyfuture@nhs.net](mailto:somicb.fitformyfuture@nhs.net)



Phone: 01935 384 124.

**Thank you for reading about our plans and ideas.**