

## Acute hospital based stroke services

Stroke is a sudden and life-changing event, and is a leading cause of death and disability in the UK. It is both a sudden and devastating life event and a long-term condition. The sooner you are treated the better your chance of recovery.


Following the Fit For My Future programme case for change in 2018 it was identified there was a need to review stroke services in Somerset. Fit for my future is the joint health and care strategy of Somerset Integrated Care System (ICS), in partnership with NHS Somerset, Somerset County Council, hospitals and healthcare providers in Somerset.

In 2019 a review of the current stroke services was carried out. One of the key recommendations from the stroke strategy was to develop options for delivering acute hospital based stroke services - this is the urgent acute hospital care people receive in the first few days and weeks after they have a stroke.

Due to the covid-19 pandemic this review work was paused and restarted in spring 2022.

While our staff are working hard to provide the best care possible for people who have had a stroke, we know that our current acute hospital based stroke services are not currently set up in the best way.

## The Vision



Following a stroke people have quick access to the best possible care and treatments to increase their chance of recovery, regardless of where they live in Somerset.

## These are some of the reasons why acute hospital based stroke services in Somerset need to change:

In Somerset, our ageing population means **demand for stroke care will increase**. We need to make sure our services are fit for the future.

There are **variations in the provision** of acute hospital based stroke care and access to specialist services in Somerset. We want every stroke patient in Somerset to have the safest and best possible care so they get better quicker and have less chance of living with a disability when they go home.

There is a **shortage of the specialist workforce**, locally and nationally, needed to deliver hyper acute stroke care. This means there are problems with medical cover in our local hospitals. It is essential that we make the best possible use of the resources available now and in the future to meet the increasing demand.

Changing the way acute hospital based stroke services are delivered is an opportunity to provide more equitable services which are in line with national best practice.

"As we develop our solutions to determine the best acute hospital based stroke services in Somerset, the voices of patients, carers, families and colleagues are a crucial part of achieving our vision.

Our stroke transformation group have been working hard on this clinically-led review of acute hospital based stroke services to ensure people in Somerset receive the best care possible.

We believe that our local population should have access to the very best quality of care."

Julie Jones,  
Community Hospital, Stroke and  
Neurorehabilitation  
Development Programme  
Manager, NHS Somerset



## Our aims are to develop acute hospital based stroke services in Somerset which are:

**Equitable** - Everyone will be able to access the same high level of care regardless of the day of the week or time of day, 365 days a year.

**High Quality** - Every patient will receive expert stroke care, maximising their chances of a full recovery.

**Efficient** - Establish a simple hyper acute stroke patient pathway to help make sure patients have timely access to the best possible care and specialised treatments immediately following a stroke.

**Well led** - There will be high quality clinical leadership of the acute stroke patient pathway ensuring consistency and partnership working across hospitals.

**Sustainable** - Through improvements to prevention, treatment, and efficiency the resources available to stroke care will be used effectively.

**Attractive** - For the Somerset stroke service to be a great system to work in where staff are supported to do their jobs and deliver an exemplar service which attracts and retains workforce.

## Tell us what you think.

Find out more about the acute hospital stroke services project and how you can get involved by visiting our website:

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

or if you have any questions please email:  
[somicb.fitformyfuture@nhs.net](mailto:somicb.fitformyfuture@nhs.net)

# SOMERSET

[www.fitformyfuture.org.uk](http://www.fitformyfuture.org.uk)