



COM-STAR News

Winter 2024

More than 50% of **stroke survivors** have **communication disorders**.
This makes it **difficult** for **staff** and **patients** to **communicate** well together.
It affects how staff and patients **feel**.
It affects **quality** of **care** and **rehabilitation**.

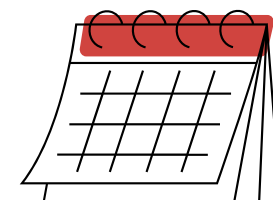
COM-STAR aims to:

- 1) Understand current **communication training options** and **training needs** of staff.
- 2) Explore staff, patient and carer **experiences** of communicating.
- 3) **Co-design** a new freely available **national staff communication training package**.
- 4) **Test** the training package out in **4 NHS stroke services**.

How far through are we?



Start March 2024



End Feb 2027



HEADLINES

We have **completed** our **survey, interviews** and **literature review**!

We now **understand stroke staff experiences** of communicating with people with communication difficulties.

We have **heard stories** of how **communication difficulties** affect **patient care and experience**.

We have **explored staff training needs**.

We are almost ready to start co-designing the new communication training!

What's been happening?

Huge **thanks** to the **606 stroke staff** from around the UK who **completed our survey!**

We found:

Almost **half of stroke staff do not receive communication training.**

Staff want training to know how best to communicate with each individual patient.

We have **interviewed 12 people** with dysarthria, aphasia, cognitive communication disorder and family members.

We have **interviewed 11 staff** working with stroke survivors: Rehabilitation assistant, doctor, nurse, physio, OT, housekeeper, clinical psychologist, dietician.

Staff and stroke survivors were a **diverse group** from different areas of the UK.

We have made **films of staff, patient and family experiences** for our **co-design work.**

The team have left no stone unturned in the **literature on staff communication training!**

We now know what has been tried before and what training techniques can help staff to

'communicate better to provide better care and better rehabilitation'



What's happening next?

We will **use our learning** from *'what's been happening'* to **co-design** new **communication training.**

12 stroke staff and **6 patient and family** members will **meet** across **Sheffield and London** between **March and November 2025.** They will **design** the **content** of the **training.**

Keep your emails coming! We are grateful for everyone's support of this project.

Highlights from Public and Patient Involvement (PPI)

Professor Chris McKeivitt leads the COM-STAR **PPI** group.

Since our Summer newsletter our PPI group have been working hard:

They helped to **find people** for us to **interview.**

This ensured we were able to **involve people** from UK nations **beyond England.**

They helped us **reflect** on the **literature.**

Exhausting but fun! - the PPI group **watched stories** from the **patient and family interviews.**

They **selected** the **most important clips** to show in the **'catalyst'** film to **facilitate co-design** of the **training programme.**



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