



COM-STAR News

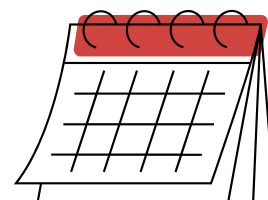
Summer 2025

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 are in the **middle of co-designing** the **training**. We have had **nine co-design workshops** during the **spring** and **Summer**.
The **Co-designers** are **people** with **lived experience of stroke** and **staff** who **work** with **stroke patients**.

We are **designing** a **range** of **interactive training sessions** for **stroke staff**, **practice scenarios** and **tips** for **Managers**.

We are **working closely** with **ELearning for Healthcare**

What's been happening?

The **20 co-designers** have **face-to-face workshops** in **Sheffield** and **London**. We use a **remote link** to enable **joint discussions** between **designers** in **London** and **Sheffield**

Co-designers were asked to **rate** the **problems** that had been **identified** in the **survey**, **literature review** and **interviews** with **staff** and **patients**. They were asked to **consider** and **choose solutions**.

There was a live “**scribe**” at one of the **workshops** who **drew** amazing **doodles** and **animated pictures** to **illustrate** the **problems** and **solutions**. Links to **two** of the **drawings** can be found [here](#) and [here](#)



What's happening next?

We will be **working** with **ELearning for Healthcare** over the summer who will **use the content** from the **workshops** to **create the training**.

They have **lots** of **creative ideas**.

The **co-designers** will **meet again** in the **middle of September**.

Over the **Summer** we will be **filming** for **demonstrations** and **practice scenarios**.

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

Highlights from Public and Patient Involvement (PPI)

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

Chris has **conducted** an **anonymous survey** across the **PPI group** to see how things **have gone** over the **first year**. **Feedback** was very **good**.



The PPI group has started work on **reviewing** the **information sheets** and **questions** for the **evaluation** of the **training**.

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