



COM-STAR News

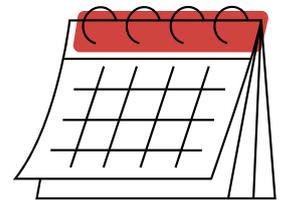
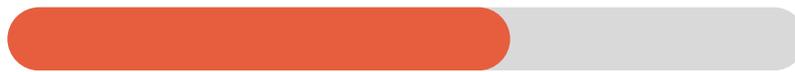
Winter 2025/26

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

The **co-design** of the **COM-STAR training** is **complete**. There have been **11 co-design workshops** between **March 25** and **December 25**. We have **collaborated** with **E-learning for Health (Elfh)** to produce **7 e-learning sessions, 5 practice scenarios** and a **communication resource bank**. **Thank you** to all the **co-designers** and **Elfh e-learning designers**.

What's been happening?

The **practice scenarios** were **filmed** over the **summer** and the **co-designers** were the **actors!** The **practice scenarios** are **interactive** and are intended to be a **safe space** for **learners** to put into **practice** the **skills** that they have **learnt** from the **COM-STAR training** sessions. The **scenarios** capture typical **NHS interactions**, such as **choosing meal** options and **communicating** within a **therapy** session in the **home**.

Representatives from the **COM-STAR** project **attended** the **UK Stroke Conference** in Aberdeen. They **delivered** a **presentation** about **COM-STAR**. One of the **co-designers Neville Sankey** talked about his **experience** of **communication after** his **stroke** as part of the presentation. This was **well received** by the **audience** and was his **first presentation** since his **stroke**. **Well done Neville**.

What's happening next?

We will be **evaluating** the **training** in **NHS sites**. The **evaluation** will **begin** in **February 2026**.



Keep your emails coming. We are **grateful** for your **support** on this **project**.

Highlights from Public and Patient Involvement (PPI)

The **PPI group** have been very **active** since **summer**. They have been **involved** in **aphasia awareness** activities (<https://vimeo.com/1096957801/7e89942ac5?share=copy> and https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLPnhNr2ljXBfu_fqw3rSm9r92oX Xfy9TS). **Chris** gave a **keynote presentation** at the **Headway East London conference** on 16 October 25.

There have been **3 PPI meetings** this year, **focusing** on the **training development**, the **training promotion** and **training evaluation**.

The PPI group has two **new members**, **Nia** (Wales) and **Mags** (Northern Ireland). **PPI group members** are on the **COM-STAR website**: <https://sheffield.ac.uk/smph/com-star>



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