COM-STAR News

Autumn 2026

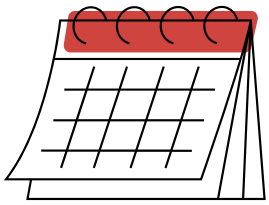
More than 50% of **stroke survivors** have **communication disorders.**
This makes it **difficult** for **staff** and **patients** to **communicate** well together.
It affects how staff and patients **feel**.
It affects **quality** of **care** and **rehabilitation**.

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 **COM-STAR project** is now in it's **third** and **final year.**

The **training** is currently being **evaluated** in **3 NHS sites.**

The sites are **Sheffield Teaching Hospital, Chesterfield Royal Infirmary** and **central London Community Healthcare.** Approximately **80 healthcare professionals** have **tried** out the **training.**

What's been happening?

A **Co-design catch-up** event was **held** in **July 2026**. The **co-designers explored whether** the **training addressed** the **challenges** that were **identified** in the **early stage** of **co-design.** They **found** that **most** of the **challenges** had been **addressed.**

The **evaluation** of the **training** is **progressing**. We have been **observing staff** who have **completed** the **training, interacting** with **stroke survivors.** We will be **interviewing them** in **September** to **find out** what they **think** of the **training,** and to **identify** any **changes** that **need** to be **made.**

What's Happening Next

We are **planning** a **co-design session** in **December** to **review** the **evaluation findings.** The **co-designers** will **recommend refinements** to the **training before national rollout** to all **NHS staff.** **Keep** your **emails coming.** We are **grateful** for your **support** on this **project.**

Highlights from Public and Patient Involvement (PPI)

The **PPI Group met** in **May** and **June.** They **discussed** who **needs** to **know** about the **training** and **methods** of **letting people know.**

The **PPI Group** will be **involved** in **producing film material** to **promote** the **training.**



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