



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

7th August 2023

Dear Contribute,

RE: STROKE

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns about support for people affected by a stroke. I have read your comments with interest.

First, thank you for your kind invitation to the APPG on Stroke drop-in event held on the 17th July 2023. Unfortunately, owing to prior, longstanding diary commitments, I was unable to attend, although please rest assured that I will continue to follow the issues raised closely.

As part of the 'NHS Long Term Plan', improving outcomes for people affected by a stroke is a priority for the NHS in England. I know that good progress has been made in the treatment of strokes in recent years, with falling mortality rates for people who have experienced them. Statistics from January to March 2023 show that 96.8 percent of patients arrived at hospital within 72 hours of experiencing symptoms of a stroke for the first time.

The 'National Stroke Service Model' was published in May 2021 to advise providers and commissioners on how stroke units can ensure patients receive the most appropriate treatment within one hour of arrival. This will be achieved by delivering the 'NHS Long Term Plan' commitments to establish twenty local Integrated Stroke Delivery Networks (ISDNs) and meeting targets for treatments, prevention and rehabilitation. NHS England's 'National Stroke Programme' – developed with the Stroke Association – is supporting local organisations to meet these commitments.

Tackling major conditions that cause ill-health - including cardiovascular diseases such as strokes - provides an opportunity to improve the lives of millions of people. That is why a 'Major Conditions Strategy' is being developed and will be published over the next year to outline how outcomes in six major condition areas will be improved, including stroke. Following a recent call for evidence, I understand that the strategy will be published in due course.

The 'NHS Long Term Plan' also included a commitment to support the transformation of stroke services into specialist centres, and the roll-out of treatment like mechanical thrombectomy. Since 2017/18, over £57.8 million has been invested in thrombectomy. In addition, NHS England allocated £4.6 million of capital spending in 2022/23 towards the expansion of mechanical thrombectomy in England.

I fully recognise that there is more to be done to reduce waiting times for this treatment and to increase the current rate to 10 percent of patients. The NHS is currently looking to increase the number of operators that can deliver thrombectomy, beyond the 22 centres and two non-neuroscience centres where the treatment is currently available.



The Government is also working with the General Medical Council to extend accredited training in the delivery of mechanical thrombectomy for the treatment of acute ischaemic stroke.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Tom Pursglove'.

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**