Welcome to our new Stroke services newsletter  

May 2010

NATIONAL STROKE STRATEGY

The National Stroke Strategy, published by the Department of Health in 2007, identified 20 areas where all health and social care communities should work together to improve stroke care. In Oxfordshire, an integrated care pathway for the delivery of the National Strategy was agreed in May 2009.

Our key achievements:

Acute Care

- Oxfordshire patients with suspected stroke receive rapid referral to acute specialist stroke services, and are admitted to a specialist stroke unit as soon as possible after arrival in the A&E Department.

- The TIA service (Transient Ischaemic Attacks), which identifies patients with a minor stroke at risk of having a full stroke and gives preventative treatment; has been extended to provide a 7 day/365 day service.

Post-acute progress

Specialist rehabilitation services have been developed.

- An Early Discharge Supported Service was started in September 2009 as a pilot for patients living in the city area. This has increased the availability of specialist stroke rehabilitation in the community by providing treatment for up to 55 individuals at one time.

- In-patient stroke specialist rehabilitation services have also been extended in the county. Two ten bedded stroke rehabilitation units were opened at Witney and Abingdon in 2009. Specialist stroke rehabilitation is provided by a consultant-led multi-disciplinary team which provides nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, and dietetics.

Return to work

A Return to Work Rehabilitation service provides outreach support to enable stroke survivors of working age to return to employment and other occupational activities, to access re-training, to regain or develop new skills and to access community activities for people with stroke.

Better patient experience

We will continue to make further improvements to work already undertaken in rehabilitation services in Oxfordshire.

- In March 2010, work started on the Rehabilitation Project. It will focus on access to rehabilitation services, standards of rehabilitation care, psychological support and the provision of longer-term specialist rehabilitation in the community.

- There will be a review of the information provided to stroke patients and their families to ensure that good quality information is provided at the right time across all stroke services.

YOUR STROKE FORUM

How the Forum will work

The Stroke Forum is a group of patients, carers, stroke representatives and professionals who meet quarterly. They will contribute to the development of stroke services across Oxfordshire. It is an opportunity to identify what is good and bad about the present services in order to make improvements.

You can contribute to ongoing stroke research projects and academic studies with your experiences and opinions.

It will offer the opportunity to network by putting people affected by stroke in touch with one another.

You can be involved in the forum as little or as much as you like. We are looking for a core group of people interested in becoming directly involved in the forum by regular attendance at the meetings. If you would prefer you can be involved less directly by providing comments and feedback through the website, by helping with internet research or calling from home. The choice is yours.

We are aiming to work towards the forum being self-governing.
INTRODUCING OUR STROKE CO-ORDINATORS

A social care focus

The National Stroke Strategy has committed £77 million nationally to deliver innovative approaches for stroke services. Oxfordshire received a ring fenced grant of £333,000 for three years to be used to commission care and support with a social care focus.

Following consultation with stroke survivors and their carers in Oxfordshire, a key issue identified was the lack of information, advice and support available to stroke survivors once they left hospital. A Stroke Coordinator was appointed by Oxfordshire County Council Social and Community Service as part of a pilot scheme for one year.

Our new Stroke Co-ordinators

Michele Cooke (left) was appointed a full-time Stroke Co-ordinator in January 2010 and is based at the Stroke Unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital. Julia Tyzack was appointed in February on a part-time basis, and is based in the Stroke Unit at the Horton Hospital in Banbury. Both Michele and Julia will work alongside a multidisciplinary team of professionals from health, social care and other key agencies. They will provide information, practical advice, emotional support and signposting to other services for stroke survivors, their carers and families. They also follow the patient through the care pathway and, once they have gone home, review their experiences.

If you would like to speak to Michele or Julia you can contact them on the following telephone numbers:

Michele 07765 423979 Monday to Friday
michele.cooke@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Julia 07958 062865 Monday only
julia.tyzack@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Meet some more of the Team

Sylvie Thorn is Stroke Services Development Manager at NHS Oxfordshire, she is a Registered Nurse qualified in 1985. She has published several articles on neurological rehabilitation, and has contributed to a textbook on Rehabilitation Nursing. She has over 20 years experience in Neurological Rehabilitation and still maintains a clinical role in this speciality.

Martin Westwood is the Stroke Nurse Practitioner for the Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust, covering both the Horton Hospital and the John Radcliffe Hospital. A registered nurse who qualified in 1989, he has published a small number of papers and spoken at national and international conferences on issues related to older people and stroke.

THE FORUM ON THE NHS OXFORDSHIRE WEBSITE

The new web pages on Talking Health will include:

- A general introduction to the Forum’s activities, dates and locations of Forum meetings, agendas and minutes;
- Research projects and studies with a chance to get involved
- Updates and reports on the results and findings of all projects
- A Frequently Asked Questions page
- Links to useful groups and services

Anyone who prefers information in writing can request this

Email: strokeforum@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk Web: www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk

Dates for the Diary

2010 Forum dates
Thursday 20 May
Wednesday 4 August
Thursday 18 November

7th World Stroke Congress
13-16 October 2010 – Seoul, South Korea
http://www.stroke-congress.com/

World Stroke Day
Friday 29 October 2010