



# Running a Conversation Partner Scheme (2 day course and toolkit)

An “enhance your skills and service” course



## About the course

It is often a challenge to offer a meaningful long-term support service to people with stroke and aphasia, once traditional one-to-one therapy services have come to an end. It can be especially hard if the person has severe aphasia or is isolated. This course provides a solution – learn how to run a workable cost-effective scheme to tackle the isolation of communication disability by using volunteers.

This scheme is a tools-and-training package – a new style of learning at Connect.

The toolkit includes:

- ideas for how to recruit volunteers
- advice on how to engage people with aphasia in your training
- guidelines for best practice
- advice sheets for volunteers
- tips to address risk management
- examples of referral procedures and letters
- ideas and questionnaires to help you evaluate the scheme
- step-by-step examples of how to train others

You will learn, practise and discuss the process with others and then use the toolkit (manuals, handouts, video/DVD and CD-Rom) - yours to take away and implement in your setting. You will fine-tune your own skills and you will leave with the skills to guide and train others in your work place.

This course has been extensively researched and developed in collaboration with people living with stroke and aphasia, and piloted with service providers across the UK and Eire.

## Who is the course for?

This course is ideal for individuals and teams in a wide range of settings, universities or voluntary organisations.

To book; complete application form or for information; call Maria McDonnell on 020 7367 0866  
Email: [events@ukconnect.org](mailto:events@ukconnect.org) Main telephone: 020 7367 0840. Fax: 020 7367 0841

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[www.ukconnect.org](http://www.ukconnect.org)

## When?

For next course date: visit [www.ukconnect.org](http://www.ukconnect.org) or telephone 020 7367 0866

## What will you gain from attending the course?

- You will gain practical ideas for reducing the isolation of those living with communication disability – often the most hard to reach clients
- You will revisit your communication skills with people with communication disability
- You will learn how to train others to improve their skills
- You will learn how to recruit, supervise, manage and support volunteers to develop their skills
- You will gain skills to successfully manage the organisation and administration needed for the scheme
- You will learn how to evaluate the scheme and report back to others

## What are the benefits?

*“No question that it does offer long term support and... it helps to build confidence that we couldn't otherwise do”* **stroke service provider**

*“More confident in having conversation”* **person with aphasia**

*“speech better”* **person with aphasia**

*“things to chat...I could pronounce. Felt like an opportunity to practise talking”*

*“this scheme changed the quality of her life”* **relative of person with aphasia**

*“ (the person with aphasia) was shown a number of possibilities for expanding his world and offered significant support to access these ... in my opinion he has been offered an excellent, potentially life-changing opportunity by the conversation partner”* **stroke service provider**

## Other information:

Cost: £500 (to include two days training and a toolkit)

- Tea and coffee
- Lunch and all course materials provided
- Course time 10.00 am – 4.30 pm (last session is key, try not to leave early if possible)
- Venue: 16 – 18 Marshalsea Road, London, SE1 1HL

Connect is a national charity promoting effective service provision to people with stroke and aphasia, through direct therapy, training, publications and research. Connect training supports you to work more positively by offering a range of dynamic, relevant courses. Our training focuses on the practicalities of implementing initiatives such as National Service Frameworks relevant to stroke care. Our courses are based on proven person-centred techniques, approaches and research. Experts with aphasia contribute directly to much of our training.

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