

## Press Notice

### National Stroke Strategy

11<sup>th</sup> December 2007

On December 5<sup>th</sup> the Department of Health launched the National Stroke Strategy. This is a 10 year plan to improve services to people who have a stroke. The strategy covers 4 main areas:

- Raising awareness of the symptoms of stroke and ensuring people with stroke are fully involved in decisions about their care and the services they need;
- emergency treatment for stroke – ensuring that people get to hospital quickly and get the right treatment;
- life after stroke – making sure people who have had a stroke and their relatives and carers achieve a good quality of life wherever they live;
- working together – making sure different professionals and organisations work together so that everyone who has a stroke can expect good care from people with the right skills and experience.

Connect has been involved in the strategy in a range of ways. Sally Byng led the life after stroke group. People with aphasia from Connect participated in each of the six expert project groups and the overall steering group. We worked with the Department of Health to produce an Easy Access version of the consultation document. We encouraged people with aphasia to give their views on the strategy both individually and in groups that we ran.

#### What do we think of the strategy?

Carole Pound, Acting Chief Executive at Connect said:

*'Connect welcomes the publication of the strategy and the commitment to giving stroke services both a higher profile and a clear plan for change.'*

*'We are particularly pleased that the strategy recognises the important long term support needs of people with aphasia as well as the need for prompt, preventative treatment. We are delighted to see the recommendation that people with stroke and communication difficulties should access support for as long as they need it, from a range of providers including the voluntary sector. As an organisation that has always championed the need for accessible information and collaboration with experts who live with stroke and aphasia we are very pleased indeed to see the importance the strategy gives to these areas.'*

Susan Whittle, a Connect trustee who has aphasia and has been involved with the development of the strategy said

*'The National Stroke Strategy - working groups - very great! Now - it is very awful stroke but tomorrow.....? I hope that money and resources lots of stroke treatments and support they need'*

Basia Grzybowska who has aphasia and who was part of the development of the strategy said

*'Good to be on steering group, need to marry up all the groups and all the ideas (emergency, treatment, families, getting on with life). The Strategy I think: rational, logical and order – affordable?'*

If you would like to see a copy of the strategy please go to –  
[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_081062](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081062)

The easy access version of the strategy should be available soon from the Department of Health

Ends

For more media information please contact Samantha Gibson at  
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Or Carole Cross at Connect 020 7367 0846 or call 07963 200147

Notes to editors

1. Aphasia: This year 130,000 people in the UK will have a stroke. One-third of those who survive will have aphasia. Surprisingly, there are currently about 250,000 people with aphasia in the UK alone.
2. Connect: Find out more about aphasia, the work that Connect does and how to support it by visiting [www.ukconnect.org](http://www.ukconnect.org)