

# Improving hospital-based STROKE services in West Sussex: CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

The NHS is committed to ensuring that anybody who has a stroke, day or night, anywhere across West Sussex, and more widely across Sussex, has the best chances of survival and recovery with a return to living an independent fulfilling life.

NHS Sussex and University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust are proposing improvements to hospital-based stroke services that people use when they are experiencing a stroke. This consultation is focused on changes to the emergency stroke services provided in hospitals in the coastal area of West Sussex. The coastal area covers the populations of Adur, Arun, Chichester, Worthing, and south of Horsham.

For information about the programme, please read the document that accompanies this questionnaire and/or go online to:

**[www.sussex.ics.nhs.uk/improving-stroke-services-in-west-sussex](http://www.sussex.ics.nhs.uk/improving-stroke-services-in-west-sussex)**

To give your feedback, complete this questionnaire and return it to the FREEPOST address on the back page of this questionnaire to arrive by **Friday 21 April 2023**; or answer the questions online **via the webpage above** by the same date.

The NHS has appointed Opinion Research Services (ORS), an independent social research company, to manage and report the consultation responses. In the report, the views of individual members of the public in a personal capacity will be anonymous. However, where feedback is from representatives of organisations or someone acting in an official capacity, it may be attributed.

All the questions are optional, and all information you provide will be processed by ORS in accordance with latest Data Protection legislation. Information will only be used to inform this consultation and any personal information that could identify you will be kept by ORS for no more than one year after any decisions have been finalised. For further information, please see **[www.sussex.ics.nhs.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.sussex.ics.nhs.uk/privacy-policy)** or **[www.ors.org.uk/privacy](http://www.ors.org.uk/privacy)**

# 1. Your connection with stroke services

**What is your connection with stroke services in West Sussex?** (This question is optional but responding will help us better understand views from different people).

PLEASE READ THE OPTIONS CAREFULLY AND TICK ✓ **ALL** BOXES THAT APPLY

<b>A stroke survivor</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Carer or family member of a stroke survivor</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Work in stroke services for the NHS in the coastal area of West Sussex</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Work for the NHS in another area of healthcare (geographically or a different clinical area)</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Responding on behalf of an organisation</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>A resident</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other connection (please specify):</b> ..... <input type="checkbox"/>	

# 2. Challenges facing stroke services provision in West Sussex

Please read pages 7-17 of the consultation document for more information

University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (UHSussex) currently provides hospital-based stroke care from three hospitals: Royal Sussex County Hospital (RSCH) in Brighton, St Richard's Hospital in Chichester and Worthing Hospital.

The NHS knows that hospital staff provide the best service they can for people who have a stroke and are proud of the high-quality care these clinical teams provide to patients. However, neither St Richard's Hospital nor Worthing Hospital consistently meets the highest national standards for hospital-based stroke care, which only having specialist staff and support services 24/7 can remedy.

Some of the challenges we currently face are:

- Both St Richard's Hospital and Worthing Hospital see fewer patients than the recommended minimum of 600 stroke patients a year;
- Although both hospitals receive stroke patients seven days a week (patients being admitted), there is a lack of consultant cover at weekends;
- There is a Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA or sometimes known as "mini-stroke") service but it only runs on weekdays, rather than being a seven day service;
- Acute rehabilitation also runs on weekdays, rather than being a seven day service;
- Scanning support services are not always available, particularly out of hours; and
- Specialist nursing ratios on the stroke wards do not meet expected national standards.

The NHS needs to make changes to address these challenges to current services to ensure it is meeting the needs of local people and offering the best outcomes for people needing hospital-based stroke services.

**To what extent do you agree or disagree that the NHS needs to make changes to respond to these challenges?** PLEASE TICK ✓ **ONE** BOX ONLY

<b>Strongly agree</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Tend to agree</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Tend to disagree</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Strongly disagree</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Don't know</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
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### 3. Vision for stroke services in the coastal area of West Sussex

Please read pages 18-23 of the consultation document for more information

The NHS wants to transform and improve stroke services in the coastal area of West Sussex to ensure that people receive the best treatment and care for them. This would mean providing specialist stroke services that are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in one place.

National best practice is to have a network of Comprehensive Stroke Centres (CSCs) and Acute Stroke Centres (ASCs) that are staffed by teams of stroke specialists around the clock and have consultants on the unit seven days a week, with access to all the equipment they need for diagnosing and treating stroke patients. Patients should be taken to these units directly to receive specialist stroke care as soon as possible after having a stroke.

**Therefore, the NHS is proposing to create an Acute Stroke Centre (ASC) at one of its main hospitals in the coastal area of West Sussex. An ASC would improve care and outcomes for patients by providing access to specialist stroke services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.** To achieve this, the other hospital in the coastal area of West Sussex would no longer provide specialist stroke services.

The ASC would work in a network with the Comprehensive Stroke Centre (CSC) at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, which also provides 24/7 specialist stroke services. Working together, the two stroke centres would continue to ensure everyone in West Sussex is within a 60-minute ambulance journey to a stroke centre; with the proposed changes, this would ensure that the centres are staffed by the right specialists, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to create an Acute Stroke Centre to deliver hospital-based stroke services, at only one hospital site in coastal West Sussex?**

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

<b>Strongly agree</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Tend to agree</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Tend to disagree</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Strongly disagree</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Don't know</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
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**If you disagree, please explain the reasons for your views and explain any alternative solutions or improvements to address the challenges that you think should be considered instead.** PLEASE ANSWER IN THE BOX BELOW AND CONTINUE ON A SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 4. Location for an Acute Stroke Centre

Please read pages 25-41 of the consultation document for more information

Health professionals who work with stroke patients every day have considered where an Acute Stroke Centre could be located for people living in the coastal area of West Sussex.

Six options were considered, and the recommended option is for an Acute Stroke Centre to be created at St Richard's Hospital in Chichester.

There are a number of reasons for this - it means that patients experiencing a stroke have all of their hospital care at one hospital without transferring between sites, the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton is able to care for more patients from West Sussex, this option would not add significant further pressure to any neighbouring hospital trusts, and it would ensure that patients from the area continue to be treated for stroke by UHSussex in Sussex.

If an Acute Stroke Centre was developed at Worthing Hospital, patients in the west of West Sussex would go to Portsmouth for care; this is not possible with their capacity. It also has implications on ambulance availability.

In the recommended option, an ASC in Chichester and the Comprehensive Stroke Centre in Brighton would work together to ensure patients from across the coastal area of West Sussex receive the best possible care in services that meet the national stroke standards.

To make the changes, and realise these benefits, it would mean Worthing Hospital no longer receives people who are experiencing a stroke.

Rehabilitation services for people who have had a stroke will still be available across West Sussex, either in their home or in a healthcare setting.

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to deliver hospital-based stroke services from an Acute Stroke Centre located at St Richard's Hospital in Chichester?**

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

<b>Strongly agree</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Tend to agree</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Tend to disagree</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Strongly disagree</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Don't know</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Please explain your reasons. Please also share any travel impacts or mitigations the NHS should consider in regard to this proposal. If there are any alternatives that you think should be considered instead, please say what and where they are, and explain why you think these would be better.** PLEASE ANSWER IN THE BOX BELOW AND CONTINUE ON A SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 5. Equalities impacts

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As public bodies, NHS organisations have a duty to consider the impact of their decisions on people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation), as well as human rights under the Human Rights Act 1998.

**Are there any particular groups or people that you believe might be positively or negatively affected by any of the possible changes to services being considered, including the need to travel further? If so, what groups are these and how might any positive impacts be enhanced or any negative impacts reduced?**

PLEASE ANSWER IN THE BOX BELOW AND CONTINUE ON A SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## Information about you

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**If you are responding on behalf of an ORGANISATION, which organisation do you represent?**

Please give us the name of the organisation and any specific group or department. Please also tell us who the organisation represents, what area the organisation covers and how you gathered the views of members.

PLEASE ANSWER IN THE BOX BELOW AND CONTINUE ON A SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## Information about you

NHS Sussex have a duty to promote equality and want to make sure all parts of the community are included in this consultation, but these questions are optional. All responses will be taken fully into account when making decisions, regardless of whether you provide these details.

### If you are responding as an INDIVIDUAL:

#### What is your full postcode?

This will help us understand views from people in different areas

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONLY ONE BOX FOR EACH QUESTION, EXCEPT WHERE SPECIFIED

#### What was your age on your last birthday?

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 25          | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 to 64   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25 to 34          | <input type="checkbox"/> 65 to 74   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 35 to 44          | <input type="checkbox"/> 75 to 84   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 45 to 54          | <input type="checkbox"/> 85 or over |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |                                     |

#### What is your sex?

- ☐ Male  
☐ Female  
☐ Prefer not to say

#### Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No (*if you would like to, please write in your gender identity below*)

\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Prefer not to say

#### How would you describe your ethnic origin?

- ☐ White  
☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups  
☐ Asian or Asian British  
☐ Black African, Caribbean or Black British  
☐ Any other ethnic group  
☐ Prefer not to say

#### Do you have any dependent children aged under 18?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Prefer not to say

#### Are you currently pregnant or providing maternity care for a new-born baby?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Prefer not to say

#### Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Prefer not to say

#### If yes to the previous question, please state the type of impairment or illness (Please tick ✓ all that apply)

- ☐ Physical impairment  
☐ Visual impairment  
☐ Hearing impairment  
☐ Aphasia  
☐ Long-standing illness e.g., cancer, MS, HIV  
☐ Mental health condition  
☐ Learning disability/difficulty or Autism  
☐ Other (*please specify*)

\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Prefer not to say

#### Do you look after, or give any help or support to family members, friends, neighbours, or others because of long-term physical or mental ill-health/ disability or problems relating to old age?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Prefer not to say

■

**What is your religion?**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No religion                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian (all denominations) | <input type="checkbox"/> Muslim             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Sikh               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hindu                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say             |   |

**Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?**

- ☐ Heterosexual or Straight
- ☐ Gay or Lesbian
- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Other (*if you would like to, please describe your sexual orientation below*)

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☐ Prefer not to say

**Are you currently serving in the UK Armed Forces (this includes reservists or part-time service, e.g.: Territorial Army)?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

**Have you ever served in the UK Armed Forces?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

**Are you a member of a current or former serviceman or woman's immediate family/household?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say



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## THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

Please return the questionnaire by **Friday 21 April 2023** to:  
**Opinion Research Services, FREEPOST SS1018, PO Box 530, Swansea, SA1 1ZL**

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