

Act FAST when Stroke suspected

A residential home contacted the GP out of hours service about one of their residents who had developed arm weakness and slurred speech but who appeared to be getting better. The GP advised the home to wait an hour and if the symptoms persisted to contact the patient's GP.

In this case, the residential home should have dialled 999 and the patient should have gone directly to hospital, or the GP out of hours should have advised the home to dial 999 and send the patient to hospital.

The importance of early recognition of stroke is that it allows patients to be assessed quickly for thrombolysis. Thrombolysis can be given up to 4.5 hours after the onset of an ischaemic stroke which has been confirmed by CT scan. The earlier it is given to suitable patients the better the outcomes (i.e. less disability) for stroke survivors. Currently the thrombolysis rate for ischaemic stroke in Northern Ireland is 12%, but expert opinion used by National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) suggests that this could be as high as 20% in the next 5 to 10 years.

Key Learning

The **FAST** campaign describes the common signs of stroke

Facial weakness – can the person smile? Has their mouth or eye dropped?

Arm weakness – can the person raise both arms

Speech problems – can the person speak clearly and understand what you say

Time to call 999 if you see any one of these signs



Introduction

Welcome to the second issue of Learning Matters Newsletter.

Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland endeavours to provide the highest quality service to those in its care and we recognise that we need to use a variety of ways to share learning such as learning letters, alerts and reports. The purpose of our newsletter is to complement the existing methods by providing staff with short examples of incidents where learning has been identified.

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Transforming
the Culture



Strengthening
the Workforce



Measuring
Improvement



Raising the
Standards



Integrating
the Care



ANNUAL QUALITY REPORT

2022/23



Dear Parent

All children in pre-school are being offered a review by the health visitor who visits the school.

This is a significant time in your child's life. It is important that your child learns to be confident, trusting, curious and able to develop relationships and learn.

As part of the 3+ Review we would like you to complete the enclosed Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ). This will provide information on your child's social and emotional development. Your answers will show your child's strengths and any areas in which your child may need more help or practice. You and your child will also be invited to a review meeting with the health visitor to discuss your child's development.

It's really important that your child enjoys learning and the more you know about your child's health and development the easier it is for you to help them.

If your child is already getting support from various health and education services we would still encourage them to be involved in the 3+ Review.



3+ Review

Additional Information



Do you have eating, drinking or swallowing difficulties?

Advice for
people living
with swallowing
difficulties
(dysphagia) and
their carers



District Nursing





Visiting In Care Homes



Newsletter

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Issue 3



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