

Stroke Association

Northern Ireland Chair and Trustee Information Pack

Rebuilding lives after stroke

Stroke
Association



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Welcome from the Chair

Dear Candidate

The Stroke Association gives life-changing support to over 65,000 stroke survivors and carers across Northern Ireland and Great Britain each year through our local face-to-face stroke recovery services and our telephone and online support services.

We have an ambitious, high performing team of approximately 700 staff and 3000 volunteers, who are focused on delivering a new strategy with three clear goals:

- Make stroke the priority it needs to be.
- Ensure that everyone affected by stroke has access to the rehabilitation and lifelong support they need.
- Partner with people and communities to help them take action on stroke.

We have built strong foundations in recent years through investing in infrastructure, branding, digital capability, people and leadership development. During the challenges of Covid-19, this ensured that we continued to support as many stroke survivors and their families as possible by introducing two new services to support newly discharged stroke survivors and volunteer-led peer support and companionship to stroke survivors who are feeling socially isolated.

Financially, we are in a strong position with healthy reserves. We were very encouraged to have achieved a small operating surplus in the 2020-21 financial year.

Our new operating model will help us to increase our reach and value to more people affected by stroke and the wider stroke community, while reducing our costs and improving our efficiency and sustainability.

As part of our succession planning, we are seeking a new trustee to join us in bringing wise governance and strategic guidance as we continue to pursue our vision: for there to be fewer strokes, and for people affected by stroke to get the help they need to live the best life they can.

Our ambitious pursuit of this vision means that we are not afraid of taking informed risks and responding to new challenges with creativity. We are looking for people who share our energy and enthusiasm.

Please consider whether these opportunities might exercise your expertise and your commitment to dramatically improve outcomes and quality of life for stroke survivors and their carers in Northern Ireland and beyond.

Stephen King
UK Chair of Trustees

Stroke
Association

Who we are

The Stroke Association is the UK's biggest stroke charity, working across the UK. We're here to support people to rebuild their lives after stroke. We provide support, fund critical research and campaign to make sure people affected by stroke get the very best care and support to rebuild their lives.

Our work is urgent, and it is vital. Stroke is one of the leading causes of death and adult disability in the UK. It can also have a huge impact on the carers, family and friends of stroke survivors. There are over 1.2 million people living with the effects of stroke in the UK, with 100,000 strokes happening each year. That's one stroke every five minutes.

Our strategy and our aspirations for the future are strongly motivated by the fact that in the UK, stroke is not given the priority it deserves considering its prevalence and the devastating impact it has on people's lives.

As the population ages, the number of strokes is projected to double over the next 20 years. We know that it is crucial that we act to ensure that stroke is better understood and stroke survivors and carers get the support they need, both now and in the future.

We have made significant progress in recent years, even and especially in the midst of all the challenges of the pandemic.



Our Values

- **We are human.** We spend time getting to know people and recognise everyone's individuality with kindness, putting ourselves in the shoes of the people we support.
- **We believe in better.** We want the best for people affected by stroke. We're driven by a desire for improvement. We learn from mistakes and focus on the possibilities for a better future.
- **We say it how it is.** We listen to everyone's needs, never over-promising, but focusing on what matters. We're not afraid to challenge ourselves or others.
- **We give our all.** Our resolve to make a difference motivates everyone we work with. With one eye on the bigger picture, we harness our passion and expertise to inspire others to give their all.



What we do

We're here to support people to rebuild their lives after stroke. We believe everyone deserves to live the best life they can after stroke, so we work with the stroke community to make sure people affected by stroke get the very best care and support.

- Practical and emotional support
- Life-changing research
- Making voices heard
- Influencing policy and campaigning for change
- Building and connecting stroke communities
- Advice and information
- Inspiring action



Our amazing staff, volunteers and fundraisers work in Northern Ireland and across GB to provide support and research, raise awareness of stroke and much-needed funds to support stroke survivors. You can find out much more on our activities at our website www.stroke.org.uk.

In Northern Ireland, following the publication of our 'Struggling to recover' report in 2019, which highlighted significant gaps in stroke rehabilitation and support, we've continued to advocate for improvements across the stroke pathway to reduce the postcode lottery of stroke care and help all stroke survivors to make the best recovery they can. We led an important exercise to gather information and insight from the stroke community to inform our response to the Department of Health's public consultation on reshaping stroke care in Northern Ireland.

We engaged with people affected by stroke at the Northern Ireland Stroke Assembly, via our Support Groups, the Northern Ireland Advisory Group and through social media. We also spoke to stroke consultants, allied health professionals and experts on reconfiguration, to help us develop a strong, evidence-based consultation response.

Our engagement with the stroke community and media, as well as the reference to 'Struggling to recover' in the consultation document, has helped to increase knowledge and awareness of our charity and to establish us as a trusted authority on stroke and reconfiguration. Other charities approached us to help them to brief their networks and to inform their response to the consultation, enabling us to build and strengthen relationships with colleagues in the sector.

Working closely with the Department of Health and helping them to engage with some of our groups also helped strengthen our relationship and communication with them.

"Too many of the nearly 39,000 stroke survivors in Northern Ireland struggle to access appropriate support to rebuild their lives when they leave hospital. We believe everyone affected by stroke should get the best treatment and care possible and that reorganising stroke services will help achieve that. This is an exciting opportunity to create a world class stroke service for the people of Northern Ireland. We'll continue to engage with and lobby the Department of Health to ensure that much-needed stroke reform is urgently progressed."

Brenda Maguire, Stroke Association, Head of Influencing and Communications in Northern Ireland



Our strategy

A. Make stroke the priority it needs to be

Stroke is the fourth leading cause of death in the UK. But it hasn't received the public and political attention it needs – especially when compared to other conditions of equivalent scale and impact, such as cancer and dementia. This has had a considerable impact on stroke treatment and research.

We want to see:

- Ambitious strategies and well-funded improvement plans which rival the best in the world.
- Closing inequality gaps in stroke treatment and outcomes.
- Increased investment in stroke research and capacity, that prioritises research that achieves the greatest impact for people rebuilding their lives after stroke.
- More people connected to stroke giving time, voice and money to rebuilding lives after stroke.

B. Ensure that everyone affected by stroke has access to the rehabilitation and lifelong support they need

45% of stroke survivors feel abandoned when they leave hospital. Many don't have adequate access to quality therapies and rehabilitation, and only one third have a follow-up review. Consequently, stroke survivors and their carers often report high levels of unmet emotional and psychological need.

We want to see:

- Funders and providers increase investment in research and services for rehabilitation and lifelong support.
- Everyone affected by stroke has the information they need to make informed choices about treatment, care and support which help them to take more control of their ongoing recovery and rebuild their lives.
- A range of emotional, practical and social support offers available in the community for stroke survivors and carers wherever they live.
- More people benefit from our own support offerings.

C. Partner with people and communities to help them take action on stroke

The health, social and political system is struggling to deal with the scale and impact of stroke.

We want to see:

- Communities - local and national, professional and social - advocating for and influencing action on stroke.
- Stroke survivors and carers bring their insight and empathy to improve stroke outcomes for themselves and others – and in doing so rebuild their own confidence and self-esteem.
- Stroke survivors benefit from and contribute to the human kindness found in all communities.
- An increase in the number of people within communities who are inspired to give time, voice or money to stroke.

[Download our full strategy document here](#)



Meet the Board

Stephen King

Chair of Trustees from August 2017

Stephen is a long-serving trustee of the charity Sightsavers International and is deputy chair of NHS West Essex. Prior to retiring in 2013, he spent 23 years as an executive director of RNIB. He follows in the footsteps of Sir David Varney, who stepped down in December 2016, after four years as the charity's Chair.

Stephen said: "It is a privilege to be part of the Stroke Association, which has already achieved so much for stroke survivors, their families and carers. Stroke has affected members of my family and I know how devastating the condition can be. The charity's work to fund pioneering research, campaign for better stroke care, and push for greater awareness of stroke has never been more crucial. I hope I can help the Stroke Association find new ways to prevent stroke, and support even more stroke survivors throughout their recovery."

Mark Smith

Trustee from October 2015

Mark Smith is passionate about stroke. He qualified in 1985 as a physiotherapist and very soon decided to specialise in stroke. Over the course of the last 25 years, Mark has developed significant experience in this field. He became Scotland's first Consultant Physiotherapist in 2006, specialising in Stroke Rehabilitation, and working within NHS Lothian. He completed an MPhil in Physiotherapy in 2009 and is also a member of the National Advisory Committee for Stroke, playing a key role in the design and delivery of Life after Stroke services in Scotland.

He has travelled extensively, teaching and presenting courses and workshops on stroke rehabilitation in the UK and internationally.

Mark works to represent the needs of those who have had a stroke both in Scotland, and at a UK level, within the Stroke Association and energetically contributes to the ongoing work of the charity in research, prevention and service development.

His many interests include playing golf and assisting people touched by stroke to access the sport. He is a medical committee member of the European Disabled Golf Association (EDGA) and an international classifier at their tournaments. He will be standing down in October 2021.

Tom Robinson

Trustee from April 2014

Tom is Head of the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences and Professor of Stroke Medicine at the University of Leicester. He was appointed an NIHR Senior Investigator in 2016.

His research interests include clinical trials, particularly of blood pressure management and reperfusion therapies in hyperacute stroke. In addition, he undertakes research on physiological perturbations of cerebral autoregulation and cerebrovascular haemodynamics following acute stroke. His research has been funded by the UK National Institute of Health, the British Heart Foundation, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, the Health Foundation and the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council, as well as The Stroke Association. He is National Specialty Lead for Stroke for the National Institute for Health Clinical Research Network, and President of the British Association of Stroke Physicians. He has previously served on the Stroke Association Research Awards Committee and was a former chair of the UK Stroke Forum.

Peter Troy MBE

Trustee from March 2014 and lay Vice-Chair

Peter worked for the British Government's international development department for 36 years, including overseas postings as 1st Secretary Development in Ghana and Bangladesh and, in the UK, as Head of Humanitarian Programmes, managing the UK's humanitarian response to numerous natural disasters and conflict situations for over a decade. He has participated in various international meetings covering humanitarian action and 'Education for All'. Awarded the MBE, in 2007, for humanitarian work.

Community work includes serving as an elected Member of Southwark Council from 1982-85 and terms as School Governor in Lewisham and Southwark. In October 2009, he suffered a brain haemorrhage, recovering to return to work in 2010. In 2011, he left the Civil Service. He is now retired and has been doing voluntary work in support of the Anti-Trafficking campaign and also helping with an English language training project.

Mr Niraj Shah, MA(Cantab), CFA

Trustee from July 2014 and Chair of the Investment Committee

Niraj Shah is an investment manager by profession; having worked at a number of institutional investment and private wealth management organisations in London since 2000. He is currently in the process of establishing a Family Investment Office.

Niraj was born and brought up in Kenya and came to the UK in 1996 to read Computer Science and Management Studies at Trinity College, Cambridge University. After graduating from Cambridge University, he joined Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette (later Credit Suisse First Boston) as a Mergers and Acquisitions analyst, followed by a move to UBS Wealth Management and Europe Arab Bank where he headed the Structured Products department. From 2005 to 2008, he was a portfolio manager at Nikko Asset Management managing absolute return strategies across all mainstream asset classes. Niraj attained his CFA Charterholder status in 2004. More recently, he was Head of Market Risk at the National Employment Savings Trust and a Director and Fund Manager at MENA Capital.

Niraj is married to Rakhee and has two children; his daughter, Aarya and son, Aarav. He is passionate about education and serves as a Governor at a local primary school. His interests include reading, travelling, chess and racquet sports. Niraj will be standing down in October 2021.

Dr Martin James

Trustee from July 2014

Martin James is a Consultant Stroke Physician at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter, and Associate Professor at the University of Exeter Medical School. He trained in Southampton, and he completed his research in hypertension in the elderly with Professor John Potter and the late Professor John Swales in Leicester.

He has led the Stroke Service at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter since 1997. The service was awarded NHS Beacon status in 2000 and Exeter was one of the first UK centres to introduce emergency thrombolysis for acute stroke in 2003.

Martin is an Associate Director of the Stroke Programme at the Royal College of Physicians of London with responsibility for the national Peer Review Scheme for Stroke Services, and a member of the Intercollegiate Stroke Working Party responsible for the Stroke National Audit Programme and the RCP National Clinical Guideline for Stroke 2012. He is a Past-President of the British Association of Stroke Physicians.

Helen Sanders

Trustee from July 2014 and Chair of the Financial Performance Committee

Helen Sanders is an independent writer, editor and marketing and communications consultant, mostly in the treasury and banking fields. She regularly produces industry research reports and chairs industry events, and was formerly editor of Treasury Management International. Previous roles include Director of Education at the Association of Corporate Treasurers (ACT) and Director of Sales and Marketing, Europe at SunGard, now part of FIS.

Helen's academic background is in classics and global development management. Her interest in stroke was first ignited when her father experienced a life-changing stroke in 2011. Helen will be stepping down in October 2021.

Dr David Buckle

Trustee from September 2018 and Clinical Vice-Chair

David worked as a GP in Woodley Berkshire for 30 years. In 1995, he was awarded Fellowship of the Royal College of General Practitioners. He later became senior partner and was a GP trainer for many years. In 2000, he joined the local Primary Care Trust Board and that decision started a long career of clinical leadership and then medical management.

Having been a Medical Director for an NHS Primary Care Trust and then a Commissioning Support Unit, David was appointed Medical Director to Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group in spring 2015. In early 2018, David chose to retire from his clinical and executive roles to concentrate on his non-executive and trustee interests.

David was appointed a non-executive for Berkshire Healthcare Foundation NHS Trust in 2015 and he remains on the mental health and community trust board. In September 2018, he became an associate non-executive director for East and North NHS Hertfordshire Hospital Trust.

David has been a member of the Society for the Assistance of Medical Families for nearly 30 years and early this year he was voted president of the charity. David believes that his clinical understanding of how stroke affects people and his knowledge of primary care and the wider NHS will help strengthen and develop the Stroke Association for the benefit of those in need.

Katherine Gillespie

Trustee from September 2018 and Chair of the Scotland Advisory Group

Katherine Gillespie is currently studying on a part-time Masters Programme in International Development at Edinburgh University.

Katherine has over 15 years' management experience in the investment banking and commercial training sectors. During this time, she was involved in establishing, and subsequently managed, the Operations team for a new bank based in Dublin, bringing experience of start-ups and setting up internal businesses.

She has extensive experience in service delivery; risk management; building and improving processes and controls for new and existing businesses lines; coordinating groups of people across different functions; and restructuring and developing teams. Katherine had a stroke in 2013.

Harvinder Rattan

Trustee from September 2018

Prior to setting up his own business Expense Reduction Analysts (ERA) in 2017 helping organisations to improve cash flows through effective procurement and supplier management, Harvinder Rattan's career spanned over 25 years in Financial Services, the last 10 years at HSBC.

He is an energetic business leader and trusted partner, leading finance teams in London and India. He is a change leader with excellent people skills combined with strong commercial acumen and a consistent ability to identify and deliver process and system efficiencies. As Head of Regulatory Reporting for Europe and working at HSBC's Global Finance Shared Service Centre in India, he led large teams to centralize capital and operational risk reporting for multiple regions and businesses.

He created and maintained high-performing function that consistently delivered best-in-class operational performance with capacity to design and execute complex, controlled processes. He also recruited, developed and motivated teams and ensured team skills evolve to match business needs. Harvinder led engagements across functions and geographies in complex global organizations to align organizational structures and systems.

Harvinder is a qualified accountant with excellent technical and financial analysis skills, and uses his experience to rapidly identify challenges and priorities in business support functions. He has driven delivery of change improvements in

control, accuracy, efficiency and levels of service through design and implementation of solutions tailored to evolving needs.

Ed Garcez

Trustee from September 2018

Ed is the Chief Digital and Information Officer for the London Boroughs of Camden, Haringey and Islington (450 staff and an operating budget of circa £45m). Member of the Digital Steering Board for the North Central London Strategic Transformation Programme.

Previous roles include:

Group Chief Information Officer, Tri-Borough.

CIO, Lambeth.

BA programme management role – online travel booking.

Background in consulting on systems analysis and development in finance and Gove/public sectors.

This experience has covered both IT infrastructure/architecture/systems AND digital transformation and creative approaches e.g. Digital and ICT enable opportunities for sharing information and awareness-raising – both crucial in developing a better understanding of how to prevent and deal with strokes. He is involved in lots of NHS projects and sits on the digital board for health in North London, dealing with care and wellbeing in a community setting and insight into local authority, health care and commissioning.

He sponsored a year-long 'proof of concept' project to consider how we can use data, and to understand the implications of data sharing, working across local government, public health and the NHS.

Stephen Torrans

Trustee since June 2018 and Chair of the Northern Ireland Advisory Group.

A native of Belfast and graduate from The Queens University of Belfast, Stephen has spent most of his working life in Human Resources and Management Consultancy with a range of local and international manufacturing organisations. From 1997 until retirement, he was employed by Caterpillar Inc in a variety of senior roles, most recently as Global HR Director for the Industrial Power Systems Division. Based in Peterborough, England, he was responsible along with co-directors for a \$ multi-billion business, with 6500 employees in 17 locations worldwide.

As well as in-depth HR experience, Stephen has specific experience in the development and deployment of strategic corporate plans, values-based employee engagement programmes, values-based leadership programmes and effective community strategies both in the UK and in developing countries.

In addition, he has held voluntary Board positions with Engineering Training Council NI, The Northern Ireland Centre for Competitiveness, Business in The Community NI, Engineering Employers Federation NI Association and National Skills Academy for Manufacturing, East of England Region and Radius Housing Association. He is currently a volunteer with The National Trust. Stephen is a Stroke Survivor. He will be standing down from the Board in October 2021.

Ian Lee

Trustee from June 2019 and Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee

Ian is a chartered accountant with extensive experience in public accounting and auditing, and board and audit committee work in the private, public health and charity sectors.

He is a trustee and chair of the audit committee at Erskine Hospital and a trustee of the Endrick Trust. He has recently been vice-chair and a member of the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board, and a non-executive director and chair of the audit committee at Ricardo plc and a member of the audit committee at the Student loans company. He was previously a non-executive director and chair of the audit committee at Clyde Process Solutions plc.

He was a senior audit partner of Ernst and Young with senior client service roles with a wide variety of listed companies, large private companies and universities. He has had various EY management roles and was a member of the UK governing council. He has been convener of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland's audit and assurance committee, summer conference committee and a member of the accounting standards committee.

His personal interests include skiing, sailing, tennis, French language and opera.

Ceri Jackson

Trustee since October 2020 and Chair of the Wales Advisory Group

Ceri has 25 years' experience working in the third sector and with healthcare systems across the UK; in consultant, executive and non-executive roles. She is currently a management consultant supporting third sector organisations in strategic and transformational projects.

Ceri, who is based in Cardiff, will also take on the role of Chair of the Stroke Association's Wales Advisory Committee, working closely with the charity's senior leadership team in Wales.

Ceri said, "It's a privilege to take on this role with the Stroke Association at what is a pivotal time for stroke in Wales; with the imminent end of the Government's Stroke Delivery Plan and the upcoming appointment of a new Wales Clinical Lead on Stroke.

The COVID pandemic has had a huge impact on stroke survivors' recoveries and wellbeing, and I look forward to supporting the charity as it holds the Government and health systems to account as we recover from COVID and beyond."

Avril Drummond

Trustee from December 2019

Avril is Professor of Healthcare Research at University of Nottingham and is interested in all aspects of rehabilitation research - particularly randomized controlled trials. Her main area of interest is stroke rehabilitation. She was recently appointed Visiting Professor of Occupational Therapy Research at University of Derby.

Liz Stanley

Trustee since June 2021

Liz is a chartered accountant and self-employed internal audit and risk consultant. She started out in external audit with KPMG but after qualification has spent most of her career in public sector internal audit and risk management, primarily with Sheffield City Council, Barnsley MBC , the further education sector and the Audit Commission. Since becoming self- employed in 2013, Liz has provided audit and assurance services to the Care Quality Commission and the States of Jersey's internal audit team. She also works on a part time basis for 360 Assurance, an organisation providing internal audit assurance services to the NHS. Liz is a Governor and Chair of the Audit Committee at Northern College in Barnsley and has been an independent non-executive member of the Audit and Standards Committee of Sheffield City Council.

How we're organised



Reporting into our UK-wide board are the following Committees:

Financial Performance Committee

This scrutinises our financial and commercial affairs, as well as our fundraising affairs.

Audit and Risk Committee

Scrutinises our financial statements, financial control systems, internal and external audit, and risk management process.

Investment Committee

Develops and maintains our policies relating to investments, selects and monitors our investment managers, and monitors and evaluates investment performance, service and cost.

Governance and Remuneration Committee

Oversees the effective governance of the charity (including the composition of Board and the recruitment and induction of trustees) and the pay, benefits and conditions of service for our employees.

Like Wales and Scotland, Northern Ireland has its own Stroke Association **NI Advisory Group**, which will be chaired by the successful candidate, in addition to sitting on the UK-wide board.

Our finances

We have been working to a strategy that involved drawing on our reserves in order to facilitate crucial investment in our infrastructure, capabilities and development over a number of years. These investments have stood us in good stead to weather the storms of the Covid-19 pandemic which, of course, presented us with significant challenges including a reduction in our face-to-face fundraising income as public participation events were cancelled.

We responded quickly with an extensive re-budgeting process and - with the expected impact of the pandemic on fundraising and our goal to achieve financial breakeven after 2021–22 - we began implementing a new operating model from July 2020. We have focused our thinking on how we can continue to improve our efficiency while reducing costs and maximising income.

We were heartened that despite the huge challenges of the past year, we achieved a small surplus during the 2020-21 year (with a £1.5m reduction in total income levels) – a remarkable performance, particularly in light of the scenario planning we had in place for a drop of up to £7m in income and a £5.8m deficit.

Draft figures for 2020/2021 are summarized here:

- Legacies and fundraising income: £22.3m
- Community service contracts: £10.3m
- Other income: £2m
- Total income: £34.6m
- Total expenditure: £34.1m
- Surplus: £448k



You can click on the links below to access our last three years accounts:

[Annual Report March 2020](#)

[Annual Report March 2019](#)

[Annual Report March 2018](#)

NI Chair & UK Trustee Role Profile

The Stroke Association Board and its Committees are a professional, diverse and effective governing body. Following a governance review and skills and diversity audit, in addition to welcoming applications from people who have personal or family experience of stroke, we have recognised the need to increase the diversity of the Board and Committees in terms of gender, age, ethnicity, geography and perspective. Our goal, and a key priority in this recruitment process, is for the Board and Committees to increase the diversity of perspective brought to bear on issues being considered.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

As Chair of the Northern Ireland Advisory Group, the post holder will:

- Agree dates and agenda for the quarterly Northern Ireland Advisory Group meetings.
- Ensure the Advisory Group fulfils its functions in accordance with its Terms of Reference in its role of providing support, oversight and scrutiny to the operations of the Stroke Association in Northern Ireland.
- Chair and facilitate Advisory Group meetings, involving:
 - providing all Members with the opportunity to express their views
 - managing meetings so that appropriate standards of behaviour are maintained in accordance with the Code of Conduct
 - maintaining the focus of discussion and questions
 - recording and responding appropriately to conflicts of interest
 - reviewing the draft Minutes to ensure they are an accurate record of the meeting.
- Lead on recruiting, selecting, inducting and appraising Northern Ireland Advisory Group Members and supporting them in their personal development.
- Ensure that Members of the Advisory Group receive adequate information and advice on which to base decisions.
- Report to the Board of Trustees on the business transacted at Advisory Group meetings; the Chair is to provide the CEO with a succinct country Advisory Group report for each quarterly Board meeting.
- Act as an ambassador for the Charity in Northern Ireland and occasionally deputising for the Associate Director at events and in the media.
- Exercise independent judgement and act solely in the best interest of the Stroke Association.
- Refuse any benefit from the charity.
- Offer support and mentoring to the Associate Director Northern Ireland.

As Trustee on the Board, the post holder will:

- Provide strategic leadership to the Charity by ensuring that the Charity:
 - Carries out its purposes for the public benefit
 - Complies with its Articles of Association and the law
 - Acts in the best interests of its charitable purposes and its beneficiaries
 - Manages its resources responsibly
 - Ensure your charity is accountable by complying with its accounting and reporting requirements, by being able to demonstrate that it is complying with the law, well run and effective, and by engaging appropriately with beneficiaries, supporters and funders.
- Proactively provide support and advice to the Chair, the Board and its Committees
- Undertake assignments at the request of the Chair
- Participate fully in Board Meetings, and the decision-making process of the Board
- Provide support to the CEO and staff as and when requested
- Take part in formulating and regularly reviewing the strategy of the Charity
- With other Trustees, to ensure that the charity strives to achieve best practice.
- Abide by the Trustee Code of Conduct at all times

NI Chair & UK Trustee Person Specification

The Chair of the Advisory Group is expected to abide by the Trustee Role Description and Code of Conduct.

The postholder should possess the following characteristics, knowledge and experiences:

- Leadership abilities
- Tact and diplomacy, good communication and interpersonal skills
- Impartiality, fairness and discretion
- Knowledge of health, stroke and related issues in Northern Ireland
- An understanding of the voluntary sector in the Northern Ireland context.

Time commitment

UK-wide Board Meetings Annually

- Four remote Board meetings
- One face to face Trustee Away Day per year
- There will also be an opportunity to join one of the Committees of the Board.

NI Advisory Group Meetings Annually

- Four Advisory Group Meetings
- Advisory Group Chairs are also encouraged to represent the Stroke Association at events from time to time.

Accounting for hybrid working, overall estimated time commitment for the NI Chair including preparation and travel is **8-10 days annually**.

NI Chair Induction and Support

- Successful candidates will be invited to join a governance meeting as observers as part of their on-boarding programme, in addition to a full induction programme with supporting materials.
- They will also qualify for free membership of Belfast-based third sector board and executive networking and support organisation CO3 (www.co3.bz)

Term

The Chair of the Advisory Group will be appointed for a term of up to three years extendable by a maximum of two further terms.

Expenses

The post is not remunerated but full expenses will be covered.

How to apply

Stroke Association has partnered with Belfast-based Engage Executive Talent to help recruit its next NI Chair. For a confidential discussion about the position in the first instance, please contact Engage Director Patrick Minne, patrick@co3.bz 07792 509003.

1. Candidates are asked to provide a full CV and short cover letter by email to Engage by **noon on Tuesday 30 November 2021** to Patrick Minne patrick@co3.bz.
2. Engage will submit your application to the Stroke Association Board panel who will shortlist candidates.
3. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to meet the panel for a two-way discussion about their candidacy before 31 December 2021.
4. Due diligence and preferred candidate selection will take place in January.
5. First UK Board meeting is scheduled for 30 March 2022 and first NI Advisory Group meeting is scheduled for 1 April 2022.





Please address any enquiries relating to the advertised position to Stroke Association's NI recruitment partners:

Patrick Minne
Engage Executive Talent

Tel: 07792 509003
Email: patrick@co3.bz

www.engageexec.co.uk

Enquiries unrelated to this recruitment can be addressed to:

Stroke Association
Stroke Association House
240 City Road
London EC1V 2PR

Tel: 02890 508 028

Web: www.stroke.org.uk

Stroke Association is a Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in England and Wales (No 61274), registered as a Charity in England and Wales (No 211015) and operating as a charity in Northern Ireland.