

A Strategy Fit for the Future: The West Midlands Co-Production approach

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INTRODUCTION

The West Midlands CVD Clinical Network lead the initiation and management of a regional Stroke Programme Board creating a platform for key stakeholders to come together to improve stroke services for the population it serves through whole system change.

The ambition of the board was to produce an innovative and visionary strategy to articulate and enable the delivery of high-quality, safe and sustainable stroke services, putting West Midlands up there amongst the best in Europe.

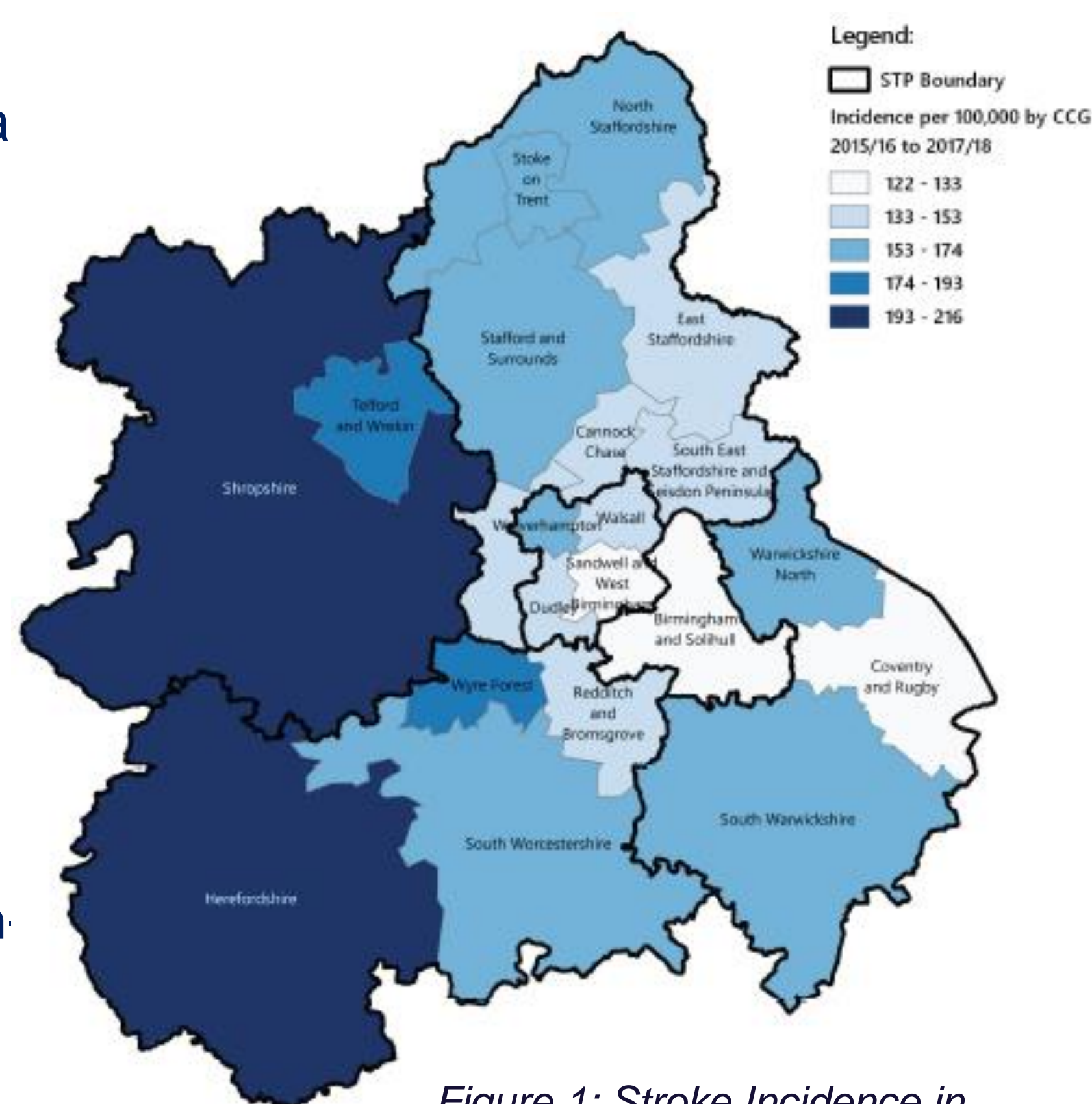


Figure 1: Stroke Incidence in the West Midlands

METHODS

The Stroke Programme Board was convened, and key stakeholders were invited to engage and participate to allow for a co-created strategy for the local population. Membership includes commissioners, STP leads, Providers from both acute and community trusts, Public Health England, Third sector, patient representatives and Health Education England.

Following the formation of the board through robust governance and agreed objectives, a variety of projects were undertaken including the mapping of future service configurations, prevention impact analysis and specialised commissioned interventions such as thrombectomy.

The Programme Board commissioning detailed whole pathway mapping to explore the impact on prevention interventions, acute configurations and introduction of robust rehabilitation models.

All board members were invited to write specific chapters of this strategy to ensure the ethos and principles of co-production.

RESULTS

The output of the Stroke Programme Board was the production of the regional all-encompassing and forward thinking strategy asserting the vision and future for stroke services within the region.

It highlights the gaps to achieving a stand out end-to-end service and how this should be delivered. The strategy was launched in Autumn 2019, initially locally with plans to launch more widely across the NHS and has been recognised by National Leads as a leading document for stroke planning and achievement of the Long Term Plan Stroke Programme ambitions.

Milestone	Action required
In 2019 we will, working with the Royal Colleges, pilot a new credentialing programme for hospital consultants to be trained to offer mechanical thrombectomy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Health Education England (HEE) to modernise the stroke workforce with a focus on cross-specialty and in some cases cross-profession accreditation of particular 'competencies'
By 2020, we will begin improved post-hospital stroke rehabilitation models, with a full rollout over the period of this Long-Term Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing Integrated Stroke Delivery Networks (ISDNs) to ensure that all stroke units will meet the NHS seven-day standards for stroke care and the National Clinical Guidelines for Stroke
By 2022, we will deliver a tenfold increase in the proportion of patients who receive a thrombectomy after a stroke so that each year 1,600 more people will be independent after their stroke.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting local systems to reconfigure stroke services into specialist centres in line with the evidence base (improving the use of thrombolysis and further rolling out mechanical thrombectomy)
By 2025, we will be amongst the best performers in Europe for delivering thrombectomy to all patients who could benefit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extending higher intensity care models for stroke rehabilitation Scaling technology that will assist the expansion of life-changing treatments to more patients.

Figure 2: Long Term Plan Stroke Programme Milestones

The strategy has provided some strategic direction for necessary improvements along the entire stroke pathway, including the need for targeted programmes of work for workforce, imaging and robust commissioning.

Chapters within the strategy assert specific recommendations to the system that are required to see the delivery of high-quality and sustainable stroke care for the Midlands population.

It was agreed that the Clinical Network would take the lead on the implementation of the vision within the strategy.



CONCLUSIONS

To deliver new and improved seven-day stroke services, an increase in workforce numbers and stroke specific training will be required

The role of the West Midlands Cardiovascular Clinical Network for the next five years is crucial to driving changes and improvements in stroke services.

In line with the ambitions of the NHS Long Term Plan and the West Midlands Stroke Strategy, the region will ensure that all stroke units will, over the next five years, meet the NHS seven-day standards for stroke care and the National Clinical Guidelines for Stroke.

DISCUSSION

This work has presented a number of challenges, however joint working across organisational boundaries has resulted in a clear way forward which will link a number of existing project and workstreams and lead to improved patient outcomes and hopefully a better experience of care in the West Midlands.

The collaboration of organisations both in acute and primary care settings are key to ensure the success of the West Midlands Stroke Strategy. Proposed changes to services and the extent of any proposed changes will seek appropriate levels of consultation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Stroke Association
- Members of the West Midlands Stroke Programme Board
- West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- Public Health England
- Health Education England

REFERENCES

[A Strategic Framework for Advancing Stroke Services in the West Midlands](#)

[Long Term Plan 2019](#)