

New clinical psychologist joins Trust's stroke service

The Trust's stroke service has been enhanced with the appointment of Dr Phil Moore to the newly-created post of clinical psychologist for stroke.

Over the past 18 months, the stroke team has been implementing a range of practice innovations based on national recommendations for meeting psychological needs after stroke.

The addition of a dedicated clinical psychologist means patients with very complex psychological problems, and under the care of the stroke team, will receive timely, specialist assessment and intervention during their recovery.

Dr Moore will also ensure that specialist therapists and nurses working across the Northern and Eastern stroke services have better access to training to enhance their skills in psychological assessment and intervention.

Dr Moore will treat any patient who is under the care of the stroke team, at hospital or in the community, identified as needing psychology intervention either during their rehabilitation or at six months review.

Unfortunately, the service cannot accept referrals for patients with a long-term stroke or patients with neurological conditions who are not receiving care or therapy from the Northern Devon stroke team.

There is currently no commissioned service for community neuropsychology in North Devon, aside from the stroke service and the complex care teams, but Dr Phil Self, professional lead for psychology, is collating information to identify the unmet need and can be contacted at: Clinical Psychology Department, Riversvale, Barnstaple, Litchdon Street, EX32 8PJ.