

3 April 2019

Statement Summary: Impact of the of research on Post stroke visual impairment carried out by Prof Fiona Rowe since 2013 at The University of Liverpool

This statement was written after the respondent consented to be interviewed, this was transcribed and summarised and returned to the respondent for corroboration of fact and to give an opportunity to add any omitted details

For a few years Fiona has been on the Intercollegiate Stroke Working Party, and that is where I've had the most contact with her. What she has done is brought to the group the major issues relating to the provision of optometry services and visual problems for patients with stroke. The role of the working party is to deliver the National Clinical Guidelines and the Sentinel Stroke national Audit Programme (SSNAP). The working party is a group of about 35-40 people with representation from all of the major organisations involved in stroke care and she represents the optometry profession.

Fiona's work is a very significant part of the work on vision and stroke that's been done in this country, both in terms of primary research and in systematic review and meta-analysis and I think the key areas that she's contributed to are firstly highlighting the lack of research which is critical and secondly highlighting the lack of services for patients with vision problems after stroke. She has demonstrated major inequalities in services around the country and how patients suffer from the lack of such services. She is a very powerful voice on the committee and because of the case she made for the first time in 2016 we included a separate section on vision in stroke.

We are in a position where we are considering which data items we need to include in next year's stroke audit (SSNAP). We are unable to measure everything but I think vision is a notable area where we need data on the quality of care to assess the impact of the implementation of the NHS long term plan. Fiona will be key to the development of this area of the audit.

Through the work Fiona has done more people are now being routinely and correctly screened for vision problems after stroke and research is guiding how patients should be managed.



Tony Rudd CBE
Professor Stroke Medicine Kings College London
Consultant Stroke Physician, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

National Clinical Director for Stroke NHS England
London Stroke Clinical Director, Chair of the intercollegiate Stroke Working Party