



TALK

Supporting People with **Aphasia** after Stroke or brain injury

March 2024

UPDATES



**THE NATIONAL
LOTTERY™**

GREAT NEWS!

National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund

Our bid for more funding was successful.

We will receive **£143,000** over the next **5 years**.

This will mostly go towards our running costs (rent, equipment, staff salaries).

We will also start some new projects e.g. a **Service User Panel** to make sure our members have a proper say in what we do.

**THANK
YOU**

To Angel Wu (Trustee) and Jo Matthews (fundraiser) for all their work to get this money.

NEW CHAIR



We warmly welcome our new Chair, Phil Wellard.

Phil is interested in TALK because his uncle and a close friend have severe Aphasia following a stroke.

Phil's background is in IT. His business experience will bring value to TALK and the people it supports.

Carol Sacchett stepped down as Chair of TALK in February 2024 after 5 years in the role.

Carol will continue as a TALK Trustee, with responsibility for speech and language therapy liaison.

AWARENESS RAISING

We are raising awareness of TALK and aphasia locally. This is important to:

- a) make sure that people with aphasia are included in local decision-making.
- b) make sure that TALK's work is recognised.

We are working with two local community speech and language therapy teams on **Stroke Quality Improvement in Rehabilitation projects (SQuIRe)**. The aim of these projects is to improve access to services for stroke in the community.

Five TALK members took part in a **focus group** with Central Surrey Health SQuIRe team. They talked about what a good service for stroke and aphasia should look like.

We have been invited to present to the Board of Directors of Ashford and St Peter's NHS Trust in May 2024.

STAFF NEWS

Fundraiser: Unfortunately we haven't yet recruited a new Fundraiser. We are still looking, so if you know anyone with experience in fundraising, let us know.

A big **THANK YOU** to **Sharon** and **Jenny** for keeping the good work of TALK going despite their shorter hours.

Thank you also to **Group Leaders** and all **volunteers** for supporting Sharon and Jenny and for all their hard work.

JENNIE COOPE MEMORIAL FUND

Jennie Coope was a longstanding member of the **Walton group**. She sadly passed away on New Year's day. All her friends at the Walton group miss her cheeky smile.

A huge **THANK YOU** to Jennie's family for raising over **£1,500 for TALK** via their JustGiving page.