

SAFE Board Member Application Form

Please complete this form and return it to the SAFE Secretariat 28 April 2026

All fields must be completed. Please refer to the role description

Full name:	Claire McIvor
Name of member stroke support organisation:	Stroke Association
Position held in member stroke support organisation:	Head of Health Systems Insight & Engagement
Country of member stroke support organisation:	UK

What contribution do you hope to make to SAFE and the stroke patient community as a member of the board?

I hope to contribute to SAFE by strengthening the use of robust health systems insight to inform strategy, policy, and advocacy across Europe. Drawing on my experience in synthesising evidence and engaging stakeholders, I would support SAFE in promoting data-driven decision-making and ensuring that the voices and lived experiences of stroke survivors are embedded within organisational priorities. I am particularly motivated to contribute to reducing inequities in stroke care by supporting collaboration across member organisations, sharing best practice, and enhancing the dissemination of knowledge to improve outcomes for stroke patients. I would also actively support SAFE in promoting its mission, contributing to strategic discussions, and ensuring effective governance in line with its objectives.

Please select any of the following where you have a specific expertise that would be useful to the board.

Accounting	
Communications	Yes
Education and training	
Fundraising	
Governance	Yes
Human resources	
Public affairs	
Research	Yes
Strategy	Yes

What personal expertise and professional strengths will you bring to SAFE and the stroke community? Mention any relevant experience.

I bring a unique combination of clinical, public health, research, and international health systems experience. As Head of Health Systems Insight & Engagement at the Stroke Association, I lead the generation and application of evidence to influence stroke care policy and practice, working closely with healthcare professionals and system leaders. My background includes leading large-scale research programmes, delivering international health partnerships with organisations such as WHO and NHS England, and developing rehabilitation and assistive technology services in diverse global contexts. I have strong expertise in monitoring and evaluation, partnership development, and translating complex evidence into actionable insights. My clinical background as a physiotherapist specialising in neurological rehabilitation provides me with a deep, first-hand understanding of the stroke patient journey, including the complexities of managing diverse and high-need caseloads, and underpins my strong commitment to delivering equitable, patient-centred care across health systems.

How would your election to the SAFE board benefit your organisation?

My election to the SAFE board would strengthen the Stroke Association's connection to the European stroke community, enabling greater collaboration, shared learning, and alignment with international best practice. Through my role, I would facilitate the exchange of insight between SAFE and the Stroke Association, ensuring that emerging evidence, policy developments, and innovative approaches are translated into our work to improve stroke care in the UK. Additionally, this position would support the organisation's strategic ambition to influence health systems and reduce inequalities by providing opportunities to contribute to and learn from European-wide initiatives. It would also enhance our ability to build partnerships and extend our impact beyond national boundaries, ultimately benefiting stroke survivors through improved, more coordinated care.

I confirm that the information contained in this application is correct, and that neither me, or my organisation, have been subject to any financial/legal or other such investigations in the past 12 months.

Upon election to the SAFE board, I agree to immediately provide the SAFE Secretariat with a copy of the following documents, **ratified and stamped** by a legal authority

- the photo page in your passport

PLUS **one** of the following with your name and address (also **ratified and stamped**)

- a bill for water or electricity (mobile phone bill is not acceptable)
- an invoice of a subscription

- a certificate from the municipality
- a full biography, plus a 50-word biography for SAFE's website
- a headshot photograph

Signature: Claire McIvor (electronically signed) Date: 22/04/26

Once completed, the application form should be returned to the SAFE Secretariat, info@safestroke.eu, along with:

- a letter from the board of your organisation supporting your nomination.
- a copy of your current curriculum vitae. This must not include any personal information, such as address and telephone numbers.

Your application form, CV and nomination letter will be sent to members as part of the election process.

THESE DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE PRESIDENT/MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE ORGANISATION, NOT BY THE APPLICANT.

Completed applications must be received by 28 April 2026

Claire McIvor

PERSONAL PROFILE

Experienced professional with knowledge of clinical, evaluation, and international contexts. Experience of synthesising evidence to inform practice and policy decisions whilst aiming to achieve health equity through mentoring and monitoring services. Recognised for integrity and reliability with technical and project management competence. Motivates individuals to collaborate to achieve high quality outcomes. Brings energy and drive in supporting teams to improve health systems research and policy development.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

June 2025- PRESENT Head of Health Systems Insight & Engagement, Stroke Association

Provide strategic leadership to accelerate improvements in stroke care by leveraging health systems insight to inform policy, practice, and service delivery. Lead engagement with key stakeholders across the health and care system to strengthen evidence use, influence decision-making, and drive equitable outcomes for people affected by stroke. Oversee the synthesis of data, research, and lived experience to shape organisational priorities and support the development of partnerships that enhance impact across the stroke pathway.

May 2024 – June 2025 Consultant – Expanding Access to Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology in the Pacific, World Health Organization

Provided technical input and coordinated the development of inclusive, accessible Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology services across the Pacific Island Countries (PICs). Collaborated with WHO in-country offices, regional Ministries of Health and NGOs to design, cost, and support the implementation of an expert hub including provision of supply solutions for assistive products. Led on development of a Pacific Model Priority Assistive Product List to improve access to high quality, affordable assistive products in PICs. Technical lead for coordination of rapid assistive technology assessment surveys conducted in Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Tonga.

Apr 2023 – May 2024 Partnerships Manager – Technical Collaboration & Consultancy, Global Health Unit, NHS England

Worked in partnership with international stakeholders including the WHO, FCDO, THET and Ministries of Health to deliver work focused on facilitating international system-to-system Human Resources for Health (HRH) partnerships and the delivery of workforce transformation/planning and modelling projects globally. I utilised my project management skills to plan, organise and deliver projects throughout the programme lifecycle stages, collaborating with subject matter experts in the healthcare sector.

Aug 2022- Apr 2023 Business & Development Manager- Global Health Partnerships Directorate, Health Education England

Facilitated and co-ordinated all partnerships and business delivery of the Global Health Partnerships Directorate. Collaborated with senior stakeholders to ensure engagement and delivery of Directorate aims to support the development of health services globally and strengthen the National Health Service in the UK. Facilitated knowledge exchange between global partners and the Directorate to support relationship and partnership framework development.

Feb 2021-Aug 2022 Public Health Research Fellow- Born in Bradford

Research lead for Born in Bradford Covid-19 Longitudinal research programme. Consistently monitored and evaluated the programme to ensure research objectives were met and learning from research findings were implemented. Responsible for developing relationships with policy makers locally and nationally to ensure the timely dissemination of findings and health inequalities across ethnically and socioeconomically deprived communities in Bradford were minimised. Synthesised evidence for publication and evaluated outcomes for clinical and service delivery and improvement.

Jan 2020-Feb 2021 0.6 FTE Research Physiotherapist- University of Leeds

Clinical lead for Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) research project. Analysed and evaluated reports and literature to determine the most appropriate treatment methods used in the trial. Successfully applied for funding grant to support the project and NHS ethics application required to conduct the project.

Jan 2020-Feb 2021 **0.4 FTE Senior Physiotherapist- Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust (LTHT)**

Managed and supported the development of a new clinical spinal service within Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust. Developed monitoring, evaluation and learning tools to measure the effectiveness of the service and ensure key targets were met. Provided management and support to a team of 7 junior physiotherapists and provided training on the requirements of the service and ongoing evaluation and delivery of this service.

Sept 2015-Feb 2019 **Physiotherapist- Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust (LTHT)**

Completed rotations within Stroke Rehab, Major Trauma service, rheumatology outpatients, neurosurgery, respiratory medicine and paediatrics. Managed complex caseloads to ensure the delivery of effective patient centred care. Delivered projects and assignments based on the needs of each service, including the development of a patient feedback survey within rheumatology outpatients.

VOLUNTARY EXPERIENCE

Aug 2023-May 2024 **Improving Global Health Fellowship (IGH), NHS England**

Was successfully appointed to the NHS England, Improving Global Health Fellowship scheme and commenced virtual fellowship in August 2023. Worked collaboratively with the Health Education Support Group to support the development of medical education practice in Myanmar following the military coup. As IGH fellow, my role involved ensuring the course content was relevant to the Myanmar context, particularly given the complex political, geographical, and socio-economic challenges faced by those living in Myanmar following the military coup. Successfully secured funding for the project through the THET Remote International Mentoring Partnership Scheme grant and a bid application to the FCDO for £100k.

Feb 2018-Feb 2022 **Treasurer: ADAPT Physiotherapists for Global Health**

Led the ADAPT grant call and contributed to the development of assessment criteria. Reviewed grant applications and reports to ensure that successful applications met the ADAPT requirements. Ensured evaluation of successfully funded projects and shared learning to increase understanding for future global physiotherapy practice.

March 2020-Sept 2020 **Project lead Long-Covid Rehabilitation service**

Established a multidisciplinary team to evaluate the needs of patients discharged from LTHT with Long-Covid symptoms. Utilised matrix management to analyse patient feedback and liaised with other National Long-Covid services to create a business case to support the development of a new Long-Covid service within Leeds. Was successful in securing funding for this service from the Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group. Disseminated findings nationally through briefing reports, and published findings within the Journal of Medical Virology.

March 2019-May 2019 **Volunteer Physiotherapist- Antananarivo, Madagascar**

Worked with the Malagasy Ministry of Health to monitor, evaluate and identify learning and development opportunities for the national physiotherapy service. Supported the development and embedment of service improvement training based on the results of the evaluation. Created a successful proposal for the development of a physiotherapy master's degree within the University of Antananarivo based on service needs. This degree programme commenced in January 2020.

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

Sept 2020-Oct 2022: **Masters in Public Health (Merit)**
University of Sheffield

2011-2014: **BSc. (Hons.) Physiotherapy (2:1)**
University of Birmingham
Elective: Amani centre for children with disabilities, Tanzania

March 2024: **6-Sigma Green Belt qualification**

Sept 2023: **NHS Edward Jenner Leadership Programme**

Nov 2020: **Prince 2 Foundation Project Management**

LETTER OF NOMINATION

FOR THE ELECTION OF STROKE ALLIANCE FOR EUROPE BOARD MEMBERS AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 23 JUNE 2026

Name of the SAFE member organisation: Stroke Association

Full Address: Stroke Association House, 240 City Road, London EC1V 2PR

Email: helpline@stroke.org.uk

Stroke Association would like to nominate Claire McIvor as a member of the Board of the Stroke Alliance for Europe.

I attach their board member application form and current curriculum vitae as requested.

Signed: Juliet Bouverie

Signature:



Position on the board of the nominating organisation: Chief Executive Officer

Date: 27/04/26

Email: juliet.bouverie@stroke.org.uk