

Title	Narrowing the "digital divide" - facilitating access to computer technology to enhance the lives of those with aphasia: a feasibility study
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Appendix

Topic Guide – Focus Groups

	Post-Course Focus Groups	Refresher Class Focus Groups
	Key Objectives: - Establishing prior experience of ICT before their stroke and before classes - Establishing individual experiences of the course - Establishing how individuals envisage future computer use - Establish how ICT can help them with post-stroke communication difficulties	Key Objectives: - Establishing individual experiences of the course (<i>to include those few participants who did not attend immediate post-course focus groups</i>) - Establishing ICT use and change since the course - Establishing impact in everyday lives - Establish usefulness of Refresher Class - Establish how ICT can help them with post-stroke communication difficulties
1.	Introductions - Purpose of discussion - Explain emphasis on ICT rather than their broader experiences of stroke - Ensure each member included and given opportunity to have their voice heard	
2.	ICT use before their stroke and before the classes <i>PROBE: distinguish between ICT high users/very experienced before stroke (i.e. relearning lost knowledge) and ICT inexperienced (learning for first time)</i>	Relate their experiences of the course <i>PROBE: what wanted to learn; what achieved; did it meet expectations; what helped most; method of delivery (talk, student mentoring etc.); length of course, useful/irrelevant; focus on contact with people e.g. grandchildren, relatives abroad, shopping rather than keyboard use etc.</i>
3.	Relate their experiences of the course <i>PROBE: what wanted to learn; what achieved; did it meet expectations; what helped most; method of delivery (talk, student mentoring etc.); length of course, useful/irrelevant; focus on contact with people e.g. grandchildren, relatives abroad, shopping rather than keyboard use etc.</i>	How much have they used ICT at home since the course? Is it different than before the course <i>PROBE: distinguish between ICT high users/very experienced before stroke (i.e. relearning lost knowledge) and ICT inexperienced (learning for first time) and changes since the course</i>
4.	Relate how they are expecting to use computers in the future <i>PROBE: link to what they said originally and their expectations; do they need additional help and are there people there to provide it (spouses/children etc.); optimism future computer use and what for, e.g. connectivity and networking using computers – can it reduce experience of isolation felt by many?</i>	What are they using the computer for since the course <i>PROBE: functional use i.e. using for things like Facebook or emails to keep in touch with people; finding out information on the Internet; online shopping etc. what impact is this making on their lives?</i>
5.	More general discussion about how much computers can help them cope with difficulties they experience following stroke <i>PROBE: needs of people with aphasia; potential for ICT training to help people re-establish networks; get back into employment; take control of their lives or do they think computers are mainly for entertainment (e.g. films). How should such training be offered? Is this a question of SLT due to communication needs? Should we be developing the course further and looking for funding or should a</i>	Usefulness of Refresher Class <i>PROBE: how has this helped e.g. more practice, help remember things forgotten, enjoyed meeting people again/new people etc. ask for specifics & examples. Briefly probe how important the lunchtime break was in getting the opportunity to chat with other people who have aphasia</i>

	<i>wider range of people offer this locally?</i>	
6.		Relate how they are expecting to use computers in the future <i>PROBE: link to what they said originally and their expectations; do they need additional help and are there people there to provide it (spouses/children etc.); optimism future computer use and what for, e.g. connectivity and networking using computers – can it reduce experience of isolation felt by many?</i>
7.		More general discussion about how much computers can help them cope with difficulties they experience following stroke <i>PROBE: needs of people with aphasia; potential for ICT training to help people re-establish networks; get back into employment; take control of their lives or do they think computers are mainly for entertainment (e.g. films). How should such training be offered? Is this a question of SLT due to communication needs? Should we be developing the course further and looking for funding or should a wider range of people offer this locally?</i>