

*Charity celebrates extraordinary commitment  
from volunteer*

## Volunteer becomes CEO of dynamic charity helping those living with the effects of a stroke



**Speak With IT** is a dynamic charity that delivers specially designed computer technology help to stroke sufferers; its supporters (those at the 'coalface' of the life changing effects of a stroke - the family and friends) are passionate about the real benefits this technology can bring to individuals - so much so that one of its volunteers has just committed to steer the group for a year as its **unpaid Chief Executive Officer**.

Carl explained:

"My experiences of helping several people over the last 18 months have convinced me of the merits of the great work and support we, as a charity provide to aphasia sufferers. The fact that Research at the University of Sheffield has shown using computer technology to treat the issues found with processing speech and language after a stroke is more effective than the usual stimulation offered in such cases, drives and inspires me to work towards making our support services available to as wide an audience as possible. For example, people using the computer software independently at home made significantly more improvement in finding the words they wanted than those who did not use computer treatment and our charity facilitates and supports this approach helping directly improve the quality of life of stroke survivors."

The trustees are delighted to have this level of commitment from Carl, whose career to date has seen him working at the top levels of the IT industry. Carl will be hands-on, working with all areas of the charity from technological and administrative improvements to volunteer training and widening the reach of the charity throughout the North of England.

Find out more about this charity and how you can be a part of the success story by speaking to Pip Garside, Press Officer, on 01765 677494 or email at [pipgarside@speakwithit.org](mailto:pipgarside@speakwithit.org) or visit the website at [www.speakwithit.org](http://www.speakwithit.org) Carl can be contacted on [cplay@speakwithit.org](mailto:cplay@speakwithit.org)

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### Notes for editors:

Speak with IT - a charity which aims to help stroke survivors recover their speech:

- Launched 2012 at Headingley Stadium by Harry Gratton
- Organised by families and friends of stroke survivors
- The scheme focuses on the condition known as 'aphasia' - speech and language processing after a stroke
- Encourages self-reliance in the users and enables family and friends to take an active role in their road to improvement and recovery
- Speak with IT has the support of NHS professionals and private Speech & Language Therapists