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STROKE CHARITY SUPPORT

THE Wigan Mayor has chosen his official charity of the year in honour of his fellow colleague who has suffered a stroke.

Coun Michael Winstanley, who began his term of office earlier this year, has elected to support Think Ahead Community Stroke Group, along with Wigan Royal Edward Infirmary, as the official charities of the year.

His decision to support stroke services was prompted after close party colleague, Coun Henry Cadman, who was supposed to take up the mayoral position this time, had a stroke earlier in the year.

Coun Winstanley said: "Henry's illness has emphasised how important it is to

BY NATALIE WALKER

have local services which assist in the care of stroke survivors and also aid their recovery through rehabilitation.

"Think Ahead Stroke Group do fantastic work in the community.

"Their services are crucial to stroke survivors, their carers and families across the borough.

"I am very pleased to be supporting their work during my term."

Think Ahead is a stroke awareness charity offering stroke survivors and carers, across Wigan and Leigh, help and support to improve the quality of their lives by providing friendship, information, advice, support and education.

The group also provides opportunities for interaction with other members by organising outings, respite breaks and appropriate social activities.

Mike Aspinall,

Think Ahead chairman, said: "We are absolutely delighted that Mayor Winstanley has chosen to support our group and local stroke services for the Mayor's charity.

"Around 1,000 people across Wigan and Leigh experience a stroke every year, many of whom are left with serious long-term health issues and disabilities, and yet the condition doesn't get the recognition it warrants.

"We are hoping that, with Mayor Winstanley's support, we can raise some much-needed funds for Think Ahead and raise awareness of stroke across the borough."

If you would like to organise an event to help raise funds to improve local stroke services, contact the Mayor's office on 01942 404 149.

Donations to the Mayor's charity can be made out to Mayor's Charity Appeal and forwarded to the Mayoral Secretary, Wigan Council, Town Hall, Library Street, Wigan, WN1 1YN.

For more information on Think Ahead Stroke Group and the work they do in the community, visit www.think-ahead.org.uk or call 01942 824 888.



VITAL CHARITY: Above, Wigan's Mayor Coun Michael Winstanley with Think Ahead stroke group chairman Mike Aspinall and charity administrator Carol Sankey, and, left, Coun Henry Cadman

