

Exhibition at Filmhouse

In Scotland, stroke is currently the third most common cause of death and there are around 13,000 strokes each year.

The effects of stroke can be more than just loss of movement in a hand or leg, people may change their role or status and the condition can also damage their self-esteem and confidence.

Rehabilitation is often the key to helping people recover – and with this in mind a special art project has been running at the Firhill Centre in Edinburgh over the last two years. This scheme is part of the Edinburgh Community Stroke Service.

A group of individuals have been meeting up every Monday and expressing their life experiences through a series of drawings, paintings and sculptures.

Now, after 24 months of work, the patient's collection of artwork is due to go on public display.

The special project was organised in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council, Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland (CHSS) and NHS Lothian's Stroke Managed Clinical Network.

Councillor Paul Edie Health and Social Care Leader for Edinburgh, said: "This was a fantastic project – not only did the service users receive rehabilitation, but they also gained a great deal of enjoyment from creating their own artwork.

"Over the past 24 months, the project has been a lifeline and has helped patients build up their confidence and self-worth again. I am very much looking forward to seeing all the paintings and drawings for myself at this very unique and exciting exhibition."