

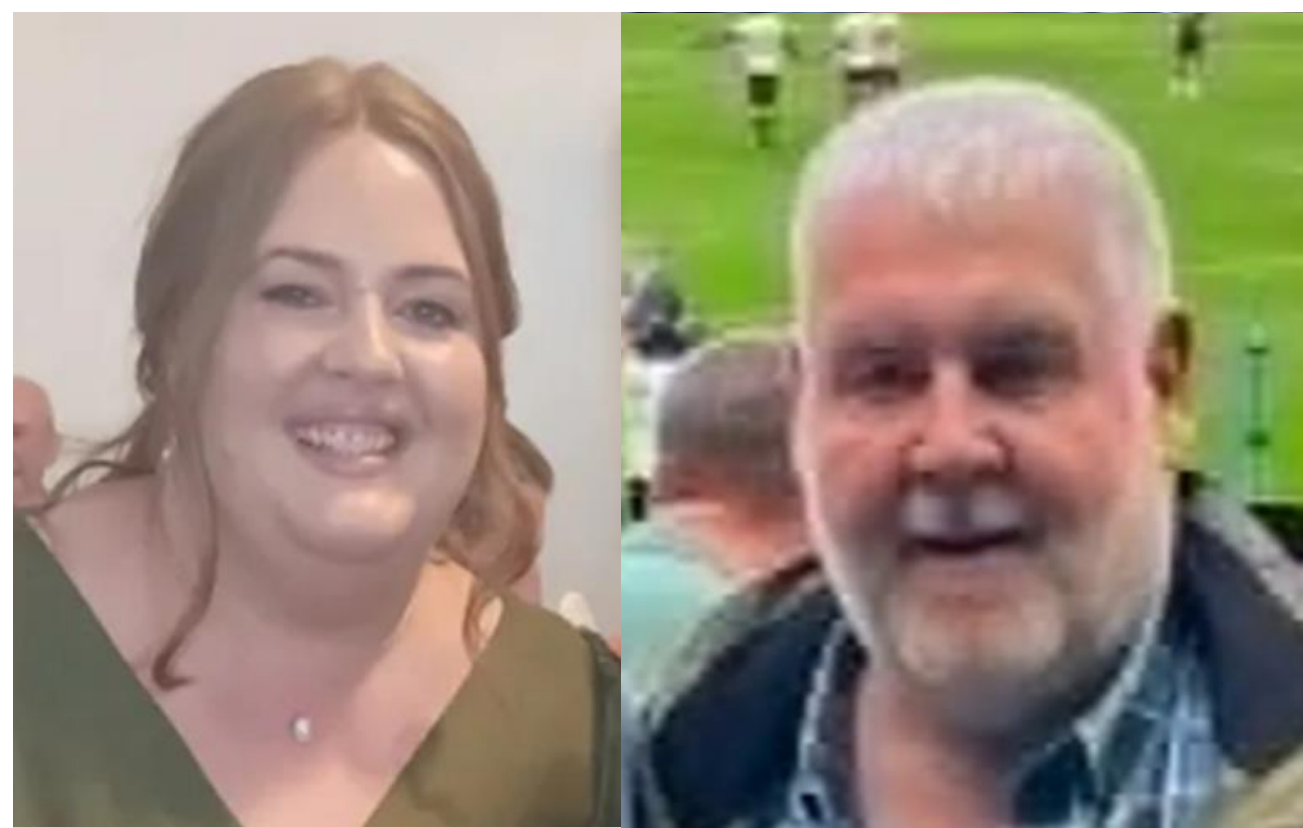
## DONEGAL APHASIA CAFÉ IRELAND'S FIRST 'HYBRID' APHASIA CONVERSATION GROUP

### AUTHORS

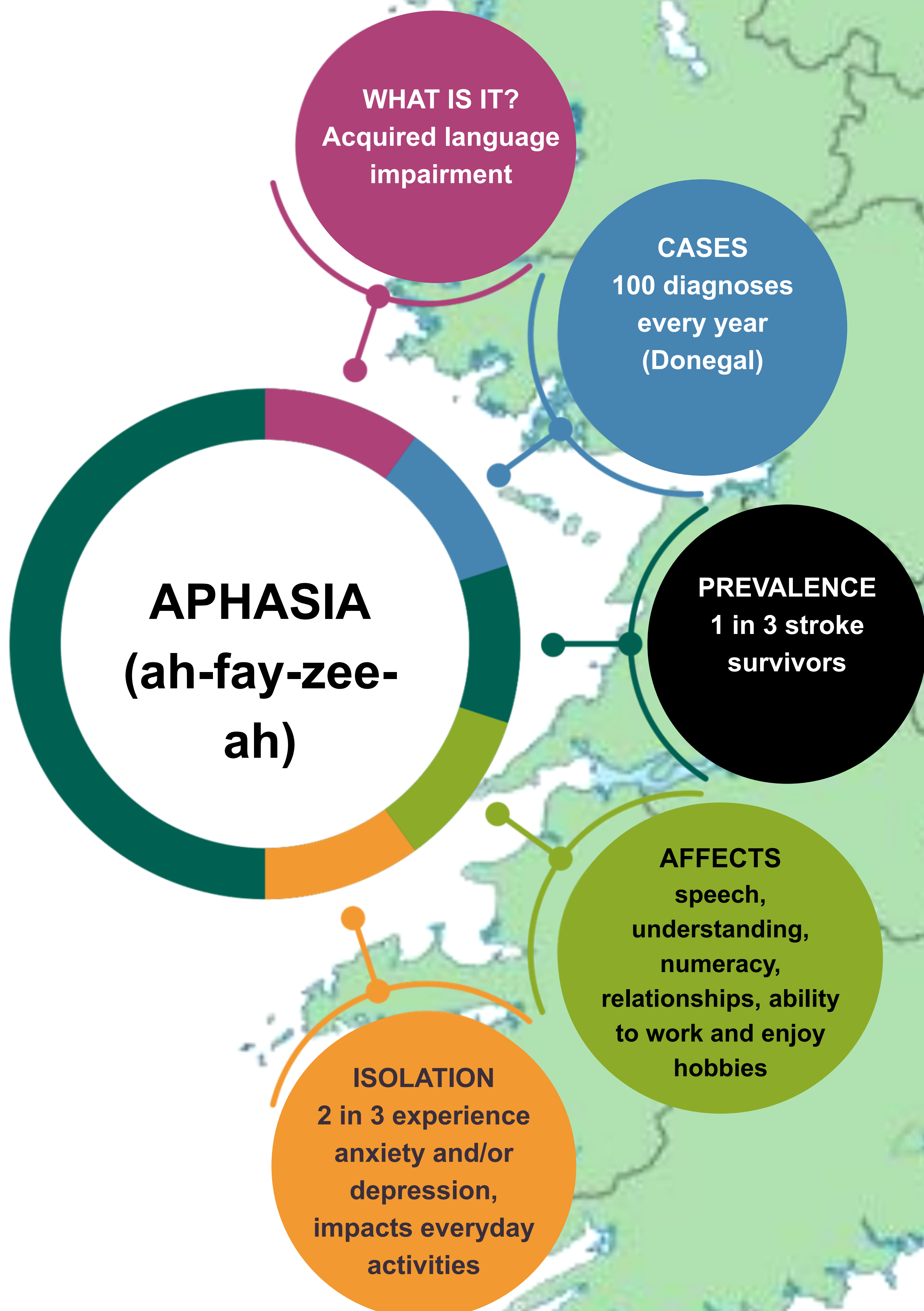
Dr. Louise Sterritt, Senior Speech & Language Therapist  
Mr. Larry Masterson, Aphasia Advocate & Stroke "Thriver"  
Ms. Denise Duggan, Speech & Language Therapy Manager, Donegal  
Mr. Rory Kavanagh, CHN Manager, Donegal North



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### BACKGROUND



### ACTIONS

- Louise and Larry met online each week (September – October 2022) and
- Collaborated to co-design and co-create an Aphasia Conversation Group (Aphasia Café) for Donegal.
- Launched the group in October 2022.
- The group meets in-person at the Central Library, Letterkenny.

#### The Aphasia Conversation Group was created to provide:

- Support to people with aphasia at the Activity and Participation Levels of the WHO ICF (2007).
- A safe and supported space for people with aphasia to develop communication skills, facilitated by a Speech & Language Therapist.
- Communication support materials (e.g. topic boards, alphabet charts)
- Open / self-referrals to the group (Referral forms for Speech & Language also available through group).
- A 'hybrid' model (to suit Donegal's wide geographical spread, and in consideration of ongoing Covid concerns).
- One online (WebEx) and one in-person meeting every month (alternating fortnightly).



### OUTCOMES



#### AWARDS

Best HSCP Project at the HSE Bright Sparks Award Summit (June 2023)

#### ENGAGEMENTS

18 meetings held (11 face-to-face, 7 virtual)

#### PARTICIPANTS

22 people with aphasia, 8 health professionals  
80% of participants have attended 2+ meetings, of which 45% have attended both in-person and virtually

### THE FUTURE

DONEGAL ROADSHOW  
Face-to-Face Meetings

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Raising public awareness of aphasia  
Raising professional awareness of aphasia

#### SUPPORT MATERIALS

Newspapers / magazines for the group