Press Release

Hampshire Hospitals supports appeal for families to have a lifesaving talk during Organ Donation Week

HAMPshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is proudly supporting Organ Donation Week and an appeal for everyone in the community to talk about organ donation.

Over the last year, 152 people in Hampshire have received lifesaving or life changing transplants. However hundreds of transplants are being missed around the country every year because families don’t know what their relative wanted.

During Organ Donation Week, which runs from 4 September until 10 September, NHS Blood and Transplant, hospitals, charities and supporters of organ donation are encouraging people across the UK to talk about organ donation with their relatives and friends. By doing this, if you are ever able to be an organ donor your family won’t be left with making a difficult decision without knowing what you wanted.

NHS Blood and Transplant surveys show more than 80 per cent of people support organ donation but only around 49 per cent of people have ever talked about it. Research also shows that women are 30 per cent more likely to start a conversation about organ donation than men.

Rachel Clare, specialist nurse for organ donation at Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said “We are proud to support this lifesaving appeal and it’s really easy for everyone to take part. Just have a chat. “That chat might be the next time you sit down for a meal, when you are shopping or working, or when you are just driving in the car. If you want to be a donor, your family’s support is still needed for donation to go ahead, even if you are on the NHS Organ Donor Register.”

Families who agree to donate say it helps with their grief and that they feel an enormous sense of pride at knowing their relative gave others the chance of a new beginning.

Anthony Clarkson, Assistant Director of Organ Donation and Transplantation at NHS Blood and Transplant, said: “We are really grateful for Hampshire Hospitals’ support because hundreds of lives are being lost every year.

“This Organ Donation Week, tell your family you want to save lives. A few words now can make an extraordinary difference. It will also make things much easier for your family to make the right decision.

“If you are unsure about donation, please ask yourselves as a family; what would you do if one of you needed a transplant? Would you accept a life-saving organ? If you’d take an organ, shouldn’t you be prepared to donate?”

There is a particular need for more black and Asian people to talk about donation. Patients from these communities make up 29 per cent of the national transplant waiting list but they are less likely to agree to donate. Organs from people from the same ethnic background are more likely to be a close match and give the best chance of a positive outcome.
For additional information contact the Hampshire Hospitals communications team: 01256 313062, communications@hhft.nhs.uk
Alternatively call the NHSBT Press Office on 01923 367 600 or email pressoffice@nhsbt.nhs.uk

Press release notes

NHSBT carries out biannual attitudinal surveys. The fourth wave in 2017, involved 1499 interviews carried out via online self-completion between the 10th and 21st of April 2017. In this wave, 81% of people supported organ donation in principle. NHSBT also commissioned research specifically on organ donation conversations. The quantitative element comprised a survey of 2656 adults aged 18 years or above in England carried out online by YouGov from 15th to 19th May. 49% of people had had a conversation with a partner or family member about organ donation. Asked who would initiate a conversation about organ donation, 57% of women said they would expect themselves to do it, and 44% of men said they would expect themselves to do it.

Notes to editors

NHS Blood and Transplant is a joint England and Wales Special Health Authority. We are responsible for ensuring a safe and efficient supply of blood and associated services to the NHS in England. We are also the organ donation organisation for the UK and are responsible for matching and allocating donated organs.

- Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust provides hospital services to a population of approximately 570,000 people in Hampshire and parts of West Berkshire.
- HHFT has around 6,000 staff and a turnover of £385 million a year.
- HHFT delivers one hospital service across multiple locations including its own hospitals, Andover War Memorial Hospital, Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital and Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester. It also provides outpatient and assessment services from Bordon and Alton community hospitals.
- As a Foundation Trust, HHFT is accountable to the local community through a system of local ownership with members and elected governors. HHFT has around 18,000 staff and public members. Foundation Trusts are free from central government control and can reinvest any surplus to develop clinical services. They are authorised and regulated by NHS Improvement, an independent regulator.