



**Give life
Sign up**

Calderdale and Huddersfield **NHS**

NHS Foundation Trust

Update 2013

DonationNews

A special publication in support of NHS Blood and Transplant

Most successful year yet in region for transplants

More men, women and children than ever in Halifax and Huddersfield are having their lives saved or enhanced after receiving an organ transplant.

Last year was the most successful ever nationally and this was the case locally as well. Nationally, more than 4,000 transplants were carried out – the first time the 4,000 barrier has been broken – and the figure was also 6% up on the year before.

Locally 68 patients received transplants. The majority were kidney transplants with other patients receiving heart, lung liver and corneal transplants. This is a 20% increase in three years, which reflects that more and more people are signing up to the register and telling their families about their wishes.

Every day three people die while waiting for an organ transplant

and many others lose their lives before they even get on to the transplant waiting list.

Despite improving figures, there remains a serious shortage of organs and the gap between the number of organs donated and the number of people waiting remains high.

This is mainly because people who may want to become donors can find it difficult to share their wishes with their families. If the

time comes their families are not sure what they would want, and this uncertainty can lead to a family declining the option of donation.

One donor can save the lives of several people, restore the sight of two others and improve the quality of life of many more.

By choosing to join the NHS Organ Donor Register you could help to make sure life goes on for many others.



Craig Wimpenny and wife Dawn. Picture: Huddersfield Examiner

Craig's new lease of life

Dad Craig Wimpenny is passionate about encouraging people to sign up to the organ donor register – because he is alive thanks to a donor heart.

Two years ago Craig, 45, a previously fit and healthy man from Linthwaite, suddenly fell seriously ill and was diagnosed with cardiomyopathy from a virus which attacked his heart. He was admitted to hospital on a ward where two other men were also waiting for a heart transplant.

Fortunately for Craig, the call came through with the news a match had been found for him. He underwent transplant surgery lasting five and a half

hours and is now two years down the road to recovery, back at work for Kirklees Council and enjoying life again with his wife Dawn and son Jordan. He has even run the Manchester 10k.

Craig said: "On the ward there were three of us waiting for the call. Two of us received transplants one sadly didn't and died. More lives will be saved the more people are on the register. The more people on the register the better.

"I was on the register before I needed a transplant and I would say to anyone thinking about it to do it. It is an amazing thought that you could save someone else's life after you're gone."



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Experienced medics head up Trust support team

Two experienced members of staff head up the organ donation support team at our Trust.

Dr Peter Hall, a consultant anaesthetist, is our clinical lead for organ donation. His role is to ensure robust processes are in place within the Trust so that everyone who is on the organ donor register is offered the chance to donate. He is available to answer questions from fellow professionals over all aspects of organ donation and to keep them informed of recent initiatives and developments with regards to organ donation.

Former intensive care sister Jayne Greenhalgh is employed as specialist nurse in organ donation based at our Trust. She spends most of her time helping to identify possible donor cases. She is closely involved in the approach to donor families and the process of donation itself in our Trust and also in other



hospitals when on call. She educates nursing and medical staff on all aspects of organ donation.

Jayne and Peter work closely with the teams in our intensive care unit and play an active role in promotion throughout the year in a bid to boost the number of patients who donate and save lives.

They were part of an event where we teamed up with local club Huddersfield Town FC when the club played Oldham.

The club asked us if they could promote organ donation amongst their fans and visiting fans at certain matches so a team – with special Give and Let Live T-shirts – was despatched to the ground.

Thousands of leaflets were given out and our staff went on the pitch at half-time to answer questions. Information was also flashed across big screens at the ground.

The response we got from football fans was supportive



Peter and Jayne, above, at the match. Left: Jayne, front right, and Peter, back row second right, together with intensive care unit staff and Huddersfield Town footballers

and friendly and they were able to register to donate by text on the day. Shortly afterwards there was a surge in the numbers of donors signed to the register and we believe the football fans played a key role in this.

Since then we have had inquiries from other teams who are keen to host a similar match-day promotion.

Jayne said: "Many fans already knew someone who had received an organ and wanted to talk about it with us which was very heartening and then the extra numbers who joined the register as a result of the match was a tremendous boost."

Shortages in population

Two recent reports in 2013 have highlighted there is a severe shortage of donors amongst the black and ethnic minorities groups of people.

There has been little change in the number of donors amongst these groups over the last four years with only around 50 donors a year nationally.

Yet there has been an increase in the number of patients awaiting an organ from these groups – with around 25% of those awaiting an organ coming from these groups.

Whilst the number of some ethnicities joining the register has increased, there



David Harewood

has been no increase in those of Pakistani, Bangladeshi or Afro-Caribbean origin.

National Blood and Transplant Association ambassador, David Harewood, said: "Black and Asian people are dying because there are not enough people from our communities coming forward as stem cell or organ donors. We can change this. I am honoured to be a Donor Ambassador for the NBTA".

Did you know...?

- The first successful kidney transplant was in 1954. The first heart transplant took place in 1967.
- You are more likely to need a transplant than become a donor.
- A donor can donate a heart, lungs, two kidneys, pancreas, liver and small bowel and can restore the sight of two people by donating their corneas.
- Surgical techniques, such as splitting livers, have meant that a donor can help more patients than ever before.
- Donors can also give bone and tissue such as skin, heart valves and tendons. Skin grafts have helped people with severe burns and bone is used in orthopaedic surgery.



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Myth-Buster

Four lives saved

Chris Milenovic saved four lives through organ donation.

Chris, from Dalton, was just 30 when he died from head injuries after a fall at home, brought on by complications after an unprovoked attack years earlier. His family has been told his organs went to a 16-year-old girl and two boys aged 16 and 14.

His proud mum Ann Fergusson was invited to open the memorial garden at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, created as a lasting memorial to those patients at our Trust who have given the great gift of an organ.

Ann said: "Just knowing that a person is living a better life as a result is a huge comfort to us. People should sign up to the register and make sure their families know it is their wish to become an organ donor when they are gone."

The girl received Chris's lungs and the two boys each received one of his kidneys. A 50-year-old woman received his liver and his bones, skin and tissue are being stored for future recipients.

Chris was one of 16 donors in the past year whose families have been supported by the team at the Trust. There were three donors in 2011 and 12 in 2012.

Specialist nurse Jayne



Greenhalgh said:

"At times of such sadness it can mean so much to a family knowing that others have the gift of life. We are here to offer all the support they need and to reassure and keep them informed every step of the way at these difficult times.

"Knowing your loved ones wishes, as well as signing up to the register, can make all the difference when difficult decisions are made."

● As well as the gardens, the Trust has also set up two wooden honeycomb memorials inside our



Above, Chris's mum, Ann Fergusson, opening the rose garden, watched by family and staff. Left, Chris

two hospitals which bear the names of all our patients who have become donors. Local schoolboy Ben Holmes designed it, inspired by the fact that bees help each other in their close-knit communities, and it can also be added to over the coming years.

Jayne added: "It is important to us that the families of our donors have somewhere, if they wish, to come and remember their loved ones who have given the greatest gift."

Here are some of the common myths associated with organ donation and the reality of these situations

● "If I'm in an accident and the hospital knows I want to be a donor, the doctors won't try to save my life!"

Reality: When you go to the hospital for treatment, doctors focus on saving your life – not somebody else's. The medical team treating you is completely separate from the transplant team. Transplant teams are only notified of the possibility of donation AFTER a person has been declared legally dead and the family have agreed to donation.

● "I'm not in the greatest health; nobody would want my organs or tissues"

Reality: Very few medical conditions automatically disqualify you from donating organs. The decision to use an organ is based on strict medical criteria. It may turn out that certain organs are not suitable for transplantation, but other organs and tissues may be fine.

● "People can recover from brain death"

Reality: People can recover from comas but not brain death. Coma and brain death are not the same. No one has ever recovered after the diagnosis of brain death using the documented neurological criteria.

● "Organ and tissue donation means my body will be mutilated and treated badly"

Reality: Donated organs are removed surgically in an operation similar to those carried out routinely in operating theatres. Donation doesn't disfigure the body or change the way it looks in an open coffin.

Local facts and figures

Huddersfield and Halifax postcode areas statistics as at September 2013

Transplant waiting list as at 2 September 2013			
Organ	Active	Suspended*	TOTAL
Kidney	34	16	50
Heart	1	2	3
Lung(s)	2	-	2
Liver	9	-	9
TOTAL	46	18	64

*Suspended means the patient has been temporarily removed from the list. This happens for such reasons as being too ill to undergo the operation or being away on holiday.

Transplants - by financial year				
Organ	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Kidney (deceased)	8	9	15	25
Kidney (live)	3	5	5	3
Kidney/Pancreas	-	1	-	-
Heart	1	2	2	1
Lung(s)	-	2	1	3
Liver (deceased)	4	7	1	4
Other multi-organ	1	-	-	-
TOTAL ORGANS	17	26	24	36
Cornea	36	38	36	30
Sclera	4	5	1	2
TOTAL	57	69	61	68

Organ Donor Register (ODR)
In September 2013 there were 127,825 people residing in the Huddersfield and Halifax postcode area on the UK Organ Donor Register.

Join the NHS Organ Donor Register by calling **0300 123 23 23** or visiting **www.organdonation.nhs.uk**





Please register my details on the NHS Organ Donor Register

Please complete in CAPITAL LETTERS using a black ballpoint pen, place into an envelope and post to: FREEPOST RRZK-SHUX-SBCK, NHS Blood and Transplant, Fox Den Road, Stoke Gifford, Bristol, BS34 8RR.

*indicates that a field must be completed.

My name and address

Surname*		Forename(s)*	
Date of birth*	/	/	Male <input type="checkbox"/> * Female <input type="checkbox"/> *
Address*			
		Postcode*	
Telephone			
Mobile			
Email			

My wishes

I want to donate: (please tick the boxes that apply)

- A. any of my organs and tissue **or**
 B. my kidneys heart liver small bowel eyes lungs pancreas tissue
for transplantation after my death.

Signature _____
 Date _____

Please tick here if you would like to receive future information about blood, organ and tissue donation from NHS Blood and Transplant.

My ethnic origin

There's a better chance of getting a closer match and a successful transplant if the donor and recipient are from the same ethnic group. Please tick the ethnic group which best describes you.

- White:** British Irish Other
Mixed: White/Black Caribbean White/Asian White/Black African Other
Asian or Asian British: Indian Pakistani Bangladeshi Other
Black or Black British: Caribbean African Other
Other ethnic categories: Chinese Other
Not stated:

Data Protection Assurance. Completion of this form is for the purpose of recording your wishes to become an organ donor. All information provided to NHS Blood and Transplant is used in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Your data may be handled on our behalf in a country not normally covered by EU Data Protection law. If so, we will ensure that the data will be protected by the EU requirements. More information on how we look after your personal details can be found at www.nhsbt.nhs.uk or by calling 0300 123 23 23.

If you wish to amend or withdraw your record from the NHS Organ Donor Register you can do so by calling the Organ Donor Line on 0300 123 23 23, visiting www.organdonation.nhs.uk or writing to us at the address above.