

# Organ donation committee – December 2013

Summary of our most recent meeting

## Latest update

In the last quarter, two of our patients became organ donors. Both were aged over 60 and they were both able to donate liver and kidneys.

Since March 2013, we have facilitated eight life-saving transplants. The numbers are small, but everything matters when you're in need of a transplant.

We never forget that every organ donation is a gift, and we're proud of the approach we take to supporting families faced with making a difficult decision.

## Reporting our performance

Our hospitals are measured against targets that the board monitors. We are performing well, but there are some areas that could be improved – particularly referral to a specialist nurse. Specialist nurses play a pivotal role in explaining organ donation to families in a sensitive way. We need to make sure referrals are made.

## Being consistent

Our organ donation leads are based at Worcester, so over the next year we're going to make an effort to increase visibility at the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch. By making our experts more available at teaching sessions and working on the wards, we will be able to build relationships with staff at both sites. That will help us all to take a consistent approach to organ donation.

## Corneal retrieval changes

An upper age limit has now been placed on corneal retrieval. Patients must be under 80 years of age in order to donate, previously there was no limit.

## Schools programme

Michael and Elisabeth Amies have been running a series of speeches at sixth form colleges in Worcestershire. The programme is going really well and has received national recognition from NHS Blood and Transplant. The next step is to embed the training into the local curriculum and ask teachers to take over the presentations for next year. Michael and Elisabeth will have presented their story to over 6000 teenagers by the end of the programme. We're planning now to make better use of social media – particularly to get feedback about the presentations.

## Organ donation champions in the community

Worcestershire County Council is providing support to encourage local people to become organ donation champions. There will be a launch event at County Hall in the spring. Committee members will get involved in the event and the campaign to recruit. Aim is to recruit at least 20 champions from across the county, and ask them to support with organ donation promotional events.

## Anthony Nolan Trust

We're looking into developing a partnership with the Anthony Nolan Trust. Their campaigns about bone marrow transplant cross into the same territory as our initiatives, and it might be helpful to work together.

## Next meeting

2 April 2014 – although a project team will meet earlier than this to work on the County Hall event and surrounding campaign for champions.