

Plea for organ donors to alert families

02 September 2020

That huge act of generosity saved the lives of 103 people who desperately needed a transplant – in addition to those who received a transplant thanks to organ donors and their families from elsewhere in the country.



Yes I donate
ORGAN DONATION

In the last year, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (CUH) carried out 191 kidney transplants, 19 kidney and pancreas, 95 liver, four liver and kidney, one heart and kidney, and 13 bowel transplants – transforming the lives of 323 people.

The Trust celebrated the first anniversary of its 100th multi-visceral transplant patient, Stephen Cooper, from Bishop's Stortford, who during a single operation received a liver, small bowel, pancreas and kidney.

The figures were released as CUH prepares to mark national Organ Donor Awareness Week starting on September 7.

It will highlight that the law around organ donation has moved to an opt-out system. All adults in England will be considered as willing to donate when they die, unless they have recorded a decision not to, are in one of the excluded groups, or have told their family they don't wish to.

Families will still be involved before organ donation goes ahead, so it is important donors share their decision with family or closest friends, and record it on the NHS Organ Donor Register.

Donors could save or transform up to nine people's lives and help others by donating tissue, such as heart valves, skin, bone, tendons and corneas.

The 70m Addenbrooke's chimney will be floodlit in pink all week and Cambridge's Kings College will be illuminated on Thursday 10 September. Addenbrooke's nurses will walk there in memory of donors and to promote donation.

At 6.30pm on Wednesday, 9 September, the CUH Facebook

page will host a lecture entitled 'Organ donation in 2020 – successes, hopes and challenges' with CUH consultant in paediatric intensive care, and clinical lead for organ donation, Dr Riaz Kayani.

He has presided over organ donation activity since 2016 and today the Trust is one of the highest donating trusts in the UK. Dr Kayani said: "The sad reality is that every day across the UK, someone still dies waiting for a transplant."

Specialist nurse for organ donation, Claire Murphy, added: "We fully understand how important it is for families to make a decision in a way that honours their faith, beliefs and values.

"Organ donation can offer comfort to the families of donors through the knowledge that something remarkable and truly incredible comes from their loss - the transformation of another's life."

Anyone who wants to learn more about organ donation or register their organ donation decision, should visit: www.organdonation.nhs.uk