



Subject:	Promotion of Organ Donation
Date:	13 June 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
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Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To update Committee on changes to the Human Transplantation Bill for Northern Ireland, which places new statutory requirements on the Department of Health, discuss the current situation with organ donation within Northern Ireland, and highlight proposed action to increase organ donation registrations and consent rates within Northern Ireland.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Note the content of the report;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree to the Departments request to work in partnership with the Health and Social Care Trusts and voluntary sector to promote organ donation; and • Agree to support Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to promote organ donation week (4 -10 September 2017).
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Human Transplantation Bill for Northern Ireland places a statutory requirement on the Department of Health regarding the promotion of organ donation. At any one time there are approximately 150 people in Northern Ireland awaiting a transplantation and each year approximately 15 people die while waiting for an organ. Evidence taken during the process of developing the Human Transplantation Bill, identified the need to get families talking about transplantation and expressing their views to one another.</p>
3.2	<p>While organ donation is supported by approximately 90% of the population, currently in Northern Ireland, only 39% of people have signed the organ donation register. This is reflective of the low registration levels across the United Kingdom, when compared to other European Countries, such as Spain or Croatia.</p>
3.3	<p>Coupled with the low registration levels, Northern Ireland also has the lowest consent rates for donation, of any region in the United Kingdom (outside of London). The donation consent rate in Northern Ireland is only 63%, compared to the North of England, which has the highest consent rate of 85%.</p>
3.4	<p>Low consent rates for donation have been linked to families not knowing the wishes of their loved ones, with consent rates for donation almost twice as high when the wishes of a loved one are known, compared to when their wishes are unknown to their family. Any effective strategy to increase consent rates for donation will therefore require a focus on promoting organ donation at a local population level and encouraging families to talk with each other about their thoughts and wishes for donation.</p>
3.5	<p>To realise this, the Department of Health have identified the need for the Health and Social Care Trusts to work in partnership with local government and the voluntary sector, in the development of local communication plans to promote organ donation. A facilitated meeting of partners has taken place and the unique role of each partner considered in raising awareness of this critical issue.</p>

3.6	Further to this, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, a statutory partner within the Belfast Agenda, have approached Council, through the Organ Donation Committee (based at the Royal Victoria Hospital) for support in promoting Organ Donation Week (Monday 4 th to Sunday 10 th September). This would include the provision of promotional material within existing Council communication platforms, both external and internal, and within Council facilities and workplaces.
3.7	Council support the promotion of organ donation through a range of work including its work with Strangeboat Donor Foundation, Galway, which saw the installation of a stone candle sculpture within Botanic Park, to commemorate those who have given the gift of life. The sculpture was officially unveiled by the Lord Mayor of Belfast and the Mayor of Galway, in January 2017. At this time Council also agreed support for a similar sculpture to be gifted to its sister city of Boston City, as part of a global initiative to stage an international organ donor commemorative event this year.
3.8	Supporting the Department of Health and Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to increase levels of registered organ donors and rates of organ consent, represents an opportunity to change the lives of those people awaiting transplantations and their families, and is in support of the new vision of Belfast - as a compassionate place.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.9	There are no Financial or Resource implications to the recommendations outlined above.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.10	There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications to the recommendations outlined above.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None