

SHEFFIELD ORGAN DONORS RECEIVE PERSONAL THANKS

Sheffield residents have shown that they are committed to saving lives by answering a call for people in the city to join the NHS Organ Donor Register.

Nearly 4,500 Sheffield residents have added themselves to the NHS Organ Donor Register over the past month, after the health partnership for the city, Sheffield First for Health, wrote to every council tax payer and urged them to sign up.

Due to the huge response from people in Sheffield the Chief Executive of UK Transplant, Sue Sutherland has written to Bob Kerslake and Andy Buck, Joint Chairs of Sheffield First for Health to give her personal thanks to the city.

In the letter, Sue says: "I would like to give my sincere thanks to the thousands of Sheffield residents who responded so magnificently to the appeal for more organ donors.

"These thoughtful people have joined more than 11.3 million others across the country who have placed their names on the NHS Organ Donor Register, pledging to save lives by allowing their organs to be used for transplantation after their death.

"Transplant surgery is one of the most amazing advances in modern medicine and is helping to save and transform the lives of thousands of people every year; however, sadly, many people still die because of a chronic shortage of organ donors."

Research has shown that 90% of the population support transplantation but so far only 19% have joined the NHS Organ Donor Register. Adding yourself to the Register is easy and can be done online at www.uktransplant.org.uk or by calling 0845 60 60 400. Potential donors who sign up to the register can choose whether they would like to donate all of their organs after their death, or they can select which they would or would not like to donate from a list including kidneys, corneas, heart, lungs, liver or pancreas.

There are currently 82 people in Sheffield waiting for organ transplants which would dramatically improve their quality of life. However, of a population of 520,000 there are just over 80,000 city residents on the NHS Organ Donor Register.

Joint Chair of Sheffield First for Health, Andy Buck said: "We are delighted by the response we have had from people in Sheffield in the wake of our postal campaign. It is a clear sign, as the statistics suggest, that there are many people who support organ donation but either don't know how to go about it or have not thought about it and discussed it with their families.

"Organ donation, while obviously saving lives, also brings some benefit to donor families who say they gain comfort from knowing that their loved one, although no longer with them, has helped someone else to enjoy renewed life.

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"Organ donation is something we can all sign up for. Whilst UK Transplant is thoroughly grateful for Sheffield's contribution so far, there are still many more people in Sheffield who are not on the register. I hope we can count on more people to sign up in the future."

Notes to Editors

- For more information on organ donation call the Organ Donor Line on 0845 60 60 400 or visit www.uktransplant.org.uk.
- [Sheffield First For Health \(www.sheffieldfirstforhealth.net\)](http://www.sheffieldfirstforhealth.net)
Sheffield First for Health is a branch of the local strategic partnership, Sheffield First Partnership. SFfH is made up of representatives from agencies across the city including the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Sheffield Care Trust, the four city Primary Care Trusts, South Yorkshire Strategic Health Authority voluntary and community groups and the city's universities.

Ends

For more information contact Polly Rippon at diva on 0114 221 0378 or email pr@divacreative.com