

NHSBT Board Meeting – 25 July 2019

Written update from Northern Ireland

The Department of Health in Northern Ireland launched a policy statement in December 2018 that provides guidance on the Department's statutory duty to promote organ donation and transplantation. The policy statement can be accessed at <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/health/organ-donation-policy-statement.pdf>

The policy statement commits the Department to provide ring-fenced funding to implement the policy, including the appointment of a Regional Organ Donation Promotion Manager/Co-ordinator; this funding has been secured on a recurrent basis and work to recruit this important post is currently ongoing.

Also contained within the policy statement is the commitment to establish an Organ Donation Steering Group to oversee the implementation of the policy. Membership of the group will consist of representatives of the following:

- Health and Social Care Board;
- Public Health Agency;
- Regional Organ Donation Promotion Manager/Co-Ordinator [subject to appointment];
- Regional Clinical Lead for Organ Donation (plus a deputy);
- Regional Specialist Nurse for Organ Donation (plus a deputy);
- Trust Organ Donation Committee Chairs;
- Patient representatives; and
- A lay member of society.

As we do not yet have full membership of the group, including a NI Regional Organ Donation Promotion Manager, who will be key to developing a workplan and driving forward the policy statement, it was decided to convene the group in shadow format at present.

The inaugural meeting in shadow format took place on 9 July and provided a useful platform to co-ordinate arrangements for organ donation week in September and to discuss potential members for a sub-group for charities, who could feed into the work of the main group.

It is expected that the group will meet again in mid-August to confirm arrangements for organ donation week.