

NHSBT Board Meeting – 26 September 2019

Written update from Northern Ireland

The Department of Health in Northern Ireland continues to work to implement its policy statement, *Promoting Human Organ Donation and Transplantation in Northern Ireland*, which was launched in December 2018 and provides guidance on the Department's statutory duty to promote organ donation and transplantation.

The recently established Organ Donation Steering Group has met in shadow format on two occasions, with work focussing on identifying members to establish a sub-committee for charities to help inform the work of the Steering Group.

Work is ongoing to recruit a NI Regional Organ Donation Promotion Manager; however, it is not yet possible to give a date for the position to be filled, but it is hoped that it will be advertised in the near future.

During the recent Organ Donation Week, there was a series of co-ordinated events across the region, culminating with a service of thanksgiving in Armagh Cathedral to honour both donors and the recipients of organs. The Department of Health worked closely with the NHSBT NI Organ Donation Services Team and charities during the week to promote a collaborative approach to raising awareness.

The next meeting of the Steering Group will take place on 5 November, when discussions will include developing a forward work plan.

In other areas, the Department continues to liaise with colleagues in the rest of the UK regarding the upcoming change in legislation for organ donation in England and Scotland and for EU exit preparations.