

Continuing to Raise Awareness of the importance of Organ and Tissue Donation.



Blood and Transplant

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Introduction

NHS Lothian provides primary, community – based and acute hospital services for the second largest residential population in Scotland. The two teaching hospitals are the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh (level 1) and the Western General (level 4) which until 2021 was the highest donating hospital in Scotland. St John's, a level 4 district general hospital in Livingston which has a small number of potential organ donors. In 2021, Neuroscience Services in the Western General were relocated to Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. It was recognised that even with much smaller numbers of potential donors that the level of engagement with the organ donation service continued and steps to continue awareness was important.

Methods

A meeting was arranged with RCLOD, CLOD and embedded SNOD. The aim of the meeting was to discuss how we could continue to raise awareness and promote organ and tissue donation. We also wanted to take the opportunity thank the staff of the Western general for their amazing support and achievement throughout the years.

Results

An afternoon of 'Celebration of Organ Donation and Transplantation' at the Western General was arranged. It was agreed that the Lothian's Grand Round would feature Organ and Tissue Donation as its main agenda item. Speakers would include CLOD, SNOD and a recipient member of the Organ Donation Committee Sub-group. A 100KM cycle would be undertaken by the CLOD at the main entrance of the Western General for Race for Recipients during Organ Donation Week 2022.

Conclusion

The 'Celebration of Organ Donation' afternoon was extremely well attended by staff from ICU, theatres and other specialities within the hospital. The event received significant positive feedback from those who attended the event and was echoed with further favourable comments from staff across NHS Lothian. In particular it was commented upon how wonderful it had been to have a recipient speak on the Grand Round. The 100K cycle at the main entrance of the hospital, which took approximately 4 hours, generated great discussion not only with varying members of hospital staff, but also the general public. The cycle was so successful we plan to have it on all 3 Lothian sites for Organ Donation Week. A sub-group has been set up to plan future events to continue promoting the amazingly generous act of organ and tissue donation that can save and enhance thousand of lives each year.

