



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## **NHSBT BOARD – 6 JUNE 2024**

### **UPDATE FROM THE WELSH GOVERNMENT**

#### **1. Organ donation and transplantation position – Wales**

The Wales data constitutes the South Wales Organ Donation Team and 1 Health Board in North Wales, covered by the North West Organ Donation Team.

There are established Clinical Lead for Organ Donation (CLOD), Specialist Nurse (SN) and nursing leadership roles across Wales.

#### **Activity/performance (April 2023 – March 2024):**

- Slight reduction observed in the donor pool (5% on this time last year, there's no theme identified to explain this reduction however consideration of transfer to sites such as Wrexham, Stoke, Liverpool and Bristol).
- Consistently high referral rates (96%) and good engagement observed from all units across Wales.
- Neurological death testing rates remain consistently high at 82%. Elsewhere in the UK other teams have observed reductions in testing rates.
- Consent rates remain a challenge and focus, specifically in the application of deemed legislation and ODR overrides.
- Combined consent rate is 56% (against a national target 63% and comparably lower when compared to England, Scotland and NI).
- However it is acknowledge the legislation has been implemented into Wales for 10 years now and is established, with observed higher opt out rates than other nations.
- SN presence stands out as low in comparison to England, Scotland and NI however Welsh law differs in that families cannot be widely probed about last known decision. In the circumstance of a patient registering an OPT OUT families in Wales are often notified by a Consultant unless a SN is available on site, resulting in a lower collaborative approach rate.

#### **Priorities:**

- Transition to NHS Executive from previous WTAG, first meeting in new structure occurred on 22<sup>nd</sup> May virtually. Future meetings will focus on the delivery of the Welsh Plan 2022-2026 priorities.

<https://nhsbtbde.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/26918/donation-and-transplantation-plan-for-wales-june-2022.pdf>

- Priority 1: Increasing deceased organ donation
- Priority 2: Increasing tissue and eye donation
- Priority 3: Increasing living donation and transplantation
- Priority 4: Increasing access to transplantation
- Priority 5: Improving transplant outcomes
- Priority 6: Ensuring a sustainable, supported and diverse workforce

## **2. Welsh Blood Service (WBS) Update**

- Following the publication of the IBI Report on the 20 May, Eluned Morgan, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care in a written statement publicly apologised to all those who were infected and have been affected by this terrible tragedy. We have already started work to consider its recommendations.
- We have set up an Infected Blood Inquiry: Next Steps for Wales Group, chaired by our new Deputy Chief Medical Officer Dr Push Mangat. It will meet for the first time on 17 June. It will work with health boards, the Welsh Blood Service, Public Health Wales and WG policy officials to ensure we look at the wrongs of the past and work together to ensure this can never happen again.
- We have a debate on the Senedd on Tuesday 5 June on the IBI Report: Next Steps

## **3. Future Events**

- Plans are in place for Organ Donation Week 26 September – 02 October, to raise profile including Snowdon and Pen Y Fan summits as part of the “Turn the Peaks Pink”, an initiative which was born from the North Wales Organ Donation team who have for some years been walking Snowdon in Organ Donation week with donor families.
- Donor memorial events.
- Autumn regional Collaboratives.