



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Blood and Transplant



England

ISOU Implementation Plan

October 2025

Context

- This is (and will remain) a live, working document
- It is accurate as of October 2025
- Actions here are not an exhaustive list, further plans are held within sub-groups and by lead organisations
- The tables provide an indication of whether ISOU as a group has concluded it's work on a recommendation and handed over to others for continued delivery of activity. Work will continue to deliver the recommendations under 'business as usual' activity.
- Delivery and impact will continue to be monitored through standard reporting infrastructures in to DHSC and Ministers.

Implementation of OUG recommendations to date (1)

Recommendation	Progress	Owner
1 and 2 (Patient Engagement) ISOU Status: Open until handover complete	Patient Engagement sub-group recommendations report has been approved by ISOU members and DHSC Ministers. Report Improving Patient Engagement in Organ Transplantation: Recommendations for Best Practice report has been published on ISOU website.	Recommendations for NHSE, Transplant centres and NHSBT.
3 (standardised patient pathways) ISOU Status: Closed & handover complete	Some elements of the recommendation are complete, e.g. every Tx unit has a Clinical Lead for Utilisation (CLUs). The Transplant Oversight Group - TOG (NHSBT/NHSE co-chaired) will oversee continued NHSE implementation of standardised patient pathways. Trust Engagement sub-group recommendations report has been approved by ISOU members and DHSC Ministers. Report of the ISOU Trust Engagement Sub-Group has been published on ISOU website.	Delivery split between NHSE and NHSBT.
4 (learn lessons from Covid on collaborative working) ISOU Status: Closed & handover complete	NHSBT has delivered on this recommendation via: formal establishment of CLUs to provide peer support and sharing best practice; strengthening the Transplant Collaborative infrastructure to support movements of resources or patients to enable transplantation to proceed; improved dissemination of data and performance monitoring. The Trust Engagement Group has also made recommendations in its report that best practice is shared between Tx centres.	NHSBT
5 (CT transplant service review) ISOU Status: Closed & handover complete	Cardiothoracic Information Collation Exercise run by DHSC in summer 2023 and findings shared with NHSE. Report on UK Heart and Lung Transplantation Services: An Independent Information Collation Exercise by International Experts published on the ISOU website. NHSE has since set up a transformation board structure to oversee this review for both adult and paediatric CT services. The NHSE Programme Board met in July to agree a set of priority ambitions have been published on the NHSE website NHS England » From ambition to action – improving heart and lung transplant services in England , marking the shift between the Programme's diagnostic and delivery phases.	NHSE
6 (Transplant workforce template) ISOU Status: Open until report published	Symposium held 7 May. Report with template to be drafted by DHSC and shared with ISOU for sign off in Autumn 2025. DHSC colleagues are working together to ensure this work feeds into wider 10YP workforce discussions.	DHSC

Implementation of OUG recommendations to date (2)

Recommendation	Progress	Owner
7 (Digital transformation) ISOU Status: Open	A workshop to be held in November 2025 to bring together stakeholders from across the transplant landscape to identify and accelerate digital enablers that can help us honour the gift of donation and maximise organ use.	DHSC
8 (Assessment and Recovery Centres) ISOU Status: Closed	ARC sub-group recommendations approved by ISOU and DHSC Ministers. Report of the ISOU Assessment and Recovery Centre (ARC) Sub-Group has been published on ISOU website. Spending Review 2025/26 confirmed seed-funding from DHSC to NHSBT to begin work on an ARC programme. The ARC Programme team has now been mobilised, and a tender for ARC pilot locations opened.	NHSBT
9 (H&I and Xenotransplantation) ISOU Status: Closed	H&I sub-group recommendations approved by ISOU and DHSC Ministers. Report of the ISOU Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (H&I) Sub-Group has been published on the ISOU website. The ISOU Xenotransplantation sub-group report and recommendations are being worked through and will be published in due course. National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Policy Innovation and Evaluation Policy Research Unit (PIRU) public attitudes to xenotransplantation survey findings were published in the Lancet on 5 September.	NHSBT and DHSC
10 (Trust Utilisation Strategies) ISOU Status: Closed	Trust Engagement sub-group recommendations and template approved by ISOU and DHSC Ministers. Report of the ISOU Trust Engagement Sub-Group and Developing a Trust Organ Utilisation Strategy: Guidance Document have been published on ISOU website.	NHSBT and NHSE (TOG)
11 (National outcome measures) ISOU Status: Closed	An inter-organisational working group, with input from universities, researchers and third sector representatives, meets 6-weekly to provide oversight to the development of Patient Report Outcome Measures (PROMs) and Patient Reported Experience Measures (PREMs). A Delphi study to define the term 'optimal organ utilisation' has been initiated, in partnership with the Council of Europe. This is linked to findings coming from the Patient Engagement sub-group.	NHSBT
12 (Commissioning) ISOU Status: Closed	ISOU Commissioning Symposium held in November 2024. Recommendations approved by ISOU and DHSC Ministers. Report of the ISOU Commissioning Symposium - 6 November 2024 has been published on the ISOU website.	NHSE and DHSC



Recent and Upcoming milestones

