

July 2026 • Summer Issue

UK Living Kidney Donation (LKD) Network Newsletter

Introduction

As we ease into an unusually hot British summer — one that's had many of us wondering whether our clinics should come with complimentary ice cream — this edition of the newsletter focuses on our recent UK Living Kidney Donation Network Day in Manchester. It was a brilliant opportunity to bring colleagues together from across the country, share updates, hear lived experiences and reflect on where our service is heading. Below is a roundup of the key moments, discussions and ideas that shaped the day.

UK Living Kidney Donation Network Meeting 2026 – Event Summary

The UK Living Kidney Donation Network met in Manchester on 30 April for our annual national meeting. We were delighted to welcome colleagues from across the UK, representing the full multidisciplinary team involved in living donation and transplantation.

Venue and Accessibility

Selecting a location that is accessible to the majority of the UK remains a challenge. The Manchester–Leeds–Birmingham region continues to offer the most central balance, with strong rail and air links and costs that allow us to keep the meeting free for delegates. This year's venue provided the space, facilities and audiovisual support required for a meeting of this scale.

Programme Highlight

Our aim was to deliver a varied programme reflecting the breadth of the MDT. Feedback has been extremely valuable and will directly inform planning for 2027.

- **National LDKT activity** Matthew Robb opened the meeting with an overview of current activity across the UK. His analysis helps us look beyond the challenges within our own centres and recognise national progress. He also briefly referenced the early discussions around a potential European Kidney Exchange programme, which remains in its infancy.
- **Psychological assessment** Although Prof. Emma Massey was unable to attend in person, she kindly recorded a presentation highlighting the benefits of standardising psychological assessment using the **ELPAT tool**. At our centre in Birmingham, we had been using a different tool but following the meeting have now adopted ELPAT. This was followed by a talk from Nicola Anderson on **DROMS and DREMS**, focusing on their utility and practical delivery.
- **Living Donation Futures Programme** This session highlighted both the opportunities and challenges ahead. With deceased donor numbers remaining static, living donation will continue to play a critical role. Work is ongoing to understand barriers to donation and to improve engagement with communities we have historically struggled to reach.
- **Robert Dangoor Partnership** We also heard an update on the Robert Dangoor Partnership and their **Buddy System**, an invaluable resource for potential donors. Further information is available via the link: [Requesting a kidney donation buddy - Make Your Mark](#)
- **Robotic surgery** Robotic surgery is coming, regardless of our personal prejudices. Patients will increasingly expect it, just as they did with minimally invasive donor nephrectomy in the early 2000s. While some technical elements may have been unfamiliar to parts of the audience, the session provided a clear sense of what lies ahead.
- **Lived-experience donor stories** The most impactful sessions came from our living donors, whose personal accounts were consistently highlighted in feedback. Their contributions were humbling and reinforced the importance of embedding patient voice within the programme. These talks also emphasised the value of offering donors a second opinion and the immeasurable psychological benefit experienced by donors, recipients and their wider families. Several colleagues suggested

including living donor recipients next year to provide the complementary perspective — an idea we are keen to explore.

- **Keynote: Lessons from elite sport** Our final presentation drew parallels between preparing elite athletes for major events and preparing donor–recipient pairs for transplantation. Although some delegates had to leave early for travel, the session offered a valuable reminder that innovation often comes from disciplines outside our own.

Housekeeping and future planning

We have taken note of all comments regarding logistics. We will explore finishing slightly earlier — around 4pm — to support travel and ensure that delegates do not miss key sessions. Balancing session length, discussion time and networking opportunities remains a delicate task.

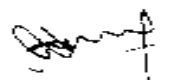
Planning for next year's meeting is already underway. We welcome suggestions for topics and speakers, particularly those that strengthen our multidisciplinary identity and broaden patient involvement. We are also mindful that quite a few people registered for the meeting and then did not attend. This has prevented others from attending because we were at the number limits for the event. In the future, we might have to consider not allowing recurrent non-attenders to register.

Overall, it was an excellent and well attended meeting. Thank you for joining us and contributing to such an interactive day. If you were unable to attend this year, we look forward to welcoming you in 2027.

All the best.



Keith Graetz – UK LKD Network
Co-Chair



Shafi Malik – UK LKD Network
Co-Chair

‘Save the Dates’:

BTS Annual Congress 2027

Tuesday 2nd to Friday 5th March 2027, Bournemouth International Centre

UK Kidney Week

7th - 9th June 2027, Newport, Wales

European Society of Organ Transplantation (ESOT)

26th -29th September 2027, Prague, Czech Republic

Resources available from NHSBT:

[Activity and centre specific reports](#)

Living Donation:

[Professional resources](#)

[Donor information](#)

[Recipient information](#)

[Promotional materials](#)

[Community Investment Scheme - Living Donation](#)

[Writing to living donors](#)

[Kidney Advisory Group papers and regular living donation updates](#)

Donor-recipient information/organisations:

[Kidney Care UK](#)

[National Kidney Federation](#)

[Give a Kidney](#)

[Make your Mark- Robert Dangoor Partnership](#)

[Gift of Living Donation \(GOLD\)](#)

[Living Donation Scotland](#)

Northern Ireland: [Donate Life](#)

Professional Societies and other Organisations:

[BTS](#)

[UKKA](#)

[NHS England](#)

[Access to NHSE Renal Services Transformation Programme Transplantation Toolkit](#)

[Human Tissue Authority](#)

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