LDLT: The Northern Ireland Perspective

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
caring supporting improving together

UK LDLT Network Meeting
21st September 2026

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Background

- Large regional hepatology service based in RVH, Belfast
- Referrals received from across Northern Ireland (population 1.9M)
- Satellite centre to King's for transplant referrals
- Post-transplant care is almost entirely delivered back in Belfast
- Comprehensive transplant team
- Dedicated prehabilitation programme



Satellite clinic



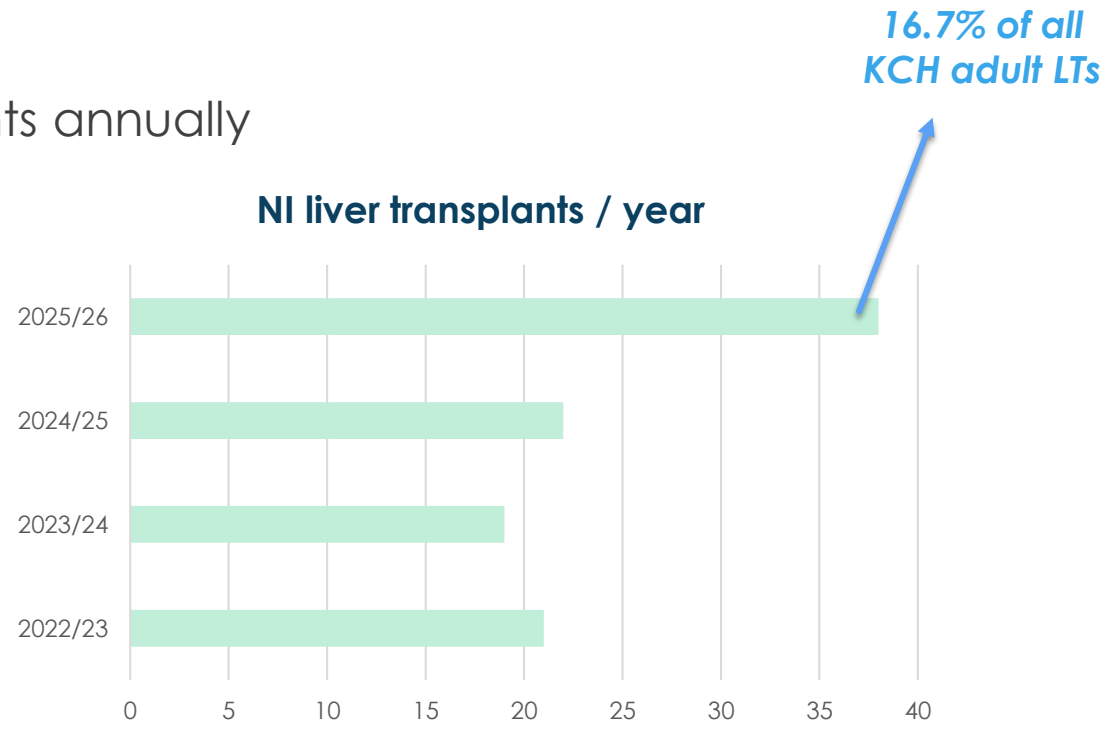
- Formal satellite clinic between Belfast and KCH began in 2000
- Liver transplants per 100,000 population:

Decade	Northern Ireland	Rest of UK
1991-2000	**0.30**	0.59
2001-2010	0.53	0.70
2011-2020	**0.99**	0.96

Northern Ireland data

- Almost 500 adult liver transplants recipients currently in follow up
- We perform around 60 transplant assessments annually

Time point	Liver transplant waiting list
At 31 Mar 2023	37
At 31 Mar 2024	39
At 31 Mar 2025	37
At 31 Mar 2026	21



Transplant outcomes (NHSBT)

- Northern Ireland

Decade	1-year survival	5-year survival	10-year survival
1991-2000	82.5%	73.7%	64.5%
2001-2010	93.1%	81.1%	75.1%
2011-2020	95.0%	82.1%	Not mature (53.8%, wide CI)

- UK (excluding NI)

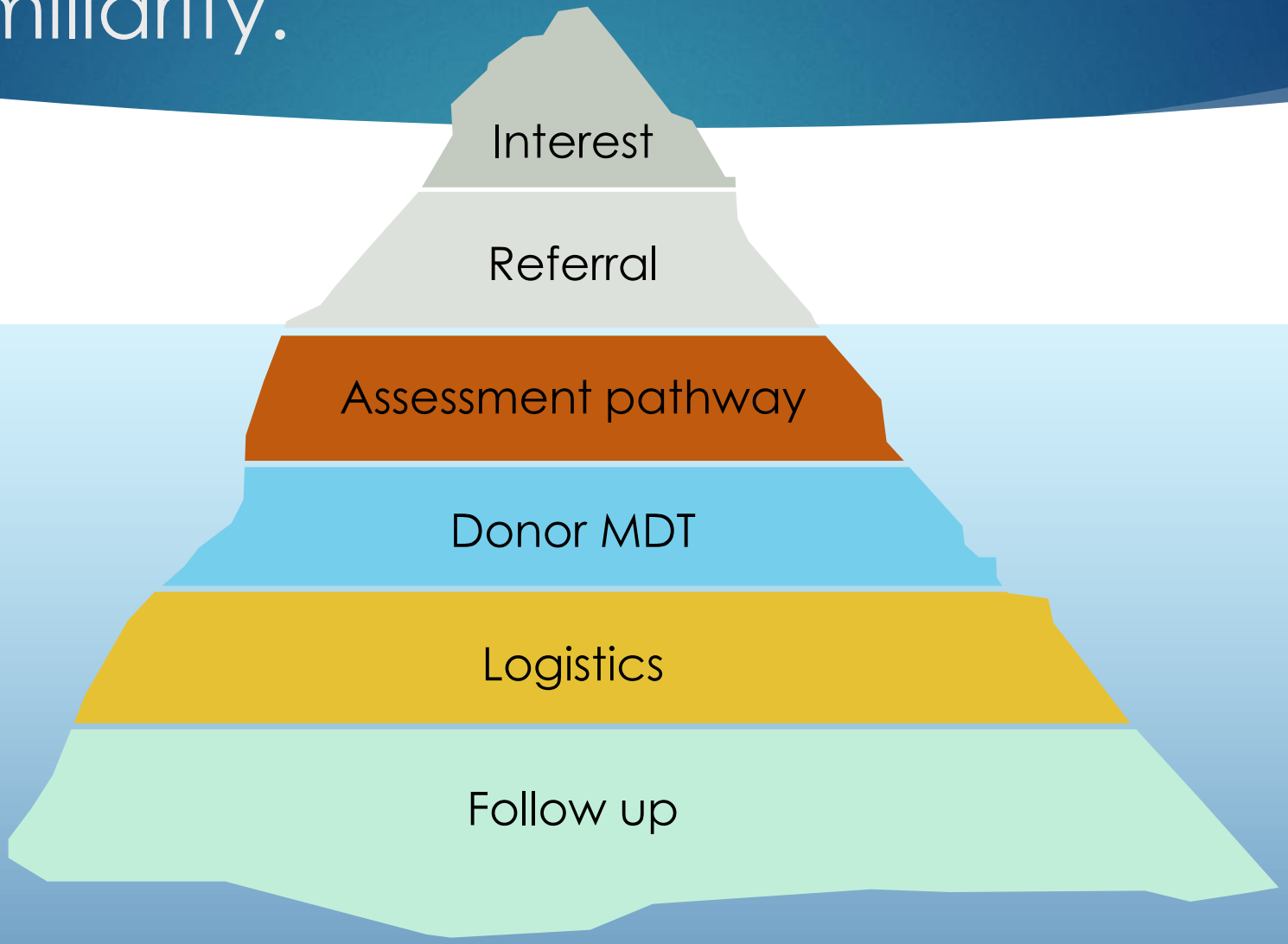
Decade	1-year survival	5-year survival	10-year survival
1991-2000	81.7%	69.6%	58.2%
2001-2010	89.4%	77.7%	65.0%
2011-2020	94.0%	83.5%	67.7%

Belfast experience of LDLT

- Limited LDLT experience
- Increasing number of donors coming forward

Year	Donor's coming forward	Outcome to date
2024	1	1. Abnormal echocardiogram
2025	4	1. Pregnancy 2. BMI too high 3. Transplanted during process 4. Transplanted during process
2026	8	1. Undergoing assessment 2. Awaiting assessment of brother 1st 3. BMI too high 4. Awaiting psych review 5. Transplanted during process 6. Transplanted during process 7. BMI too high 8. Patient not yet formally listed

The challenge isn't willingness. It's familiarity.



The Irish Sea Barrier

Geography and logistics

- Assessment and surgery occur elsewhere
- Travel, accommodation and employment impacts
- Less visible relationship with transplant teams



Cultural factors



~36 living donors per million

Yes I donate ORGAN DONATION

Opted-in – 58%



~14 living donors per million

Yes I donate ORGAN DONATION

Opted-in – 40%

NHS Blood and Transplant

2025/26

What Belfast needs



EDUCATION



EARLY AND REVISITED CONVERSATIONS



MDT ENGAGEMENT



COORDINATOR SUPPORT



SUCCESS STORIES

Conclusion


VISIBILITY




COLLABORATION
TOGETHER
SUCCESS
KNOWLEDGE
LEARNING
SECTION
BASED
PRODUCTION
MANAGEMENT
GROUPS
WORK
PROJECT
COLLABORATIVE
LEADERSHIP
CORPORATION
PEOPLE
INTERNET
HELP
IMPROVE
CITATIONS
SOFTWARE
ORGANIZATION
SOURCES
SKILLS
INDUSTRY
TERM
UNITED
PROJECTS
DEVELOPMENT
COMMUNITIES
TOOLS
SOCIAL
BETWEEN
PEER
BENEFITS
THEORY
INCLUDE
RELIABLE
MEMBERS
SHARED
EDUCATION