

Case study:

Hannah Cochrane





Meet Hannah

Hannah Cochrane is 21 years old, lives in Portsmouth and is waiting for a heart transplant.

Hannah was always fit and healthy, but then everything changed as she finished her second year at university. Aged 19, she suddenly lost her appetite, felt sick, lost weight and couldn't get her breath.

Tests revealed that her heart was three times the size it should be, which was a complete shock to Hannah, and she was rushed into intensive care at Harefield Hospital, where she was diagnosed with dilated cardiomyopathy. Her heart was too badly damaged to function and she needed to have a LVAD (an artificial heart pump) inserted, because she would not otherwise survive the wait for a heart transplant.

Hannah has already had four false alarms for a transplant, where the donor hearts were not perfect matches, but considers herself lucky because she can lead a relatively normal life. She graduated from the University of Winchester and is now a full time administrator in the Probation Service. She had joined the NHS Organ Donor Register aged 16 and now, aged 21, can only wait for her turn to receive the gift of life.

After that happens, when she's fit and well again, Hannah wants to go up in a plane and then jump out – she has always wanted to skydive and she is determined to have a go.

To find out more about Hannah's story watch the film at organdonation.nhs.uk/education

