

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Organ donation specialists are out and about in Dudley this week for National Transplant Week to encourage more people to sign up to the NHS Organ Donor Register and help save lives.

For this year's 'Pass it On' campaign, a week of events begins today (Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July) at the Health Hub in Russell Hall Hospital's main reception followed by a stand all day at Lower Fountain Square in the Merry Hill Centre tomorrow (Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July).

To mark National Transplant Week, the donor team will also be taking their message to a host of local libraries where Specialist Nurse in Organ Donation Rebecca Timmins will be on hand with NHS Blood Transplant (NHBT) to give advice and information on joining the Organ Donor Register (ODR).

"Although organ transplantation is one of modern medicine's greatest achievements it is completely dependent on the generosity of donors and their families who are willing to make this life-saving gift to others," says Julian Sonksen, Clinical Lead for Organ Donation at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.

As many as 1,000 patients a year, or three people a day, will die before they can receive the transplant they need because there are not enough organs available.

More than 7,500 people of all ages across the UK are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant – and 75 of those live in Dudley, and the majority of those are waiting for a new kidney.

More than 92,000 people in the Dudley area are already on the register but there is a desperate need for more donors.

There are many different ways to join the Organ Donor Register – just don't forget to tell your loved ones. Pass it on.

- Go to [www.organdonation.nhs.uk](http://www.organdonation.nhs.uk)
- Ring 0300 123 23 23
- Text DONATE to 84880
- Filling in a form (on the leaflet)
- Boots Advantage Card application
- Driving License application
- When registering at a doctor's surgery

- Passport application
- European Health Insurance card application
- Leaflets in GP surgeries, libraries, hospitals etc.

\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*

For more information, please call Jackie Dietrich, Communications and Engagement Officer for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust on (01384) 456111 extension 1423

#### Events in the Area for National Transplant Week

- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July: Stand in main reception at the Health Hub, Russells Hall Hospital 10-2pm
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July: Tesco at Burnt Tree Island, Dudley 2.30pm-7pm
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July: Merry Hill (Lower Fountain Stand)
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July: Dudley Council in partnership with NHS Blood and Transplant
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July: Brierley Hill Library 10am-2pm
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July: Russells Hall Hospital Health Hub 3-6pm
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July: Kingswinford Library 10am-2pm
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July: Stourbridge Library 10am-2pm
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July: Sedgley Library 10am-2pm