

## The Sick Children's Trust continues to pledge support to Organ Donation Week

Thursday 30 August, 2018

The Sick Children's Trust has pledged to help save lives by supporting Organ Donation Week, Monday 3 September to Sunday 9 September.

The national NHS campaign is asking people to talk to their families about organ donation to increase the number of people whose lives can be saved or transformed by an organ transplant. Nationally, three people die every day in need of an organ.

Families will always be approached about donation if a loved one can donate their organs. Knowing what their loved one wanted helps families support their decision at a difficult time. More and more families are saying yes to organ donation but there is still an urgent shortage of donors. Joy Darling, Head of Operations at The Sick Children's Trust, says:

"We need more people to talk about organ donation to increase the number of lifesaving transplants.

"As a charity which supports families with seriously ill children, many of whom are desperately waiting for an organ donor, we know just how important talking about organ donation is. For a child waiting for an organ, a transplant represents their only hope, a final chance for life. It is devastating that so many do not find a donor in time, due to a shortage of organ donors.

"We can change things, though we need your support to get people talking."

The Sick Children's Trust runs ten 'Homes from Home' supporting families with seriously ill children in hospital with free accommodation, just minutes from their loved ones. Every year the charity supports around 4,000 families with critically ill children, many of whom are undergoing or waiting for organ transplants. Anthony Clarkson, Interim Director of Organ Donation and Transplantation for NHS Blood and Transplant says:

"We are very grateful to The Sick Children's Trust for its support during Organ Donation Week.

"Words save lives. Please, tell your family you want to save lives through organ donation, because it could be the difference between life and death for someone else."

Millions of people are already on the NHS Organ Donor Register, join them today and tell your family you want to save lives. Register at [www.organdonation.nhs.uk](http://www.organdonation.nhs.uk).

For further information about The Sick Children's Trust, please visit <http://www.sickchildrenstrust.org/>

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