Health and Wellbeing Board
22 November 2013

ORGAN DONATION

Responsible Officer
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1.   Summary

1.1 On Thursday 26th September 2013 at the Shropshire full Council meeting, the following motion was received from Councillor Charlotte Barnes: "There are 10,000 people in the UK that need an organ or tissue transplant and three people in the UK die each day waiting for a much needed organ. Many of these waiting including some who will unfortunately die, live in Shropshire. Shropshire Council wishes to and has a duty to help all its residents to continue to live a healthy and long life.

Every unfortunate and unneeded death affects families as well as the local economy. The social consequence of continued ill health and the effect it has on families is of concern to us all. We therefore ask our MPs to join us in supporting the drive to introduce the alteration to the organ donation system. For our residents who need help we wish and support the increase in likely availability of essential organs if an automatic opt in is assumed and then relies on individual's to opt out if they do not wish any of their organs to be made available for transplant. We would however also support the need that the wishes of loved ones need to be taken note of but are convinced that the numbers of essential organs available to help our residents would increase by adopting this change. And as councillors could we actively promote organ donation in Shropshire."

It was moved as an amendment by Mr M Bennett that the 3rd paragraph starting "We therefore ask our MP's… be deleted and substituted by 'We therefore urge all public bodies to engage with the public to promote the widest debate on ways in which the voluntary donation of organs based on informed consent can be encouraged." This was seconded by Mrs C Wild.

1.2 This motion and subsequent amendment sparked significant debate and highlighted polarised opinion amongst those Councillors present at the Council meeting.

1.3 Following discussion, the proposers of the motion and amendment both agreed to withdraw their proposals subject to the matter being referred for consideration to the Health and Wellbeing Board. This course of action was unanimously supported by all Members present.

2.   Recommendations

2.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board discuss its role in the debate and design of recommendations regarding organ donation.

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

(NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
This issue is very emotive and will produce significant debate about human rights and equalities.	For some people in the population this issue will be of massive consequence for both those who would like an opt out system and those who would not.	Extensive consultation and engagement with the public would be required to ensure that the voice of people living in Shropshire/ England is key to the development of a system. Significant research to determine if opt out systems produce more available organs for organ donation.
Opportunity	**Impact**	**Action**
There is potential for debate to determine how to make more organs available for those on transplant lists.	There could be a very positive impact for those living in Shropshire who are on organ donation transplant lists.	Research to consider how Wales and other countries have approached this matter.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 No financial implications at this time, however consulting and engaging with people on important decisions about Health and Wellbeing will require resource.

5. Background

5.1 Please see link for access to the full cabinet agenda and motion.

6. Additional Information

6.1 None at this time.

7. Conclusions

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)
Cllr Karen Calder
Local Member
Appendices