

# News Release

**13 December 2017**

## **Christmas lights switch-on highlights organ donation**

Staff from the critical care unit at Dorset County Hospital asked people to think about the gift of organ donation as they switched on their Christmas tree lights.

The hospital's organ donation team has sponsored a tree in the South Wing courtyard to highlight the importance of discussing your wishes around organ donation with your family.

The lights for the tree were kindly donated by local firm Knighton Plumbing and Heating, and the proprietor's sons joined the hospital team to turn on the tree lights.

Dr Andrew Ball, Critical Care Consultant and Clinical Lead for Organ Donation, said: "In the six months from April to September the residents of West Dorset facilitated the donation of 10 organs for transplant which have allowed 10 people to have life-saving or life-changing organ transplants.

"Nationally three patients die each day while waiting for an organ transplant. At this time of giving and family gatherings please do take the time to discuss your views on organ donation with family and friends, and register your choice with the NHS Organ Donation Register."

To find out more about how to register visit the Organ Donation website at [www.organdonation.nhs.uk](http://www.organdonation.nhs.uk).

**ENDS**

**PHOTO: Staff from Dorset County Hospital's critical care unit celebrate organ donation and the gift of life with Christmas tree sponsored by the organ donation team.**

**For more information please contact the DCH Communications Team on 01305 254683 or [communications@dchft.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@dchft.nhs.uk)**