

## PRESS RELEASE

### **HRH Duke of Gloucester to unveil organ donation celebration sculpture**

His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester visited Russells Hall Hospital to mark the official unveiling of a sculpture to celebrate organ donation in Dudley.

*The Gift of Life* sculpture and accompanying landscaping, designed by local artists Paul Margetts and Malcolm Sier, was officially unveiled by the Duke of Gloucester at a ceremony also attended by Dudley's Mayor, Margaret Aston, and the High Sheriff for the West Midlands, Dr Tim Watts.

In his speech, the Duke said, “This sculpture is in a way thanking those who have made that decision for themselves and their family that they wish for their organs to be donated. I am delighted to unveil it to congratulate all those individuals who have donated.”

Families of local organ donors also attended the launch, giving them the opportunity to remember their loved ones and the difference they made to the lives of others.

John Edwards, Chairman, said, “This project not only recognises the contribution made by organ donors to help the lives of others, but also raises awareness and highlights the importance of making your wishes known to others during life.”

Julian Sonksen, Clinical Lead for Organ Donation, said “We hope ‘The Gift of Life’ will become an important local sculpture, not only to remind us of the new hope and life given to others by those who donated after death, but also to be a place of reflection and comfort for families to remember.”

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