

Teenager set to become Britain's youngest sex-change patient

A 16-year-old boy is set to become Britain's youngest sex-change patient after surgery costing £10,000 was approved by the NHS.

By Amy Willis

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Bradley Cooper, who calls himself Ria after his pop idol Rihanna, has been dressing as a girl since he was 12.

He has been told that surgery to give him breasts and change his genitalia will be funded by his local NHS trust in Hull, East Yorkshire and should happen within 18 months.

He told The News of the World: "People might think I'm too young to make such a huge decision but I know my own mind and this is what I want.

"I've known for years I'm a woman. I think and act like a woman, not a man. In my mind I'm a woman, so all I need now is the operation."

"I know people might say horrible things like the money could be better spent on other things. But this is my life, and it won't be worth living unless I have that operation.

"I don't want years of misery. I want it done as soon as possible so I can be the person physically that I am on the inside."

His mother Elaine, 40, added: "People can have their own beliefs on whether they think this is a good use of NHS money but I just want what will make my child happy."

Currently the youngest British person to have a sex-change is Angel Paris-Jordan, of Wigton, Cumbria, who had the operation shortly before her 18th birthday in 2002.

The youngest person in the world to have a sex-change is Kim Petras from Germany who was 16 when she had surgery. She had been undergoing hormone therapy from the age of 12.

Kim is now a model and pop-singer.