

Public Health Wales

Public Health Wales has worked with local authorities, voluntary sector and other partners to set up residential workshops for children and young people to co-produce a Young Person's Annual Quality Statement. As well as developing the Annual Quality Statement, the young people attending have also undertaken training, and presented and made recommendations in relation to the involvement of children and young people to both the Public Health Wales Executive Team and Board. The Young Person's Annual Quality Statements have been produced for the past three years. All travel, accommodation, and evening team-building costs are met by Public Health Wales.

Public Health Wales also worked with partners to host the first-ever Public Health Youth Summit, which was held in South Wales and was a direct result of the young people's engagement with the Executive Team. The first event was very successful, with over 90 young people taking part. A number of workshops were delivered at the first Summit and these included a futurology workshop (what will your health look like at 70), Mental Health and Young people, the hand you choose (smoking and alcohol use) and the hand you're dealt (Adverse childhood experiences, poverty).

Both Public Health Wales Chief Executive and Chair gave a commitment to hold and expand the Public Health Youth Summits. In 2018 two further Summits were held with over 200 young people attending.

Following on from feedback at the Public Health Youth Summits, Public Health Wales has developed and introduced a Public Health Wales Young Ambassadors programme. The programme currently has the involvement of young people from ten local authorities and over 2019-2020 will work to engage the remaining local authorities and develop an Aged accredited Public Health Wales Ambassadorship Program.

As part of the Public Health Wales Ambassador programme the organisation is building in 3 paid four-week internship opportunities for the young ambassadors. Places will be available following an official interview process with support and mentoring being offered to develop the young people.

In the build-up to the Public Health Wales Ambassador programme, a number of young people have taken part in the selection process for Public Health Wales non-executive interview panels. With the introduction of the Ambassadors programme, this will be expanded as part of the programme develop. Public Health Wales is committed to young ambassadors taking an active role with Public Health Wales Board meetings and will work with young people to ensure the meeting are developed to engage all. This development will take place during 2019-2020 and aligned with the Public Health Wales Young Ambassadors programme.