



## The Right Way in health Participation Case Study – BAYouth

### **Background**

Established in 2017, Swansea Bay University Health Board were the first health board in Wales to establish a youth advisory panel. Born out of the health board's children's rights charter, BAYouth are a group of around 12 young people between the ages of 14 and 24, they:

- Are youth led
- Are dedicated to improving health services for children and young people
- Represent the voices of children and young people across the Swansea Bay area
- Influence the decision-making process

BAYouth are a vital part of instigating change and improving services for children and young people within SBUHB. The youth advisory panel embodies the passions of patients, future health care professionals and young people from different backgrounds. As children and young people are experts in their own lives, it is important to involve them in decision making. As members of BAYouth, they are given a platform to give their views on the health issues that matter to them, and in turn, are listened to by health care professionals who have the power to make a positive change and have a real impact on health services for children and young people.

### **Projects**

All members are volunteers and have the choice of what projects they want to get involved in. Over the last few years, members have attended regular virtual and face to face meetings and participated in a wide variety of projects and initiatives. Their work is underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Here is a summary of what they have been working on over the last few years:

- All children have these rights (Article 2) – Members were involved in the development and launch of the Children's Rights Promises poster and film. The 'Promises' are an accessible version of the Children's Rights Charter and outline the rights children and young people have when accessing health care in Swansea Bay.
- Your right to have a say/be listened to (Article 12) – Members have been trained as 'Young Interviewers' and have sat on various interview panels for a number of positions including: Head of Nursing; Matron; Deputy Head of Nursing.
- Your right to have a say/be listened to (Article 12) – They have given feedback on consultations and surveys including: Transition; Covid; Emotional Health and Wellbeing.
- Your right to have a say/be listened to (Article 12) – They have been involved in the development of feedback mechanisms for children and young people to give their views on healthcare services.
- Your right to information (Article 13) – They've helped to produce information for wards including a 'Stay Safe in hospital' poster; Adolescent Allergy information for teenagers.
- Your right to good health (Article 24) – Members gave their views and feedback on the 'Tidy Minds' Emotional Health and Wellbeing website as well as 'Kooth' the online counselling portal; They've provided interview questions for the Weight Management service interviews and given feedback on Weight Management service logo/branding.



- Your right to an education (Article 28) – Members gave their ideas and views on 'Careersville' which is an online portal for health careers in Wales.
- Your right to an education (Article 28) – They've undertaken Young Interviewers training; Children's Rights training; Accredited Get on Board training.
- Your right to relax and play (Article 31) – They have been involved in the development of new outdoor spaces for children and young people at hospital sites.
- Everyone should know about the UNCRC (Article 42) – BAYouth met academic representatives from Swansea University and gave their views on the development of the new school nursing education programme.
- Your right to good health care (Article 24) – Members have taken part in the '15 steps challenge' at various departments including A & E; Minor Injuries Unit; Paediatric wards. The challenge gave members the opportunity to audit clinical environments from a young person's perspective and feedback their views to clinical staff and management.

### **Partnership**

The health board works in partnership with the Children's Rights Unit to provide meaningful opportunities for young people to have their voices heard and get involved in the development of health services for children and young people in the Swansea Bay area. Members have demonstrated their dedication through volunteering their time to make a difference to health services for children and young people, and in response, the health board have committed to listen to them.