

THE HISTORY OF



1996 - 2014

RCPCH focuses on children and young people, guided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Our youth voice work begins with a Youth Advisory Panel and Parent Carers Groups, who influence College priorities, brief the Chief Medical Officer, and help create the "Not Just a Phase" guidance on youth participation in health services.



2015

RCPCH &Us is launched! Up to 30 children, young people and family members are involved in thinking about a new name, brand and mission for the group which was launched at the RCPCH Conference in April. In December we move to a youth work model to ensure there is a focus on children and young people's development journey needs in a rights based way, as well as doing consultation events.



2016 - 2019

More than 6,000 children, young people, and families across the UK participate in the RCPCH &Us model, which is featured in the Policy Press book "Embedding youth participation in health services." They engage in events, projects, research guidance, paediatric curriculum development, and initiatives on conditions like asthma and epilepsy, as well as interviewing for the CEO role.



2020

This year we celebrate RCPCH &Us' fifth anniversary online due to COVID-19, and transform all projects into digital engagement. Digital engagement still allows volunteers to write government guidance, support the well-being of others, contribute to COVID-19 efforts, and lead digital health engagement. Children and young people also learn to knit and send rainbow hats to health workers in a random act of kindness.



2021 - 2023

Over three years, 4,000 children, young people, and families across the UK participate in digital and hybrid sessions. They explore climate change, mental health, and sickle cell, continue contributing to COVID-19 guidance, start youth-led podcasts, and train hospitals on engagement. The first takeover issue of the paediatric magazine Milestones is published in winter 2022.



2024

Following approval from the RCPCH Annual General Meeting and Privy Council in 2023, RCPCH have been able to extend the Trustee Board to include a second youth trustee. Summer 2024 saw a recruitment campaign to support the work of the college, bringing in the highest number of trustee candidates to date.



2025

Since 2015, more than 16,000 children, young people and families have been involved across the UK through RCPCH &Us. They're continuing to grow with new staff, new projects, and more children, young people and families joining every month.