

RCPCH Youth Advisory Panel Improving Healthcare: Key Principles

The RCPCH Youth Advisory Panel play a key role in supporting the RCPCH address child health issues and influence the training of paediatricians across the UK;

- engage with a diverse group of children and young people, paediatricians and child health advocates;
- participate in a range of activities including research, policy, training, events and communications;
- raise important issues affecting children and young people's health and influence key decision makers.

The attached document summarises the RCPCH Youth Advisory Panel's key principles on improving healthcare. This includes:

- We have a right to the highest standard of healthcare wherever you live and whatever your background.
- 'Patients, in particular vulnerable patients, including children and young people, must be taught about the standards of care they are entitled to. This will help more patients to raise their concerns and complaints
- Patients are not always aware of the quality of the services they should be receiving and what is unacceptable to a point that it should be reported.'
- 'There should be no hierarchy when it comes to voicing concerns about the care of patients. Everyone can take responsibility for this and be open to speak up and be listened to.

Rights of children participating in service user panels - The right to be involved:

- an ethical approach based on transparency, honesty and accountability
- the creation of a child friendly environment
- equality of opportunity
- that participation promotes the safety and protection of children

An ethical approach based on transparency, honesty and accountability implies that: everyone involved in the Children's panel follows ethical and participatory processes which put the best interest of the child first.

A child friendly environment means that everyone works towards creating a safe, welcoming, inclusive and encouraging environment that enables meaningful participation

Equality of opportunity means that all children are able to participate equally regardless of their age, background, ethnicity, capabilities, and disability

Participation promotes the safety and protection of children means that the health, safety, well-being and best interest of the child is considered as the top priority

Mental Health: (Views from RCPCH Youth Advisory Panel)

Children need more knowledge of how to access services and it should be easy and timely access, less gaps for people to fall through.

Confidential (not in the middle of school, parents knowledge)

Better education of mental health and earlier diagnosis. This is key to empower CYP, removes stigma and gives us a better understanding, we are taken more seriously.

Cannot be your family GP

Someone who is easy to talk to and friendly and it should be apparent who this person is.

Targeted at CYP, talk about mental health in CYP seriously (not attention seeking)

Support for families of ill children and young people with long term illness (relationship support)

Acknowledgement of mental health issues in young people by health professionals, parents and carers.

Awareness of Lesbian, Gay, bisexual, transgender and queer issues and vulnerable groups (child carers)

Counselling services in school need to be fixed- more consistency, more private and better availability.