The Family and Youth Panels Visit to the New Beatson and the Golden Jubilee Hospitals – 31st August 2007

The New Beatson – The West of Scotland Cancer Care Centre

The visit to the Beatson was led by Margaret Welsh, the Commissioning Manager for the new hospital. She showed us round the public areas and the Teenage Cancer Trust ward.

The public areas were very well presented and there was a lot of emphasis on creating open spaces and garden areas for people to either sit in or look at from their rooms.

Each floor had a different colour scheme and this was used to help people find their way around the building.

We particularly liked the interesting design features like the raspberry ripple wall.
The Teenage Cancer Trust ward had a lot of features that the Youth Panel were interested in.

There were single rooms which were designed to look as much like a bedroom as possible. The Youth Panel members particularly liked the TV and computers, with access to the internet and MSN messenger; the changing light panels in the ceiling and the good storage space.

The en-suite bathrooms were also popular. They had touch sensitive taps, decorated shower areas and the water temperatures were all pre-set to prevent accidents.
One feature of the rooms that was particularly admired was the shuttered windows on the doors. Young people could close the shutters from the inside when they wanted privacy but the shutters could also be opened from the outside, allowing nurses to check on them without entering the room.

The ward also had a recreation area for young people. This had a large common room with a TV and computers with internet access; a balcony area that was quieter than the main sitting room and a kitchen where young people could make snacks.

All the TVs, lights, computers etc could be operated by hand held controls. This meant that teenagers could keep a high degree of control over their environment from their bed or from a chair in the recreation area.
The Golden Jubilee Hospital

This visit was led by Nada Kadhim, the Involving People Facilitator for the hospital. Once again we visited the public areas and also went on a tour of the new wards that have been built for the heart and lung services that are moving to the Golden Jubilee.

There were a lot of similarities between the two hospitals. Both had high quality finishes, lots of light, views onto green space and both used colour to help with wayfinding. The colour scheme at the GJH was more popular than the colours used at the Beatson as people felt these were more neutral and soothing.
The wards were made up of single rooms. These had lots of space, good storage and were attractively finished.

There were also sitting areas for patients so that they could move out of their rooms for company. One area that was particularly popular was the large, airy physio suite.