

Youth Voices

Date

September 04

Location

e.g. NHS Greater Glasgow

Key Partners

GGNHSB Health Promotion
Department (Child and
Youth Team and Cancer
Team)
Yorkhill NHS Division
Taktent Cancer support
Sargent social work

Contact

To be confirmed

Summary of project and achievements

Youth Voices is a partnership project developed in collaboration between the NHS and Voluntary Sector. It targets young people who have experience as inpatients or regular outpatients at Yorkhill hospital and aims to help them gain the self-confidence and self-awareness to express their views on health services that affect them. Young participants were targeted via the Shiehallion unit at Yorkhill hospital. It was necessary to gain ethical approval for the pilot.

The residential weekend was held on 3rd – 5th September 04. In total 9 young people attended. Over the weekend they had an opportunity to engage in activities that explored their experience of the health care system, their rights within this system and wider issues that were important to their lives.

Key issues included:

- The image that is associated with young people (and others) who are diagnosed with Cancer
- Their rights in relation to access to the work place
- Young people's right to a private life
- Situations that could arise in school, particularly in relation to hair loss and pupils/teachers not being aware of this.

The group suggested that they meet after the weekend to discuss their suggestions further and other possible ways to influence decision makers. To this end we arranged a follow up meeting where the young people would have the opportunity to raise their issues with senior management within Yorkhill NHS Division.

Key achievements

- Strong partnership working between different parts of the NHS and voluntary organisations
- Successful weekend provided a platform for the growth of youth involvement structures and has helped to develop young people's participation in the patient focus and public involvement agenda.
- Young people met with Senior Nurse and Chief Executive of Yorkhill to put across issues relating to their experience of Yorkhill
- Development of action plan to take forward issues raised by the young people
- Possibility of extending the process to include other young people with range of diseases