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ABUHB Arts In Health Project Officer
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Young People's Voices - funded by Baring Foundation & Arts Council of Wales - is a collaborative project devised by ABUHB Arts in Health Team, CAMHS, Child and Family Psychology and Therapies Service and the Youth Participation Panel.

The project aims to amplify Young People's Voices, stories and experiences in order to support and enhance service delivery.

Our **Waiting Spaces / Artists in Residence** activity uses creativity to enhance hospital spaces; encouraging playful ways to explore young people's experiences and their stories. The emerging work is dynamic, expressive and thoughtful. Interactions in the spaces provide a place of calm and creativity before and after appointments, and the impact of this is apparent. We have engaged with over 150 young people between April & July 2025.

"This is the calmest he's been all day" (Parent)

"We were so anxious about our first visit. Meeting you has really helped" (Parent)

We have provided **3 Artists in Residence** in waiting areas visited by young people and families. Alongside this our **Youth Forum / Participation Panel** (12 – 17 years) have worked with artist Bill Taylor-Beales, focusing on finding ways that young people can be visible, feel seen and heard in our clinical settings by connecting with and encouraging each other.

Bill shares his experience of being an Artist in Residence:

Waiting Spaces

By Bill Taylor-Beales

Space is not yet ready.
Face just a little unsteady.
A smile packed away for a safer day.
A grin not yet broken in.
A word away from another to play.
A layer to wrap around me.

Space is not yet ready but getting closer to becoming
A room that lets us sigh and breathes out and let others in.
Being brave.
I am beautiful,
I am safe,
I am seen,
I'm becoming - I am not an empty space
In postcards and crayons,
desert islands and lie ins.



Creative journals created in Youth Panel session

Wish you were somewhere,
someone,
somehow,
someday.

Write it out,
colour it in'
words shared and ears that care,
ideas dared
and imagination opening doors to spaces
in waiting hearts anticipating
an upbeat me –
Meeting me, coming in,
meeting me, coming out,
meeting me being me.
Me being me,
Nothing demanding,
commanding,
nothing judging,
nothing pushing.

All just waiting for when the hour blossoms,
when the day wakes in the moment
and murmurs It's OK to wait.
It's OK to take as long as it takes.
This is your waiting space.

Our project will continue into the autumn with opportunities for families to create together with artists, culminating in a wide range of considered responses from Young People, their parents and carers, and our team of artists and clinicians. The body of work will be supported by consistent 360 evaluation work which will inform Year 2 of this project.

For more information about this project and the Arts In health programme at ABUHB, contact:

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