Youth Co-Production of COVID-19 Educational Information



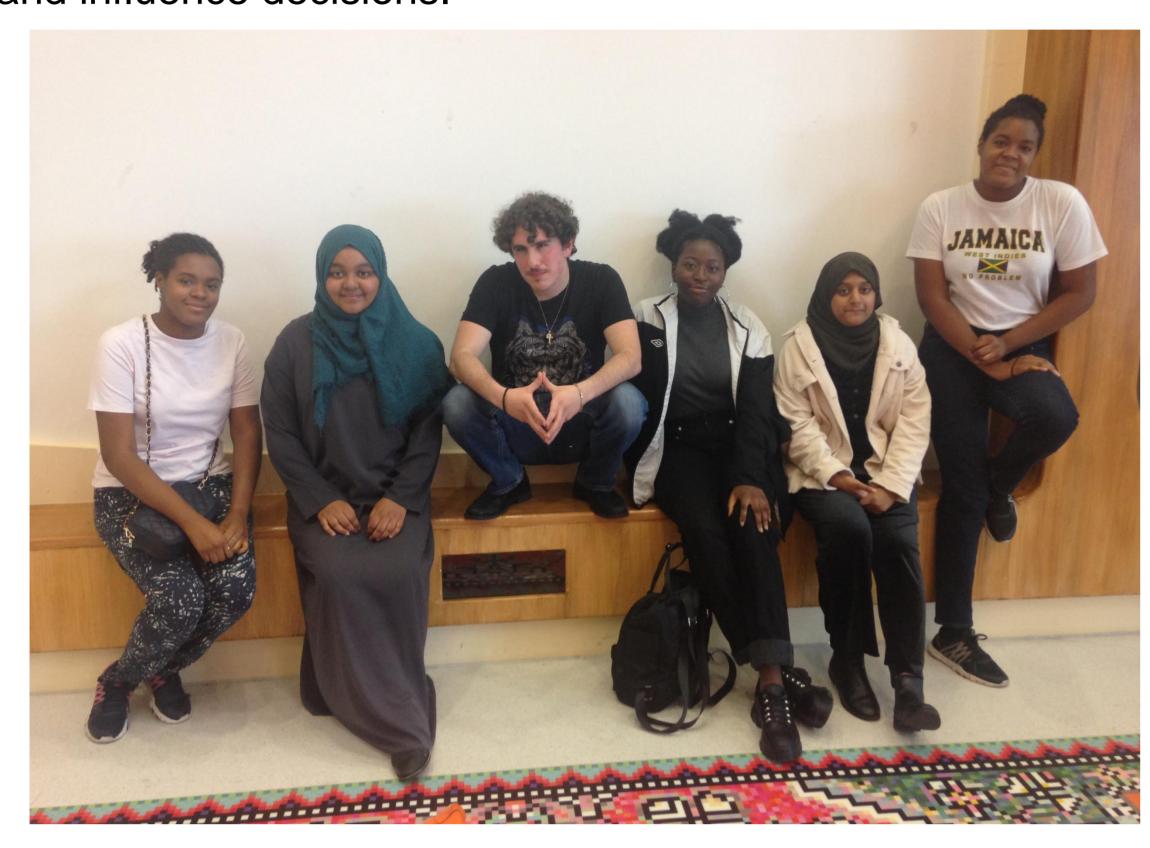
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Barts Health NHS Trust

Youth Empowerment Squad

The Youth Empowerment Squad (YES) is the Barts Health youth forum. It's made up of a group of young people who have extensive experience and knowledge (or an interest) in healthcare. They have been meeting once a month since October 2015. Their mission is for all Barts Health young people to share their views in their care, share good practice and make and influence decisions.



Since lockdown was first initiated in the U.K., YES have been meeting virtually. Their membership has grown significantly and some of the recent projects they've been part of include: 'What Matters to Me in Hospital' videos, creating interview packs for members, participating in Trust interview panels and celebrating their 5th birthday!

Leaflet Design and Background

In April 2020, the Barts Health Youth Forum recognised that there was very little information geared specifically towards young people to educate them on COVID-19. With this in mind, YES members created an age appropriate, educational resource with accurate information for young people on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Method

Members collaborated with clinical staff and an illustrator to create the leaflet. It included information about COVID-19 and how to prevent the spread of the virus, tips on how to physically distance but not socially isolate from friends and how to seek help for COVID-19 symptoms and links to resources for further support.

"YES members wanted to create a leaflet to help inform young people about COVID-19 in a way that they could understand, developing an easy format that was informative and appropriate for young people. Using the leaflet young people are more informed and know which organisations to contact and approach if they are struggling." – Felicia (YES member)

Results

The leaflet debuted on social media and has been a huge success. It has been shared via Twitter over 300 times and has been showcased on many youth forum websites and included in online publications. Members plan to continue updating the leaflet as new information becomes available.



Conclusions

The YES forum recognised that having accessible and relevant information was key to empowering young adults to protect themselves and their families. We have shown that involving young adult stakeholders in co-production of educational material is highly successful and achieves widespread engagement.

If you'd like more information on the leaflet, or the Youth Empowerment Squad, please email:

youthforum.bartshealth@nhs.net

Or check out their Social Media: Twitter: @YES_BartsHealth Instagram: @BartsHealthYouthForum

"We set up YES to establish a platform for passionate individuals to have an impact on lives of adolescents across Barts and we have definitely achieved that goal."

- Theo (YES member)



