**Abstracts**

Embedding the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child into a Palliative Care Setting

Emma Aspinall, Susan Hayward, Sarah Jasper. Formerly, Acorns Children’s Hospice, Birmingham, UK; Acorns Children’s Hospice, Birmingham, UK

**Background** Children’s Rights are central to the work of all children’s services across statutory or voluntary sectors. In 2019 Acorns commenced a journey with UNICEF’s Rights Respecting Program to embed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in all we do through the charity; this journey took over three years and has resulted in Acorns being the first non-education organisation to received Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards for our Rights Respecting work.

**Aims** To share our experience of embedding the UNCRC informing our direct work with children and governance process. Highlight the impact for our workforce as Duty Bearers and for the children who have embraced being Rights Holders.

**Methods** 2019 – UNICEF Champions from each of the hospices were identified, a steering group developed. Champions went on training, meeting with other organisations also participating in the programme. Apr. 2020 – Received the Bronze Award in recognition of the strategic and operational planning being put in place to support the transformational change required. Dec. 2021 – Received the Silver Award for the visibility of the UNCRC within the hospices and via support provided to children. Apr. 2023 – Acorns was awarded GOLD award for demonstrating the impact UNCRC had on children and young people empowering them to know their Rights and to champion for others.

**Results** Evidence of increased confidence and empowerment for children and young people. Young people actively planning their end of life and after death care. Children challenging decisions and identifying their own wishes. Campaigning for others using the UNCRC as a reference.

**Conclusions** To embed the UNCRC there needed to be a strategic approach from the Executive putting UNCRC at the core of the hospice’s ethos. How innovative or of interest is the abstract? We hope that sharing our learning will benefit colleagues from across the wider palliative care sector.

Developing and Embedding a Youth Social Action Culture in a Paediatric Hospice

Anna Bowyer, Lynne Phelps, Katie Simons. Tŷ Hafan, Sully, UK

**Background** Tŷ Hafan hospice supports children with life-shortening conditions and their families. Historically, decision-making within the hospice has utilised a top-down approach. Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, states: children and young people have the right to have their views heard and considered on matters that affect them. Youth social action (YSA) enables children and young people to design and implement meaningful change.

**Aim** As a children’s and young people’s charity, we want to develop and embed a YSA culture and structure to underpin decision-making in the hospice. Ensuring the inclusion of the views of non-verbal children and young people and those with complex disability.

**Methods** Apr. – Aug. 2022: Application and award of Children in Need funding for YSA projects. Sept. 2022 – Feb. 2023: YSA-informed recruitment of YSA worker, with children’s and young people’s contributions spanning funding allocation to notifying successful applicant. Mar. 2023 – present: Scoping exercises, staff training on gathering the views of non-verbal children and young people and children and young people with complex disability, familiarising them with YSA and initial implementation of YSA practice within the hospice.

**Results** To date, YSA project outcomes include: Easter event designed by children and young people for the children and young people; a hospice mural co-led by children and young people; and partnering with another charity to assist the children and young people in devising a creative piece around a matter that is important to them culminating in a dramatic production where families and education staff will be invited to view. Children and young people have reported an increased sense of ownership and wellbeing, while staff have noted the value in creating opportunities for decision-making to be influenced by children’s and young people’s unique opinions.

**Conclusion** Implementing a YSA approach within Tŷ Hafan is in its infancy, yet it has already fostered meaningful, children and young people-led change. The funding ends in July 2024 and we hope to evidence the importance and value of embedding a YSA approach going forward.

Parallel session 6.1: Perspectives on patient care

Wednesday 8 November 2023, 13:00 – 14:00

**A Collaborative Hospice Approach to the Provision of a Clinic for Those with Motor Neurone Disease**

Sarah Perry, Jo Poyner, Elizabeth Handcock. The Shakespeare Hospice, Stratford Upon Avon, UK

**Background** Two hospices provide separate support across the same county, for individuals and their loved ones affected by Motor Neurone Disease (MND). To achieve equal access to regular collaborative holistic assessments and support from the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Motor neurone disease: assessment and management. [NG42], 2016), a hospice based clinic where specialist MDT support could be accessed, alongside social and practical advice was identified.

**Aims** To provide an equitable approach across the county for people with MND and their loved ones to access support from specialist health professionals (Raynor, Alexander, Corr, et al. J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry,2003;74:1258–61) in