

Quality Burn Care: the art and science of including the children and young people as service users

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Background

The United Nations rights to the convention of the child (1989) were ratified in the United Kingdom during 1991, underpinning legislation and Government policy. The National Health Service Values, (NHS), provide a framework of areas to be considered: care, competence, compassion, commitment, courage, and communication. Several Department of Health documents advocate seeking the service user perspective. The key Children's Rights being explored in this research are articles 3, 12, 13 and 24. The literature identifies that children and young people are able to participate in research provided that their age appropriate needs are taken into account and there is a suitable research design.

Proposed research project

The proposed qualitative research will take place at a single NHS organization on a children's day surgery ward where children and young people receive treatment for burns or plastic surgical interventions. The research design has considered the ethical principles from the beginning. The research is a case study, drawing from Ethnographic principles.

Planned Methods

The children and young people will use participatory and creative methods using drawing, arts and crafts appropriate to their age and stage of development. During a semi-structured interview the researcher will take the 'Least adult role' to create a book together (Mandell, 1991).

Results

The planned research is awaiting NHS ethical approval.

Conclusion

Unless the voices and participation of children and young people as service users are taken into consideration, their perspectives on the quality of their care cannot be realised or evaluated.