

Press release – embargoed until 00.00hrs 20th November 2024

20th November 2024

Universal Children's Day

Today commemorates the UN Convention on the Right of the Child¹, recognising that children have different needs and rights to adults.

The UN Convention encompasses 54 articles covering children's rights and what governments can do to meet the specific needs of children.

The UK ratified the Convention in 1991. Although there has been progress in embedding the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child across the UK, there is still room for improvement².

A better future for everyone can be achieved by promoting and prioritising children's rights and involving them in decisions.

The ABPN believes that

- Services for infants, children and young people should be age appropriate in facilities that meet their specific needs
- The voices of children and young people should be heard and inform the development and planning/ commissioning of services for them
- Infants, children and young people should receive care from nurses that have the child specific knowledge, skills and competencies
- Infants, children and young people should receive care and treatment at home or as close to home as possible, with transfer of care planned along with timely transition from children services to adult service provision
- Parents, family and significant others should be involved in planning and delivery of care according to their and their child/young person's wishes

"The theme of World Children's Day is for adults to "listen to the future and to ask children about their vision for tomorrow". As a researcher my work has focused on listening to the stories children tell of their lived experiences of health care. Listening to children is crucial. Children need to have a voice to shape their future"

Professor Bernie Carter, President

Notes for editors

¹ United Nations, 1989, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child <https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-wedo/un-convention-child-rights/>

² See ABPN Position statement on Children and Young People's Rights and ABPN Background briefing on Children and Young People's Rights - [abpn_position_statement_children_and_young_peoples_rights.pdf](#) and [abpn_background_briefing_children_and_young_people.pdf](#)

The term child refers to infants, children, young people and young adults up to 25 years of age

The ABPN recognises that primary and community services, as well as child public health and mental health services, including school nurses and health visitors also have a key role in supporting children, young people and families.

The ABPN is a network of children's nurses with a wide membership of experts in clinical practice, education, leadership and research. It is the oldest children's nursing association in the world, established in 1938.

www.abpn-uk.com

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