Small children and young people are being given the chance to be represented, get involved and have their say on the way children’s health services are delivered at Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital.

The Basingstoke Hospital Youth Forum will meet three times a year and give young people aged between 11 and 16 who have been treated at the hospital the chance to shape the way children’s services are run.

The first meeting is planned for July and Judith Bennett, Paediatric Clinical Matron at Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital, Royal Hampshire County Hospital, in Winchester, and Andover War Memorial Hospital, said: “I am excited about the forum and looking forward to working with young people to find out how they think we could improve our services.

“If you have been treated at Basingstoke hospital and have ideas about things you think we could do differently, please apply to join the Basingstoke Hospital Youth Forum. We really want to hear your views.”

Visit [www.hampshirehospitals.nhs.uk/bhyf](http://www.hampshirehospitals.nhs.uk/bhyf) for more information and to apply to be a member of the forum.

ENDS

**Photo:** Paediatric Clinical Matron Judith Bennett with a patient at Basingstoke hospital.

**Notes to Editors**

1. Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust provides hospital services to a population of approximately 600,000 people in Hampshire and parts of West Berkshire.
2. HHFT has around 6,000 staff and a turnover of £353 million a year.
3. HHFT delivers one hospital service across multiple locations including its own hospitals, Andover War Memorial Hospital, Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital and Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester. It also provides outpatient and assessment services from Bordon and Alton community hospitals.
4. As a Foundation Trust, HHFT is accountable to the local community through a system of local ownership with members and elected governors. HHFT has around 18,000 staff and public members. Foundation Trusts are free from central government control and can reinvest any surplus to develop clinical services. They are authorised and regulated by NHS Improvement, an independent regulator.

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