

Staff spotlight

Tony Tran

Children and Young
People's Engagement
Manager at RCPCH



● *Hrutika (19) interviews Tony, whose journey into children's health began with a commitment to empowering young people*

With over a decade of experience as a qualified youth worker, Tony's background spans open-access youth clubs, targeted work within LGBTQ+ communities and a foundation in the arts. When he first saw the opportunity at RCPCH &Us, it was the call for a professional youth worker with specialist training that caught his eye. Nearly two years on, he uses his expertise to ensure children's voices are at the heart of paediatric healthcare.

When asked about his proudest moment, it was hard for Tony to choose just one: "Learning about paediatric services from the perspective of children and families was eye-opening – understanding how different health conditions impact young lives." He's particularly proud of facilitating opportunities for children and young people to share their stories directly with decision-makers, whether those are MPs or doctors. He firmly believes that real change doesn't come from one single big event but from many small shifts.

Tony's approach is built around respect and

authenticity, and his golden rule is to listen to what they want and need. "A child once said to me, 'I'm the boss of you!' They're right – they're the leaders here." That's why RCPCH &Us sessions are relaxed and human, steering clear of the parent, carer or teacher role. "It's about keeping it real, being open and honest, and treating each child or young person as they are, supporting them in their journeys."

One phrase that's stuck with Tony: "If the children and young people don't turn up, nothing will happen." It's a powerful reminder that their voice drives the work, and without them, any change might not be fit for purpose. He believes that relationships are everything – they take time, but if you want someone to be truly open, you have to be open and engage yourself.

Tony's role is a testament to the importance of the youth voice in healthcare – amplifying it, championing it and ensuring RCPCH &Us is a place where every child and young person feels seen, heard and respected.