

Getting the message across with art

What started as an interactive stand at the RCPCH Conference is now an inspiring patchwork quilt, stitched with paediatricians' wishes for child health in the next 10 years



**Tatiana,
aged 22**

As part of the RCPCH & Us 10th birthday celebrations, we designed our stand in Glasgow to look back on the past decade and ahead to the future.

We wanted to create a party atmosphere and it wouldn't be a party without bunting!

Having been involved with the Building Artworks project since its start in 2024, I have seen how effective art can be at sparking conversation, so we invited doctors and allied health professionals visiting the stand to create their own piece of bunting illustrating their wishes for the next 10 years in children's health.

The response was inspiring. Many

stayed for 20 minutes or more, joining us in arts and crafts while talking with young people and parent carers. These conversations were as valuable as the messages. We heard about doctors carrying teddies to reassure children and others who keep up with the latest TV shows to connect with teens.

Many told us of the creative ways they already bring empathy, listening and enjoyment into their work. Some key themes made their way onto the bunting: safety, equality and, above all, listening to and including the child or young person. Huge strides have been made, but the activity reminded us that there is always more to do.

After conference, the bunting was carefully stitched together to make a patchwork quilt, which now hangs in



**The patchwork quilt is now
on display in the College**

the College. I first saw it during a visit by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, and showing it to her was a very special moment. The quilt will help visiting healthcare professionals remember the children at the heart of what they do – and also what they are doing well and how we can improve in the future.