



Press Release
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From Bare Walls to Bright Futures: Bury CAMHS Patients Shape Colourful Hospital Makeover

A mental health hospital for young people in Bury is stepping into a brighter future after two local artists teamed up with service users to completely transform the space.

Located on Buller Road, Cygnet Bury Forestwood is a CAMHS mental health hospital for young people aged 12-18 struggling with their mental health.

The Cygnet Health Care service has collaborated with local artists to design colourful, mood-boosting murals that reflect the power of co-production, with the aim to make the service feel less clinical and far more vibrant, fun and uplifting.

Charlotte and Ciara, who work as Paint Steady Crew, also support the young people as part of the art and education team at Forestwood School, a specialist education provider for all service users at Cygnet Bury Forestwood.

Ruth Emmott, General Manager at the Cygnet Health Care service, highlighted the success of the project: "The artwork reflects the creativity, positivity and individuality of the young people who call Cygnet Bury Forestwood home.

"It is important that those we support feel listened to and valued. This project was highly beneficial to our service users as they were able to contribute directly to transforming their surroundings."

Young people supported at the Cygnet Health Care service inspired the paintings by sharing their ideas about imagery, colours and themes they wanted to be reflected in their environment.

They then created stencils to be used with some service users even taking part in the painting itself.

"By taking part in both the design and creation of the murals, this ensured that the artwork genuinely represents the preferences of those we support. The service users have gained a sense of ownership, connection and pride," Ruth explained.

Feedback from the young people supported at the Bury hospital has been wholly positive, with compliments on the brightness of the paintings.

Ruth said: "The murals have brought warmth and personality to areas that may have once felt plain and sterile. Some service users have said the designs make them feel happier. It's really boosted the atmosphere and is a way to make our hospital more individualised whilst reflecting our values.

"There's also a therapeutic value as this project has provided a positive outlet for expression, building confidence and encouraging teamwork through collaboration. The best part is that we're only just getting started. We have more plans to keep transforming our environment for the young people so it feels more like them."

Charlotte Mellor Meecham, part of Paint Steady Crew, shared her experience of working on the transformative project.

"It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have had access and input so that we could create large-scale, lasting pieces that people not only respond well to, but feel they have been a part of," explained Charlotte.

"I'm really looking forward to this project's ongoing development and seeing where our combined creative efforts can take us next!"