

Public Health Merit Award

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Aim of the Public Health Merit Award

To equip children and young people with the public health skills and knowledge to make informed decisions to protect and improve their own health, thus protecting and improving the health of the community and narrowing health inequalities



Background

- Covid-19 saw an increase in health literacy and awareness of the role of public health institutes
- Long-lasting effects of lockdown on children and young people, encompassing many issues
- Opportunity to empower young people to play their role in protecting and improving health
- Programme builds on work by Welsh youth organisations



Partnership



Scouts Cymru



St John Ambulance



Army Cadets

Curriculum

- **Protection:** Communicable diseases, immunisation, infectious agents, and vectors of disease; and environmental health hazards and hygiene
- **Prevention:** Mental well-being; and taking care of your body
- **Improvement:** Wider determinants of health; and safe relationships
- **Project:** The end project is self/locally determined and must demonstrate learning of one or more of the learning outcomes and include a peer-to-peer learning component



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Merit badge

- Competition launched with our three partner organisations
- Entries judged by our young Ambassadors
- Staying true to the design



Evaluation

- Process and Early Outcome evaluation of the Award Scheme implementation across Wales
- Conducted by Liverpool John Moores University
- Initial report delivered in May 2023
 - Quality curriculum
 - Easily adaptable
 - Building skills around health protection, prevention and health improvement



Impact

- Widely accepted by children and young people
- Described as informal and flexible, with autonomy
- Potential wider impact for increased health-related knowledge



Success factors

- Timing
- Partnership approach
- Stakeholders' skills in designing curriculum
- Consultation, testing, detailed and robust evaluation to inform development



Result: the provision of an age-appropriate, interactive introduction to public health through a Public Health Merit Award that can be rolled out with partners throughout Wales



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