

Are these the doctors of the future?

Monday, 23 October 2017

Doctors of the future are being helped by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to prepare for a career in medicine.

The Health Board's 12 Neighbourhood Care Networks (NCNs) have provided funding to support Sixth Form Students in Gwent to take a course provided in partnership with Mediprep UK, who usually only run courses in London or Manchester.



This initiative forms part of a wider drive by the Health Board to recruitment more GPs and associated health professionals to help provide sustainable Primary Care services across Gwent. On Saturday, more than 30 students attended the course at Ysgol Gymraeg Caerffili.

Funding for local schools has also been provided for them to purchase medical and health care books and resources for their libraries to help their students to understand professional roles and careers options within this field.

Normally, students would have to travel to either Manchester or London to access the MediPrep course, paying for tutoring, travel and accommodation.

The scheme set up by the Health Board means local students can access the course free of charge in Gwent.

Paul Buss, Medical Director of Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, said: "There is evidence to support that there are reducing numbers of Welsh students accessing medicine as a career.

"We hope this investment by the Health Board will result in more local students completing medical training and ending up working in our communities in Gwent."



There are 25 sixth form education providers in Gwent and of those 20 schools sent students on the MediPrep programme. In total, 43 students attended.

Earlier in the year, the first MediPrep session was held with students in Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni and evaluation from the day identified that 95% of the students would not have taken up the programme personally if it had not been organised and funded through the Health Board.

They went on further to identify that the day was very informative and empowering. Agreeing that their confidence grew throughout the day and that they felt more knowledgeable and confident in applying to Medical Universities.

The scheme will continue to engage and support the students through to their offer of a place at University during 2018.

Due to the success of the scheme, the Neighbourhood Care Networks in the Health Board area have agreed to fund another cohort of Students for 2018/19.