

Tackling Childhood Adversity

Kieran Downey
 Director of Social Work
 Deputy Chief Executive

What are Adverse Childhood Experiences?

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are stressful experiences occurring during childhood that directly harm a child (e.g. sexual or physical abuse) or affect the environment in which they live (e.g. growing up in a house with domestic violence)

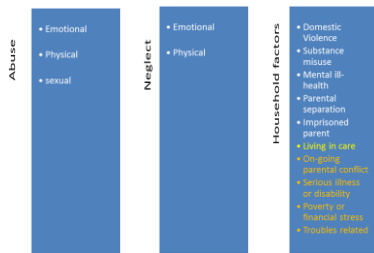
(Bellis et al 2016)

They include;

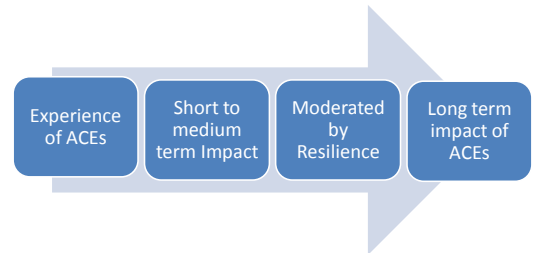
- domestic violence
- parental abandonment through separation or divorce
- a parent with a mental health condition
- being the victim of abuse (physical, sexual and/or emotional)
- being the victim of neglect (physical and emotional)
- a member of the household being in prison
- growing up in a household in which there are adults experiencing alcohol and drug use problems
- NI experience of 'Troubles Trauma'



What are Adverse Childhood Experiences?



ACEs and Resilience



ACEs and Me



National Study of ACEs in Wales (18 – 69 years)

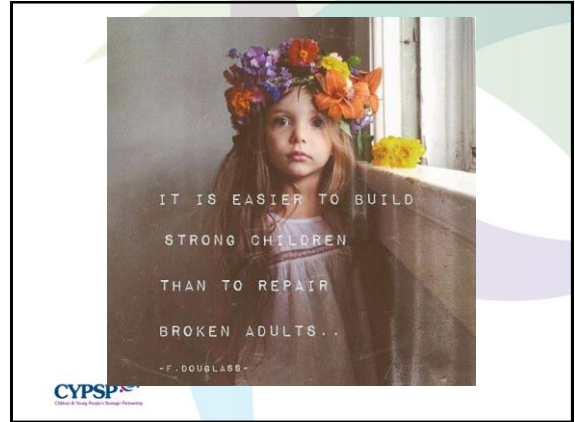
Compared with people with no ACEs, those with 4+ ACEs were

- 4** times more likely to be a high risk drinker
- 6** times more likely to smoke tobacco or E-cigs
- 11** times more likely to have smoked cannabis
- 16** times more likely to have used crack cocaine or heroin
- 20** times more likely to have been incarcerated in their life

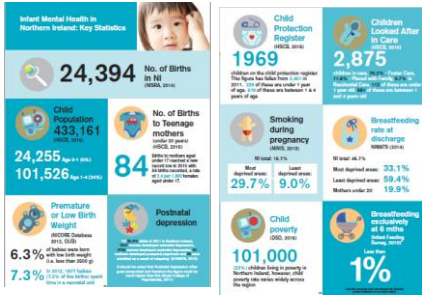
INDEPENDENT OF POVERTY

Why understanding about Adverse Childhood Experiences is important?

- Creates a shared, whole system, understanding of the impact of adversity in childhood
- Raise awareness of impact of trauma across all agencies
- Makes a powerful case for early intervention and prevention for all agencies
- Cost to the public sector of late intervention in Northern Ireland is estimated at £536 million per year. This is equivalent to £288 for every Northern Ireland resident, or £1,166 per child
- Emphasizes for agencies, communities and families the importance of building and fostering resilience



The Northern Ireland context



Programme for Government

1. We prosper through a strong, competitive, regionally balanced economy
2. We live and work sustainably – protecting the environment
3. We have a more equal society
4. We enjoy long, healthy, active lives
5. We are an innovative, creative society, where people can fulfil their potential
6. We have more people working in better jobs
7. We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other
8. We care for others and we help those in need
9. We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects diversity
10. We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest
11. We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure
12. We give our children and young people the best start in life



Context for Implementation



Regional NI ACE Reference Group

- Established following the ACE Conference in Nov 2017
- Membership has grown to include cross departmental and multi agency representation to ensure links to the policy context
- Participation in the 6 Nations 'think tank'
- Begin the conversations...ensure consistency of message and response
- Hearts and minds – inter and across disciplines and agencies

Collaborate to transform



A snapshot of prevalence

Number of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE Score)	CDC-Kaiser Permanente Study Total Per cent (N = 17,337)	ACE and the impact their impact on health harming behaviors in the White Population Total per cent (N = 2,622)	ACE Conference, Silverbrook Hotel, Orange Total Per cent (N = 200)	Trauma related incidents Total Per cent (N = 200)
0	36.1%	53%	26%	47%
1	26.0%	20%	20%	12.5%
2	15.9%	13%	20%	12.5%
3	9.5%		12%	4%
4 or more	12.5%	14%	22%	24%

ACEs
Adverse Childhood Experiences

#ACESNI2018

RESILIENCE

BREAKING Always Available Adult

THE Equipped to manage your behaviours and emotions

CYCLE Feel you can overcome hardship and guide your destiny

OF ACEs Involved and connected

HSC



HISTORIC CLAIMS

YOU are going to make a lot of bad choices in your life - choosing the wrong parents, the wrong socio-economic group, and the wrong social welfare home, where you are going to get yourself abused. After that you are just going to carry on making bad choices till you end up in prison. Or a psych ward.

When are you going to take some responsibility for yourself?

MURDOCH 14/02/15

By being ACE aware and Trauma Informed we will move from asking...


“What’s wrong with you?” To “What happened to you?”

Blame	Understanding
Shame	Nurturing
Punishment	Healing

HSC

Regional ACE Conference - November 2017



- Set a platform for the regional roll out of the ACE agenda across Northern Ireland.
- £1.5 million will be invested through the EITP to develop:
 - General awareness of trauma informed practice across a multiagency spectrum
 - Specialised training for professionals
 - Trauma informed advisors to instill culture and practice at an organisational level.
- Full Conference Report - www.cypsp.hscni.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/ACE-Conference-Report-November-2018-1.pdf



Adverse Childhood Experiences

Developing a Trauma Informed Workforce

@safeguardingni

Trauma Informed Practice – Professional Development Project


The aim of the project is that all SBNI organisations will;

- Have **awareness** of the adverse childhood experiences which cause trauma in a child's life
- Be aware of the impact of these adversities on the **development** of a child
- Be able to identify what creates **resilience** to cope with adversity
- Be able to develop policies and practice to **embed** trauma informed practice in their work.



Who will be trained


ACE	AWARENESS	Training
EANI PHA Community & Voluntary (Inc Sport) Faith	PSNI PPS PBNI YJA	HSCTs (Multi Disciplinary) Nurses GPs Councils



To create..


A system where :

- The workforce recognises and responds to the **impact of childhood adversity on children, caregivers and service providers**
- Trauma awareness, knowledge and skills are an **integral part of organisational cultures, practices and policies**
- Effective practice is used to maximise the physical and psychological safety of the child, **facilitate recovery of the child and family and support their ability to thrive**
- Children and families impacted by and vulnerable to trauma are **more resilient and better able to cope.**



Which will mean :

- Children grow up in more stable and supportive homes leading to **improved learning, health, social and economic outcomes** throughout their lives
- Agencies, programmes and service **providers support individuals** who want to disclose. They understand life-long symptoms associated with childhood adversity.
- Continuity of care and **collaboration** are emphasised **across child-service systems**
- People exposed to adversity find it **easier to access support earlier**, and in a way which is effective for them
- **Parents and family members understand** the importance of supporting childhood development, minimising adversity and building resilience



MACE Project Overview



AIM: To transform the lives of vulnerable children families who are at risk from multiple adversities in their lives, by identifying, intervening early and provide nurturing support within their own homes and communities.

TARGET POPULATION: Children within the age groups 0-3 and 11-13 and their families.

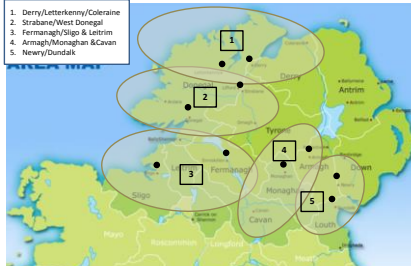
OBJECTIVES:

1. To establish an adversity matrix and risk stratification tool which will allow for early identification of vulnerable families
2. Develop a range of interventions to those assessed using the adversity matrix and/or risk stratification tool

DURATION: 48 months
START DATE: 1st July 2017 – 30th June 2021
BUDGET: €5,010,240
PARTNERS: WHSCT, SHSCT, HSCB, PHA, TUSLA & HSE (Lead Partner)

Indicative cross border community network areas



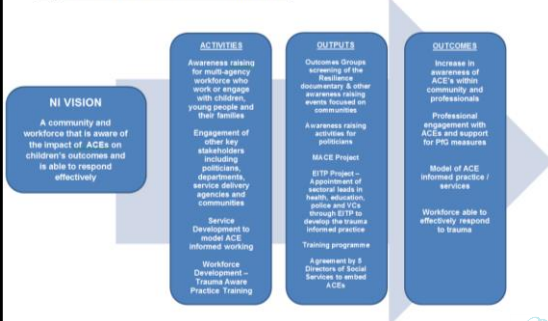
CAWT MACE Project

Project Outputs:

- Deliver and implement new border area frameworks for early intervention to benefit 3, 125 vulnerable families
- Development of an Adversity Matrix & Risk Stratification Tool
- 500 staff trained to identify and support vulnerable families
- 5 cross border community networks of excellence
- E-health technologies



Logic Model for ACES in Northern Ireland



it takes a village to raise a child

Thank you for listening and for participating in this conversation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Visit the ACE Reference Group webpage on the CYPSP website at:

www.cypsp.org/task-finish-groups/regional-ace-reference-group/

