

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 28 NOVEMBER 2019

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with a progress update on the work undertaken in line with the Children and Families Partnership Plan 2018-2021 to develop a trauma informed approach to addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Link to the local Health and Care System

2. The Children and Families Partnership Plan is aligned to the Leicestershire County Council Strategic Plan and focuses on the added value of approaching strategic priorities across the partnership to ensure consistent communication and service delivery to children and families.

Recommendation

3. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the report.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

4. Following a development session in November 2018 which focused on the findings of a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment concerning mental health and commissioning intentions for 2019/20, the Health and Wellbeing Board requested that the Children and Families Partnership develop an approach to ACEs for Leicestershire.

Background

5. ACEs refer to some of the most intensive and frequently occurring sources of stress that children may suffer early in life. Such experiences include multiple types of abuse, neglect, violence between parents or caregivers, other kinds of serious household dysfunction such as alcohol and substance abuse, and peer, community and collective violence (World Health Organisation).
6. The term was originally developed in the United States for the Adverse Childhood Experiences survey which found that as the number of ACEs increased in the population studied, so did the risk of experiencing a range of health conditions in adulthood. There have been a number other studies, for example in Wales and Scotland, which have uncovered similar findings.
7. Commonly cited and the most researched adverse childhood experiences that are known about include verbal, physical and sexual abuse, physical and psychological

neglect, parental death, divorce, substance misuse, mental health, attempted suicide and incarceration.

8. ACE Research indicates that four or more adverse childhood exposures significantly increases the odds of a person having a sexually transmitted infection (by 2 ½ times), using illicit drugs (5 x increased risk), being addicted to alcohol (over 7x increased risk), and attempting suicide (over 12x increased risk). Exposure to ACEs during the life course can also lead to disruptive nervous, hormonal and immune development, social emotional and learning problems, adoption of health harming behaviours and crime, non-communicable diseases, disability, social problems and low productivity and ultimately early death.

Proposals/Options

9. In order to establish a local approach to managing ACEs, the Children and Families Partnership established a steering group. The steering group, which includes representatives from public health, health, local authority and CCGs, has over the past six months undertaken work including:
- Organising a multi-agency event around “First Steps to a Trauma Informed Approach to Address Adverse Childhood Experiences” held on 21 May 2019. The event included key note presentations from Ann Berry, Public Health Nottinghamshire, Dr Warren Larkin, Clinical Psychologist and Matt Buttery, CEO of Triple P and workshops delivered by partners.
 - Learning from a Lottery funded programme in Blackpool (Better Start) which focuses on promoting good early child development that uses a trauma informed approach to address ACEs to learn the lessons from this programme.
 - Undertaken discussions with the Violence Reduction Unit to identify how the Partnership can work together and to explore funding opportunities especially in relation to workforce development.
 - Delivered a strategic leader’s workshop, facilitated by Dr Warren Larkin, held on 19 September 2019. The focus of the workshop was to begin the development of a shared vision and to agree how a trauma informed approach could be progressed across Leicestershire.

Proposed next steps:

- For the Children and Families Partnership to agree to adopt the Trauma Aware System Change (TASC) Model (Appended to the report) as a framework to develop a trauma aware whole system approach for Leicestershire;
- To set up a task group for each TASC strand (Community, Workforce, Commissioning, Prevention, Increased Access to Intervention) with identified leads responsible for reporting back to the Children and Families Partnership Board;
- For the Children and Families Partnership Board to progress the governance element of the TASC model;
- Each task group to have an initial meeting before January 2020 Partnership Board meeting;

- Each task group to undertake a mapping exercise of current activity and leads to provide a report to the Partnership Board in March 2020

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Appendix

Trauma Aware System Change (TASC) model

Trauma-Aware System Change (TASC) model

