

Action on ACEs –update for the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Highlights

The ACEs panel resumed regular meetings in September 2020 after a pause through the first phase of the pandemic. The focus has been on continuing momentum in the programme with a view to responding to the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable children and adults, and building on the examples of individual and community resilience which the county has seen.

In May, the Action on ACEs programme held an Ambassadors Networking event offering an opportunity to engage with the 135 plus current Ambassadors across social care, early years, the VCS and education sectors. This was followed by the annual ACEs conference in June (ran jointly with education colleagues) which attracted 487 delegates. The conference focused on the importance of resilience as a protective factor against the impact of ACEs.

Work is also underway to:

- roll out a pilot of trauma informed training for the VCS sector in conjunction with the Nelson Trust;
- introduce Trauma Informed Relational Practice training for schools and GCC; and
- develop mentoring support for vulnerable girls and young women (funded through the CHK Foundation).

Inequalities

Our socio-economic circumstances and life chances have a bearing on our likelihood of experiencing ACEs and our resilience. Addressing the causes and impact of ACEs can help contribute to reducing inequalities. Locally the pandemic is encouraging a renewed system wider focus on addressing inequalities, and it is important that we embed an ACE aware and trauma informed approach as part of this.

Next steps

The panel is currently overseeing a refresh of the current ACEs strategy and accompanying action plan. The refresh will reflect on our learning to date and the developing evidence base around ACEs.

Priorities for the next phase include:

- continuing to develop our approach to trauma informed practice in the county, building on work already happening in the education, early years and voluntary sector; and
- extending our focus to look at the impacts of ACEs in adulthood and the role of a trauma informed approach in building resilience.