



Gwent Regional Collaborative Committee

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Mapping Exercise 2016

“An increasing body of research identifies the long-term harms that can result from chronic stress on individuals during childhood. Such stress arises from the abuse and neglect of children but also from growing up in households where children are routinely exposed to issues such as domestic violence or individuals with alcohol and other substance use problems”.

Ref: Welsh Adverse Childhood Experiences study. Public Health Wales NHS Trust 2015

The Welsh Adverse Childhood Experiences study report highlights the importance of Wales' early intervention and prevention agenda and of providing children with safe environments to grow up in. The report is being considered and given increasing precedence across many Welsh Government departments and focusing on early years is recognised as a key priority in the Programme for Government “Taking Wales Forward 2016-2021”
<http://gov.wales/docs/strategies/160920-taking-wales-forward-en.pdf>

Supporting People in Gwent funds services to help prevent people from losing their homes and to help people in Gwent live independently, the Programme currently supports in the region of 20,000 vulnerable adults each year.

The Gwent Regional Collaborative Committee through their Young Peoples task and finish group considered the Welsh Adverse Childhood Experiences Study and agreed that it was important to understand how many of these experiences the Gwent Supporting People population have had personal exposure to.

A questionnaire was designed and circulated to all support providers across Gwent. It asked support workers to review their case loads as a snap shot on September 30th 2016 and to complete the questionnaire based on the knowledge they had of the person they were supporting. There were limitations to this exercise including a reliance on support workers to have this detailed knowledge of the person they are supporting and whether someone receiving support has disclosed their earlier adverse childhood experiences to their support worker; it raises the question whether SP should be routinely asking about ACEs and if we did how might this influence or change the support intervention that is then delivered.

Some analysis of the data is now available and this briefing provides an overview of some of the key results from the mapping exercise.



The information highlights that some populations within the overarching Gwent Supporting People population have experienced a significantly higher amount of adverse childhood experiences than the national average and these experiences may be continuing to impact on their health and wellbeing and their ability to manage and cope during their adult lives.

We hope that the results from the mapping exercise provide senior officials and stakeholders with further evidence and a greater understanding that projects funded under the Supporting People Programme are providing essential and vital services delivering support to some of our most vulnerable citizens within our communities, preventing or helping to reduce pressure on statutory services such as health and social services.

For further information about the Gwent Supporting People ACE mapping exercise please contact the Regional Development Co-ordinator.

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