



Flintshire Early Help Hub

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Flintshire Early Help Hub

- » Multi agency early help for children and families
 - » Social Services, Police, Health, Youth Justice, Housing, Flintshire Customer Connects, Education, Family Information Service, Early Years Support, 3rd sector (local voluntary council)
 - » Aligned to Flintshire's Families First programme
- » Soft launch 30 June 2017
- » Full launch in October 2017

The challenge

- » Cohort of families with needs
 - » often known to agencies
 - » not meeting thresholds for 'social services'
 - » time intensive with reoccurring patterns of crisis
- » Recognition that risk that needs may escalate
 - » Not wanting to engage with statutory services

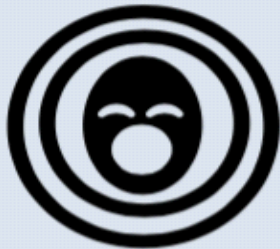
Purpose of the Hub

- » Working alongside families with greater needs to build resilience & wellbeing
 - » Prevent escalation of need and reduce the need for statutory intervention
- » Targeted at families with 2 or more ACE's

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

How many adults in Wales have been exposed to each ACE?

CHILD MALTREATMENT



Verbal abuse
23%



Physical abuse
17%



Sexual abuse
10%

CHILDHOOD HOUSEHOLD INCLUDED



Parental
separation
20%



Domestic
violence
16%



Mental
illness
14%



Alcohol
abuse
14%



Drug
use
5%



Incarceration
5%



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Compared with people with no ACEs, those with 4+ ACEs are:

- 4 times more likely** to be a high-risk drinker
- 6 times more likely** to have had or caused unintended teenage pregnancy
- 6 times more likely** to smoke e-cigarettes or tobacco
- 6 times more likely** to have had sex under the age of 16 years
- 11 times more likely** to have smoked cannabis
- 14 times more likely** to have been a victim of violence over the last 12 months
- 15 times more likely** to have committed violence against another person in the last 12 months
- 16 times more likely** to have used crack cocaine or heroin
- 20 times more likely** to have been incarcerated at any point in their lifetime

NOTE THIS IS ALL INDEPENDENT OF POVERTY

But it's more than these outcomes

» **Because brain development for children exposed to ACEs is different, in the last two weeks, adults who had been exposed to 4+ ACEs were:**

- 3** times more likely to have never or rarely felt close to other people
- 4** times more likely to have never or rarely been thinking clearly
- 5** times more likely to have never or rarely to have dealt with problems well
- 5** times more likely to have never or rarely been able to make up their own mind about things
- 6** times more likely to have never or rarely felt optimistic about the future
- 6** times more likely to have never or rarely felt useful

- ❖ **30% with 4+ ACEs will have hit someone in last 12 months cf. with 3% for those who had no ACEs.**
- ❖ **3 x more likely to have attended A & E & had overnight stays in hospital if an adult with 4+ ACEs.**

Preventing ACEs in future generations could reduce levels of:



Heroin/crack cocaine use (lifetime)
by **66%**



Incarceration (lifetime)
by **65%**



Violence perpetration (past year)
by **60%**



Violence victimisation (past year)
by **57%**



Cannabis use (lifetime)
by **42%**



Unintended teen pregnancy
by **41%**



High-risk drinking (current)
by **35%**



Early sex (before age 16)
by **31%**



Smoking tobacco or e-cigarettes (current)
by **24%**



Poor diet (current; <2 fruit & veg portions daily)
by **16%**



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Evidence base

- » **19 families chosen at r&om where there had been a referral to FCC Children's Services & 10 families known to FCC Youth Justice Service:**
 - » 7 of 29 families had evidence of every one of these indicators: domestic abuse, substance &/or alcohol misuse, mental health, crime & ASB, family dysfunction/child safety & children with poor school attendance.
 - » A further 18 of 29 evidenced at least 4 of these 6 indicators.
 - » Very strong links between domestic abuse, substance misuse & mental health. These correlate with poor school attendance & ASB.
 - » In families where there is evidence of parental criminal offending, there is a high incidence of poor school attendance & ASB.

Evidence base

- » **This knowledge helps evidence the high cost of not getting the help offered right.**
 - » Narrow data analysis identified **an average cost of £107.5k per family** & this **underestimates** the costs borne by FCC, North Wales Police, BCUHB & Flintshire schools.
 - » Multiple problems seems to mean multiple interactions with multiple services. Multiple problems makes each individual problem more difficult to tackle so that any one problem becomes 'the problem' that tips the family into significant dysfunction.
 - » But every service assesses risk & supports individuals & families differently. This model focuses on presenting issues. It doesn't tackle problems in ways that make sense to the family.

So we must get better at helping earlier children exposed to ACEs

- » & while you might think that evidence of most ACEs on their own or in combination might meet thresholds for a children's services statutory intervention that is not so.
 - » E.g. 80+% of referrals from NW Police have not met thresholds & so mainly result in no further action.
- » So FCC, BCUHB, North Wales Police & FLVC have come together to lead a new approach in line with the Social Services & Wellbeing Act 2014 & statutory powers to prevent crime & disorder, keep children safe & improve the wellbeing of children.

From October 2017.....

- » For families that do not meet thresholds for a care & support plan but 2+ ACEs & any other concerns about child &/or family, there will not be any 'no further actions'. There will be a response. It might be:
 - » **Information & advice largely provided by the Family Information Service.**
 - » A single agency information, advice & assistance response from a statutory or third sector service. This might include Police, health visitors, youth justice, Families First services, third sector organisations etc. A co-located information officer with links to the third sector based in the hub will help with this.
 - » **A multiple agency response coordinated by a lead worker from Team Around the Family or some specifically commissioned Families First services who work alongside the family to develop a family plan & coordinate interventions from multiple services.**

Key Features

- » Sponsored by Flintshire's Public Services Board
- » Police project sponsor
 - » Active driver for change
- » Project capacity

Key Features

- » Evidence basis for the service
- » Targeted to families where it will make impact
- » Multi agency collaboration
- » Ability to deploy resources: Families First
- » Evaluated to ensure effective
- » Project managed

Challenges and learning

- » **Appetite for risk**
 - » Understand what is important
 - » Invest and be pragmatic
- » **Continuity of agency attendance**
 - » Control communication: set out key messages
- » **Securing resources**
 - » Agencies need to identify the benefits for their work
 - » Look at existing resources, lead by example
- » **Build performance and evaluation systems**
 - » Involve partners in setting indicators and outcome measures to assess effectiveness



Diolch/ Thanks
