Addressing Childhood Adversity

A Perspective from Northern Ireland

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Public Health Agency

Improving Your Health and Wellbeing
Public Health Framework

Vision

All people are enabled and supported in achieving their full health and wellbeing potential.
Making Life Better Themes

1. Give Every Child the Best Start
2. Equipped Throughout Life
3. Empowering Healthy Living
4. Creating the conditions
5. Empowering Communities
6. Developing Collaboration

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Improving Your Health and Wellbeing
Adverse Childhood Episodes
Child Development Board

PHA Child Development Project Board

5 Trusts

HSCB

Academic (QUB)

Key Sectoral Specialists

Infant Mental Health Training & Plan

Evidence Based Parenting Programmes

Healthy Child Healthy Future

Family Nurse Partnerships

Social Complexity Proposal

Breastfeeding Strategy & Action Plan

Research & Evaluation

Improving Your Health and Wellbeing
Early Years Intervention Model

Intervention across the life course
Programmes include:

- Infant Mental Health
  (-9 months to 2 years)
- Family Nurse Partnership
  (-9 months to 2 years)
- Breastfeeding support
  (0-6 months)
- Odyssey: Parenting
  (12-18 years)
- Incredible Years
  (0-12 years)
- Triple P
  (2-12 years)
- Roots of Empathy
  (5-12 years)
- Strengthening Families
  (10-14 years)

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Delivering Social Change

Delivering Social Change Programme Board – Ministerial Sub-group-Chaired by First and Deputy First Minister

DSC / AP Projects (£65M) (EITP (£35M)/ Dementia / Shared Education)

EITP Programme Board-Justice, Health, Education, OFMDFM, Employment and Learning and

WS 1: Equipping parents with the skills to give their child best start in life
WS 2: Supporting families locally when problems arise at an early stage
WS 3: Changing outcomes for children facing particular adversity

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Early Intervention Transformation – Workstream I

Equipping parents to give their children the best start in life

- Getting Ready for Baby
- Getting Ready for Toddler
- Getting Ready to Learn

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Early Intervention Transformation – Workstream 2

W2 Supporting families when problems arise before they need statutory involvement

- Roll out of regional Family Hub Model
- Early Intervention Service
- Parenting Programme Development

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Early Intervention Transformation – Workstream 3

Positively address the impact of adversity on children

Building Better Futures
Belfast Intensive Family Support Programme
Home on Time
Edges
Families Inside Out

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Barriers

- Treatment largely based on extent of diagnosed illness that manifests in later adolescence/early adulthood rather than addressing prevention/early intervention
- Absence of a working adversity matrix/assessment and intervention framework/pathway for children experiencing multiple adverse experiences
- Complexity of ‘what works’ and application of interventions that both fit and whose implementation is robustly tested.
- Influencing others-Education, Councils, Justice, Urban Regeneration, Community and Voluntary Sector.
Tackling ACEs as a priority

- Making 0-3 years ‘everyone’s business’ and increasing awareness of impacts of significant adversity, particularly in early life
- CAMHS and Adult Mental Health having an integrated focus on younger children and adversity assessment and interventions
- Improving the peri-natal mental health pathway
- Integrated Infant Mental Health Plans
- Working Adversity Matrix Assessment and intervention pathway Models