Wigan Safeguarding Children's Partnership

Wigan Safeguarding Children's Partnership – Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) – 7 Minute Briefing

Definitions

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are stressful or traumatic experiences encountered up to the age of 18.

There are 10 commonly known categories of exposure:

- Abuse - emotional/physical/sexual,
- Neglect - emotional/physical,
- DVA
- substance abuse
- mental illness
- parental loss.

Others include:

- poverty
- homelessness
- bullying
- discrimination
- separation from primary care giver or migration

Themes from Wigan Review Processes which co-occur with ACE's

- Poor Mental Health
- Domestic violence
- Lack of professional curiosity
- Sexual/physical abuse
- Lack of consideration for lived experiences
- Lack of Think Family approach
- Missing from home

What does good look like?

Trauma informed practice recognises the impact of trauma and understands pathways to recovery. Practitioners are able to recognise the symptoms of trauma and have knowledge of the policies and practice in place within their organisation. Practitioners understand that recovery from trauma is an individual and often lengthy process which requires multi-faceted wrap around support.

Why is this important to Wigan?

The Deal for Children and Young People promotes the investment of time to prevent service users needing to repeat their stories. Allowing greater opportunity to understand individual experiences and to apply effective support. Interventions should be evidenced based and innovative to meet individual needs. the deal promotes professional curiosity and routine enquiry to support positive working relationships to achieve efficient and effective outcomes.

What can we consider?

- Are you able to have conversations with other professionals which enhance assessments?
- Do your regularly practice active listening, are you aware of your own strengths and weaknesses in this skill?
- Do you regularly re-visit on going assessments to amend and adapt based on new knowledge?
- Do you share information with other professionals working with families in a timely manner?
- Are you able to consider individual experiences and the impact on presenting behaviours? Consider how this may affect professional bias

More information can be found on our website

Contact us at wscb@wigan.gov.uk

What can you do right now?

Do's

- Ask about lived experiences
- Understand history and context of individual experiences
- Use appropriate assessment tools
- Consider additional support which may benefit the individual
- Listen actively

Don't

- Expect someone to tell you without question
- Ask closed questions.
- Stop someone speaking because you feel it is not your role
- Promise to keep disclosures to yourself.

Want to learn more?

- The Deal for Children and Young People
- Visit our guidance and policies page for information on professional curiosity, dealing with disclosures and communicating effectively.

More information can be found on our website
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