

# Compassionate Leeds: Creating a trauma informed city



Ellis, W., Dierz, W. (2017) A New Framework for Addressing Adverse Childhood and Community Experiences: The Building Community Resilience (BCR) Model. *Academic Pediatrics*, 17 (2017) pp. 586-593. DOI information: 10.1016/j.acap.2016.12.011

**Background:** Adverse Childhood Experiences are events or circumstances occurring in childhood that have been shown to increase the risk of trauma, poor mental health and in turn poor education, health and social outcomes. Recognition of the impact of exposure to ACEs can reduce the likelihood of trauma developing, by asking “what happened to you” rather than “what is wrong with you”.

**Problem:** Modelling undertaken in Leeds based on Children's Commissioner estimates concluded

- 33,580 (19.8%) children and young people are estimated to live in households with any of the toxic trio of ACEs: domestic violence, poor parental mental health, and parental substance abuse and 1,994 (1.2%) children and young people are estimated to live in households with all three
- ACEs are positively correlated with deprivation. A snapshot on 31st March 2020 showed there were 3,623 children categorised as Children in Need, 590 with a Child Protection Plan and 1,346 Children Looked After. 57.6% of children subject to a child protection plan live in the most deprived decile, compared to 8.3% in the top 5 deciles.

**Vision:** For Leeds to be a trauma informed city that works to prevent the conditions that lead to trauma and responds compassionately and swiftly whenever trauma, or risk of trauma is present.

**Action to date:** Partners are working to support Leeds to become a trauma informed city. We have a steering group, prevalence study and contributed to mapping and evidence review in partnership with the West Yorkshire Integrated Care System. We are in the process of coproducing a strategy. We have an embedded researcher to help focus effort and evaluate impact. We have funding to deliver a trauma informed therapeutic service and a community development grants programme. We launched the trauma informed movement at an educational event in November, with 444 people registered, with the hope of developing a trauma informed network and movement.

**Next steps:** We will continue to develop a Leeds strategy and action plan, design and nurture a trauma informed network and movement and work in partnership with West Yorkshire colleagues to ensure work to prevent and respond to ACEs and trauma is delivered in partnership.

**References:** Children’s Commissioner (2019) Vulnerability Report. Available at: [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/childrens-commissioner-vulnerability-report-2019/](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/childrens-commissioner-vulnerability-report-2019/) Hanson(2021) Improving Health Outcomes for Vulnerable Children and young People Report for Leeds

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