



# Building a fairer and brighter future by addressing Adverse childhood Experience (ACEs): A whole system challenge

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## Background

- 2018: Better Start Bradford, Bradford Council and Bradford District and City CCG brought partners together to consider the developing work on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) across partner organisations and the ACEs hub was established to share good practice and knowledge.
- 2019: Bradford District Health Needs Assessment and national evidence suggest that **unaddressed ACEs are one of the biggest threats to public health.**
- 2020: ACEs, Trauma and Resilience programme developed and prioritised including the appointment of an ATR Programme Lead in Public Health.
- 2021 – Launch of the Bradford District ACEs, trauma and Resilience Strategy to provide a framework for the district vision on prevention and mitigation of ACEs, buffering the impact of ACEs, intervening early and developing services that are building resilience against long term harm of adversity and trauma, particularly supporting those with Multiple and Complex disadvantage.

## Aim

**Vision Statement:** Working in partnership with people with lived experience and colleagues from across all sectors and organisations to ensure Bradford is both trauma informed and responsive.

The ACEs strategy has three principle aims for the first 3 years:

- Reduce the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences and trauma on the population across the Bradford District.
- Build resilience against long term harm of adversity and trauma.
- Raise awareness so that the Bradford population is able to access and receive integrated support from a range of professionals across the lifespan.

## A story of two babies: with and without protective factors

It is important to consider the journey for a child from being in the womb, the following describes the reality of living with and without protective factors and how it can affect you in to adulthood for a Bradford baby.



## Method

We aspire to have:

- A focus on early intervention and prevention, resilience and adversity.
- ACE aware and trauma-informed Bradford workforce and community.
- A workforce that is equipped to adequately support people who have been affected by ACEs.
- Embed ACE awareness into relevant policies, strategies, and commissioning processes.
- For all organisations to implement an approved model of restorative supervision to support the health and wellbeing of the workforce.
- Sharing best practice, learning from each other and being better together.

Enablers – 5 working groups with partners leading and contributing:

- ATR Aware Workforce
- ATR Aware Community
- ATR Aware Early Years
- ATR Aware Schools
- Trauma Informed Services

## Key Workforce Outcomes

- The Bradford ACEs, Trauma & Resilience Strategy is embedded in practice
- The workforce are able to access training, resources and restorative practice routinely
- Practitioners are able to share their knowledge on parent-infant relationships, trauma and ACEs in a sensitive way
- Commissioners routinely include being trauma informed in the services they commission
- Bradford district understands the adversities affecting their communities and provides services accordingly
- Services are trauma informed
- Parents report those supporting them are compassionate and curious about their feelings
- Adults living with the affects of trauma are supported by practitioners with an understanding of trauma

## Needs Assessment:

identified as a part of both the Logic Model and Theory of Change for the ACEs, Trauma and Resilience Programme

- Bradford district needs a strategy on ACEs, Trauma and Resilience to highlight the importance of ACEs.
- Bradford district needs to understand the current position for trauma informed services
- The workforce needs support so that are able to be compassionate and curious about their client's/patients feelings
- The workforce need to feel supported so that they are able to adopt trauma informed practices
- Adults have a responsibility to be compassionate and curious about children's behaviour
- Every child deserves to be valued and feel safe
- Environments our children spend their time in need to be trauma informed
- Communities need to be supported so they become as resilient as possible
- Commissioners need to incorporate evidence on the affects of trauma in commissioning of services

## Long-term Outcomes for children and families

- Children are cared for and feel safe
- Children live in a stable home, which supports their social, emotional, mental and physical health (now and in preparation for the future)
- The prevalence of children reporting ACEs reduces over time and the impact these have on children's lives is lessened
- The voice of babies, children and adults living in Bradford is included in the design of all services
- Parents report awareness that their relationship with their child is significant

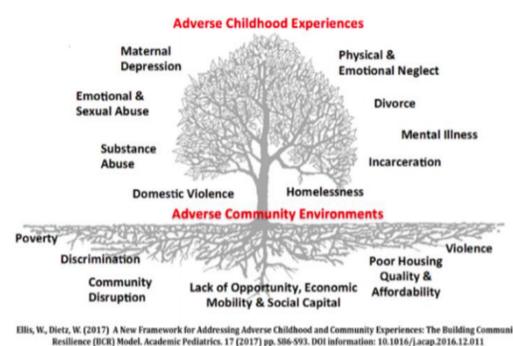


Figure Taken from: Hughes et al 2017 (1)

It is important for us to consider the environments our communities live in and the wider impact this has on their life outcomes as well as the ACEs from the original study

The ACEs, Trauma and Resilience Programme is committed to adopting solution focussed approaches and building our resident's resilience is key to this and can out weigh the adversity they face.