**Trauma Informed Practice Development in Southampton**

In Southampton we wished to develop a joined up approach to develop a shared understanding and approach to how we work with those who have experienced trauma. To do this, we established a multi-agency Trauma Informed Practice Working Group. The remit of the group is to:

* Scope the current training offers, identify and maintain a learning needs analysis
* Report and make recommendations on required development initiatives
* Quality assure and continually improve training and resources, drawing on relevant local and national information to inform content and utilising existing expertise within the city to support development
* Ensure alignment of our training with wider HIPS Trauma Informed Practice strategy, avoiding possible cross boundary misunderstandings
* Establish clear and concise definitions and language of terms, within the wider trauma informed context, to ensure consistency when training on or socialising the practices
* Define the competency level of each course in alignment with the HIPS Development Proposal
* Take a city wide and inclusive approach when discussing and making decisions on trauma informed practices and training
* Offer a platform for collaboration with internal and external partners
* Support Southampton city as a whole, to embed good trauma informed practices and training
* Ensure Trauma Informed practice is maintained by taking a long term approach to city-wide development (e.g., ensuring CPD is available and regularly reviewed to reflect developments both locally and nationally)
* Ensure the city’s Trauma Informed practice approach links with wider, governmental strategies (e.g., KCSIE 2021, Promoting Children and Young People’s Mental health and Wellbeing 2021, Virtual School Extension to Duties 2021, etc.)
* Develop a Trauma Informed Strategy for the city

***We have:***

* Identified Trauma Informed Practice training currently available at the four levels (Informed, Skilled, Enhanced and Specialist) and identified where more is required.
* Ensured all Southampton City Council teams have access to Trauma Informed Practice and ACEs training to understand and recognise potential trauma.
* Provided and promoted multi agency training opportunities for practitioners across the city from both internal and external providers (e.g. WAVE Trust, Rockpool Trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences workshops)
* Commenced a research project involving health, education and social care across children’s and adult’s services to co-construct a city-wide definition and understanding of trauma informed practice and to inform a city wide professional development programme
* Commenced work on a city-wide Trauma Informed Pathway Proposal
* Commenced identifying workers to form a champion group for Trauma Informed Practice
* Explored how Trauma Informed practice has been adopted in other local authorities to inform our work on this approach for Southampton
* Ensured continued mutually respectful collaboration between education, health and social care partners to support Trauma Informed practice development
* Continued attendance at the HIPS Trauma Informed Practice strategy meetings

***Specifically for Education settings we have:***

* Through the Educational Psychology Service and Virtual School, ensured training is available to all educational settings in the city and across age phases in line with the ‘Informed’ and ‘Skilled’ levels of the city’s Trauma Informed Practice to:
  + Raise awareness of attachment and trauma theory
  + Help practitioners understand the potential impact of attachment and trauma challenges on educational engagement and progression
  + Share key recommendations that can be adopted into the ethos of the settings
* Provided supervision for school staff and social care colleagues to support their well-being, reflecting the wider impact of supporting those who have experienced attachment and trauma challenges
* Begun developing a Trauma Informed training package for educational settings through the Virtual School that will align with the ‘Enhanced’ level of the city’s Trauma Informed Practice and recognise the implementation of the approach
* Begun a joint conversation to ensure health, education and social care partners adopt and employ the city’s co-constructed definition of Trauma Informed practice following research completion
* Through the Educational Psychology Service, raised awareness of the challenges associated with Emotionally Based School Absence (EBSA) that can stem from attachment and trauma challenges and how to increase attendance by:
  + - Developing an EBSA training package for schools and colleges, parents and carers and professional partners working to support children, young people and their families
  + Providing EBSA specific Educational Psychology consultations to schools and colleges
  + Building an EBSA specific multi-agency working group to implement and monitor the impact of EBSA related developments
* Through the Educational Psychology Service’s Challenging Behaviour Consultation (CBC) process, enabled education settings to explore support for children and young people at risk of exclusion resulting from behaviour that can stem from attachment and trauma challenges
* Ensured a continued, robust system of monitoring attendance and exclusions data for Children Looked After as implemented by the Virtual School
* Through the Virtual School, facilitated alternative education packages (e.g., Forest School, Oarsome Chance, etc.) to support increased attendance and reduce exclusions for Children Looked After
* Ensured the focus of the Education Welfare Service of raising attendance and reducing absence for all children and young people in Southampton is developed using trauma informed practice.