What works to prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) at the community level? An evidence review and mapping exercise

Dr Samia Addis, Troy Wey, Ellie Toll, Joanne C. Hopkins

Background

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are stressful experiences that occur during childhood which directly hurt a child (for example maltreatment) or affect them through the environment in which they live (for example exposure to domestic violence). ACEs are associated with poor educational achievement and the development of a wider range of harmful behaviours.

Aims

The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring all children in Wales have the best start in Life and the ACE Hub Wales has been successful in increasing awareness and understanding of ACEs across Wales.

The aim of this project was to identify 'what works' at the community level to prevent and mitigate ACEs and childhood adversity more broadly and to identify and map projects and initiatives across Wales.

Findings



The projects offered a range of services to community groups





The report was produced by the ACE Hub Wales with funding from the Welsh Government.

What Works?

The report identified numerous community projects across Wales which are:

- Often established to respond to the needs of the community and are shaped by the communities in which they are located.
- Effective at reaching and addressing the needs of diverse communities.
- Flexible and able to adapt quickly to changing circumstances
- Often working with other services to enhance provision, using their trusted status to facilitate wider support.

Addressing ACEs and adversity requires multiple interventions across sectors and throughout the life course.



A joined-up community approach can have a significant impact on children facing adversity.



Conclusion

Community-based Interventions can be effective in preventing and mitigating the impact of ACEs and adversity by providing a local response to address community need.

The projects identified by this study provide a range of services to address different ACEs and adversities within the community and represent a key resource to support Welsh Communities.

Contact: ace@wales.nhs.uk



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