

## ACEs in its Places

#### **Lisa Brunt**

Founder of CrewCymru and Future Focus Social Enterprise CIC



























Who Am I and My Why
 Identifying Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma
 Identifying Challenges

•Identifying the importance of Interventions and an Emotionally Available Adult

Sophia's story

The Future































## Who I am.....

A Mum

A Partner

A Daughter

A Friend

An Educator

A Dog Owner

A University Graduate

A Music Lover

A Book Lover

An Entrepreneur

A Founder of a Limited and Social Enterprise Company

An Emotionally Available Adult

























## MY WHY....

# **BECAUSE I ACTUALLY CARE**

































# Identifying **ACES** and Trauma

- Adverse Childhood Experiences
  - Mental Health
    - Trauma
  - **Neuro diversities** 
    - Neglect































**Definition**: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) refer to stressful or traumatic events experienced during childhood, such as abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction.

The Reality: Research conducted in Wales has shown that nearly half (47%) of adults have experienced at least one ACE, while 14% have experienced four or more ACEs.

**Types of ACEs**: Common ACEs identified in Welsh studies include physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, exposure to domestic violence, parental separation, substance misuse, mental illness in the household, and having a family member incarcerated.

**Impact on Health**: Individuals in Wales who have experienced four or more ACEs are significantly more likely to develop health issues such as chronic diseases, mental health disorders, and substance misuse problems.































**Risk Behaviours**: Adults in Wales with higher ACE scores are more likely to engage in risky behaviours, including smoking, heavy drinking, drug use, and early sexual activity.

**Socioeconomic Impact**: ACEs in Wales are associated with poorer educational outcomes, lower employment rates, and increased reliance on welfare support in adulthood.

**Mental Health**: ACEs significantly increase the likelihood of developing mental health issues, including depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts. In Wales, individuals with multiple ACEs are at a much higher risk of experiencing mental health problems.

Intergenerational Transmission: The effects of ACEs can be transmitted across generations. Children of parents who have experienced multiple ACEs are more likely to encounter similar adverse experiences, perpetuating a cycle of trauma and disadvantage.





























































NORMAL

These are the brains of two three-year-old children. The image on the left is from a healthy child while the image on the right is from a Romanian orphan

> who suffered severe sensory deprivation. The right brain is smaller and has enlarged

ventricles - holes in the centre of the brain. It also

shows a shrunken cortex - the brain's outer layer.

EXTREME NEGLECT





























2,275 Children and Young People (CYP) in Wales between 11-17 are victims of Neglect.

1 in 10 CYP have been neglected.

Untreated neglect of Primary Caregivers often leads to neglect.

Neglect / ACES can lead to PTSD in adulthood.

Abused/Neglected CYP more likely to be involved in crime as adults.

Can cause low self- esteem, Social behaviour problems, lack of confidence.

Evidence suggests that Children and Young People who have diagnosis of being Neurodivergent have a higher probability of experiencing ACEs compared to their non-autistic peers.





























# Identifying Challenges

Flashbacks

**PTSD** 

**Anxiety** 

Poor Health

Sleep Disorder

Cancer

Sudden New Fears

Depression

Difficulty Concentrating

Anger

Dysregulation

Cardiovascular

Changes in Appetite

Attachment Disorder

Risk taking behaviours

Seeking out inappropriate relationships

































Sophia's Story

#### **MASTERING DIVERSITY CONFERENCE** 2024



































Identifying the Importance of Interventions and an **Emotionally Available Adult** 































Emotional Security + Stability

Sense of Safety

Attachment + Trust Emotional Regulation

Modelling healthy responses

Co-Regulation Processing Trauma

Listening + Validation

Creating a Narrative

Building Resilience

Fostering a Positive Outlook

Encouraging Coping Skills





















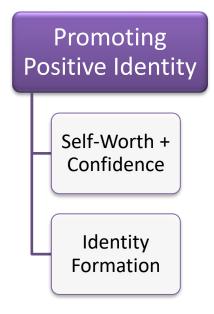


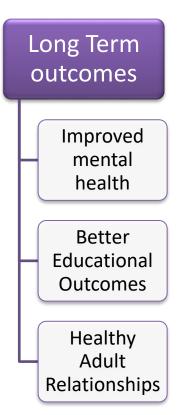












Mitigating the Intergenerational transmission of Trauma

Breaking the Cycle

Building
Resilient
Communities

In summary, the presence of an emotionally available adult in the life of a child who has experienced trauma is essential for the child's emotional healing, development of coping mechanisms, and long-term mental health. This supportive relationship acts as a protective factor, helping to mitigate the negative effects of trauma and fostering resilience, ultimately enabling the child to thrive despite their adverse experiences.



























# The Future



- CrewCymru Ltd
- Future Focus Social Enterprise CIC
- Applying for more funding
- Applying for grants
- Grow our team
- Collaboration to promote our services and work
- Sponsorships

























































## Thank You



**Bernie Davies** 

Toni Clarkstone

All our wonderful sponsors

The Principality Stadium

My amazing partner Craig

Sophia's family





























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Preventative Measures: Public health campaigns in Wales emphasize the importance of supportive parenting, stable family environments, and early childhood education as key strategies to prevent ACEs.

**Collaboration**: Tackling ACEs in Wales involves collaboration between various sectors, including health, education, social services, and the criminal justice system, to provide a coordinated response to the needs of affected individuals.

**Support Services**: Wales offers a range of support services for individuals affected by ACEs, including counselling, mental health services, and specialized programs for children and families.

**Long-Term Outcomes**: The long-term impact of ACEs in Wales includes a higher risk of chronic illnesses, mental health disorders, and socioeconomic challenges. Efforts are being made to reduce these outcomes through comprehensive support and prevention programs.

**Public Awareness**: There has been a growing effort in Wales to raise public awareness about ACEs and their impact, encouraging communities to support vulnerable individuals and promote resilience-building activities.





















