

# A society that values its children must cherish its parents

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Ruth Donnelly and Marie Stewart  
Health Improvement  
Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership

## *Why. The retrospective reasons....*

- Low income is linked to parental distress
- 59.6% child poverty rate
- ACEs increase with deprivation
- Poverty itself may be an ACE
- Community based violence may be an ACE

## Tackling the attainment gap by preventing and responding to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

### Key questions to inform action on closing the attainment gap

1 Is the activity or intervention grounded in an understanding of child development and what we know about how early childhood adversity can impact on our biology, relationships and the ability to learn?

2 Is there a strong understanding of the impact of poverty on a child's ability to engage fully in education?

3 Is the school environment supportive to children and young people who may be experiencing adversity or have previously experienced it?

### 4 What could the school environment do to support family nurture and the issues affecting parents/carers that lead to adverse experiences in children?

5 Is the school a nurturing and caring learning environment with children's rights underpinning its work?

6 Are staff informed about the science of childhood adversity and the links to learning and behaviour, what they can do about it and how they can be supported to respond in an informed way?

7 Is the importance of developing trusting relationships with children and young people at the heart of learning? Is the importance of teachers and other adults as attachment figures recognised as a way to support children's readiness to learn?

8 Are partnerships in place with local youth work and other support service providers, enabling a supportive and protective environment to be created for children and young people in their local community?

9 What outcomes does the activity or intervention seek to achieve and how will these be measured?

What is going on for children when they go home?  
What are parents having to cope with?  
What were their own childhoods like?

Did something make all that go away when they became parents themselves?

Money problems  
Housing issues  
Domestic violence  
Childhood trauma/abuse  
Community violence/intimidation  
Poor mental health  
Poor physical health  
Lone parent  
Relationship issues  
Lack of family support  
Lack of social capital

*Why. The real reason.*

Parents asked us to.

Marie....





Questions, comments?