

What next for child protection in Scotland?

Understanding child protection through early intervention

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Policy Context



Adversity, Trauma & Early Intervention

- Early intervention is nothing new, but knowledge and understanding of development, especially in childhood, is improving
- We can identify issues earlier and we can anticipate potential risks
- ACE's help us to understand negative experiences at a whole population level
- Need to recognise gaps/limitations (poverty, racism, bigotry, etc.)
- Understanding difference between inevitability, probability and possibility
- Need focus on strengths and resilience.
- Aware of the risk of retraumatising people
- How can we apply this understanding to keep children safe?



Relational health in healing & recovery

The more healthy relationships a child has, the more likely he will be to recover from trauma and thrive. Relationships are the agents of change and the most powerful therapy is human love.

— *Bruce D. Perry* —

AZ QUOTES



Trauma Informed Early Intervention

- Promote not only prevention and early intervention, but also recovery and healing
- Trauma informed approach
- Reliability, Predictability, Trust
- Support people to understand themselves. No shame, no blame
- Recognising **distressed** rather than **challenging** behaviour



What does this mean for *how* we are?

- Understanding uniqueness of individuals (including yourself!)
- Relationships are key – but not just with families, also with colleagues, managers & senior leaders
- Leadership through trust and compassion
- Supporting workforce to support children and families
- Responsive and support culture and environment



Early Intervention: A Rights Based Approach

