

PLYMOUTH AS A TRAUMA-INFORMED CITY

Cabinet



Date: 11 June 2019

Title of Report: **Plymouth as a trauma-informed city**

Lead Member: Councillor Sally Haydon (Cabinet Member for Customer Focus and Community Safety)

Lead Strategic Director: Ruth Harrell (Director of Public Health)

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Your Reference:

Key Decision: No

Confidentiality: Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

There has been growing evidence of the strong link between the experience of multiple childhood traumas and adverse outcomes in adulthood; ranging from offending to drug and alcohol misuse, poor mental health to obesity. Furthermore, research has identified the causal pathways to this; childhood traumas disrupt neurodevelopment, producing changes in the brain that then lead to social, emotional and cognitive impairment. Importantly though, this is far from inevitable and there are protective factors that can prevent or reduce these adverse consequences.

Taking a population level trauma informed approach means looking at all stages of this; preventing traumas occurring in the first place, promoting protective factors for all children, recognising the behaviours that may be the result of trauma and intervening appropriately, and helping people who are suffering adverse consequences in a trauma-informed way.

Safer Plymouth recognised the need for this approach some time ago, and have been actively involved in developing Plymouth's approach, and in March 2019 ran a conference 'Community Safety Through a Trauma Informed Approach'. Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board have also been actively engaged in this work since clearly protecting children is at the heart of this approach.

Plymouth has a Trauma-Informed Network which has derived from a ground-up coalition of professionals from across services, with professional experience of how trauma can affect people. The Network currently includes 70 individuals, representing approximately 30 agencies ranging from Police, schools, Barnardo's, NSPCC, Harbour, NEW Devon CCG as well as Plymouth City Council.

This report has been brought to Cabinet to provide their full support to the development of Plymouth as a trauma informed city; one that is;

“Safe and delivers Person Centred responses that are Kind; in which communities and professionals work Collaboratively with each other, and their services users; and are focused on Empowering and encouraging each other to innovate and transform culture.”

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Recommendations and Reasons

To note the recent work that has been carried out across the city on developing a trauma-informed approach and in particular the work of the Trauma-Informed Plymouth Network.

To provide Cabinet's full support to the development of trauma-informed approaches, making Plymouth a trauma-informed City.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The trauma-informed approach focusses on prevention and early identification of those issues which lead to poor outcomes across a wide range of topics, from educational attainment to drug misuse, and therefore inequalities in health. It also supports the protection of children in particular from traumatic events such as abuse.

It therefore supports the Plymouth Plan aims of reducing inequality and making Plymouth a healthy city, as well as the Council's corporate aims around being a Caring City.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

None

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

Potential for supporting reduction in child poverty

Appendices

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Briefing report (mandatory)							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment (mandatory)							

Background papers:

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)						
	<i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	PI19.2 0.20	Leg	It/622 25/01 06	Mon Off		HR		Assets		Strat Proc	
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Ruth Harrell											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 01/06/2019											
Cabinet Member signature of approval: Councillor Sally Haydon via e-mail.											
Date: 03/06/2019											