

Date of meeting: 11 July 2019

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

Lead Member: Councillor Kate Taylor (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care)

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 adverse experience of childhood traumas and poorer health and social 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 can 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. Through this network, key partner agencies have drafted a 'Plymouth Approach' document which aims to create an unifying narrative to enable services and systems to work together and sets out the principles, values and standards Plymouth could work to in order to move to becoming a trauma informed City. (Attached)

Becoming trauma informed is about whole system approach which requires development and change based on and directed by the recognition of the impacts of trauma, that trauma is widespread and often hidden in our communities. It prioritises safety, choice, trust and emotional connection and avoids re-traumatisation.

This report has been brought to Health and Wellbeing Board 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.”

### **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 Health and Wellbeing Board’s full support to the development of trauma-informed approaches, making Plymouth a trauma-informed City.

Member organisations of the Health and Wellbeing Board consider their own role in making Plymouth a trauma informed city

### **Alternative options considered and rejected**

N/A

### **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:**

*\* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council’s duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

Potential for supporting reduction in / mitigation of child poverty

### **Appendices**

*\*Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Briefing report title							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment (if applicable)							

**Background papers:**

\*Add rows as required to box below

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 any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**Sign off:**

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Ruth Harrell											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 25/06/2019											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Kate Taylor [approved by email]											
Date approved: 27/06/2019											