



Date: 20.7.2015
My Ref: HL/DEM
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RE: ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCE, AN INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION TO CREATIVE AN ACE RESILIENCE MOVEMENT

As Consultant in Public Health / Deputy Director of Public Health for Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, I am writing in support of the HEARTS Initiative Collaborative. I led the first population adverse childhood experience (ACE) population survey in collaboration with Liverpool John Moores University and part of the national population survey. I have advocated progressing the ACE agenda locally through our population Health and Wellbeing Strategy but also nationally when on secondment to Public Health England.

After email correspondence, I was introduced to the HEARTS Initiative in August 2014 when I visited members of the team, including staff from La Salle School, Senior Hope, St. Anne's School, et al., where we discussed the approach that HEARTS had taken in relation to adverse childhood experience (ACE) within their organisation's culture and how to embed within their work areas. They also shared various documentation, presentations and contact details.

Our network has developed; I have ensured that the learning from HEARTS in relation to ACE has been incorporated into key programme areas locally within Blackburn with Darwen, Lancashire, UK, such as substance misuse services, Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM; a multi-agency led programme for individuals living in houses of multiple occupancy and are most likely to have four or more ACEs).

I am pleased to say that the movement in England has begun where the work between Public Health England and HEARTS initiative was proved to be very successful. I led a Public Health England Strategic discussion for key partners to understand the importance of ACE, how the work can be applied within the local communities and at population levels. Through this multi-faceted approach, where we had prominent speakers from Dr. H. Larkin, outlining the community assets approach from the HEARTS initiative, together with Dr. V. Felitti to explain the origins of ACE, Professor M.A. Bellis, who led the national English population study and Dr. W. Larkin, who has developed a routine enquiry for all front line staff. From this event, the work has infiltrated both nationally and locally across the country. We have now begun to train front-line staff to routinely enquire about ACEs and have embed this approach into the culture of the public sector, in particular through our large-scale change management approach which includes primary health care, police, fire and rescue, social services, hospital trusts and local government. The progress that we are making here within England is fed back into the HEARTS initiative and highlighted in the recent ACE Summit in 2015.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council is seeking to collaborate further with the HEARTS initiative and we would like to support this application to create the next level in the ACE resilience movement.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me,

Yours faithfully,

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