

Homelessness and Environment

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What informs our work

- ▶ Homelessness is Wrong, it can be prevented; to do so we need to understand it.
- ▶ Homelessness does not define a person
- ▶ Social Contract
- ▶ Homeless People deserve a quality service
- ▶ Homeless People have experienced persistent and ongoing Trauma which has lasting cognitive and Physical effects
- ▶ Environment plays a key role in interventions
- ▶ People should not be blamed for their Vulnerabilities
- ▶ Compassion, understanding, Patience, Empathy are core values of our work

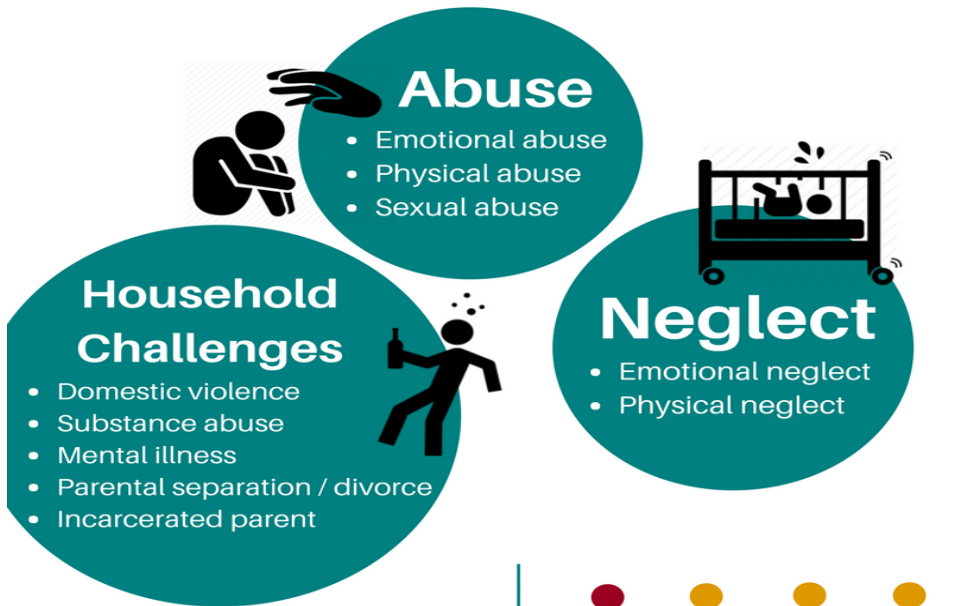
Adverse Childhood Experience

- ▶ **Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are** traumatic events that have negative, lasting effects on health and well-being
- ▶ National and International Research: 96%-100% of Adults in Homeless Services experienced an ACE.
- ▶ Living in emergency accommodation is an **ACE**.



Adverse Childhood Experiences

Traumatic events that can have negative, lasting effects on health and wellbeing



People with 6+ ACEs can die

20 yrs

earlier than those who have none





1/8 of the population have more than 4 ACEs





www.70-30.org.uk
@7030Campaign


4 or more ACEs

3x the levels of lung disease and adult smoking 

11x the level of intravenous drug abuse 

14x the number of suicide attempts 

4x as likely to have begun intercourse by age 15 

4.5x more likely to develop depression 

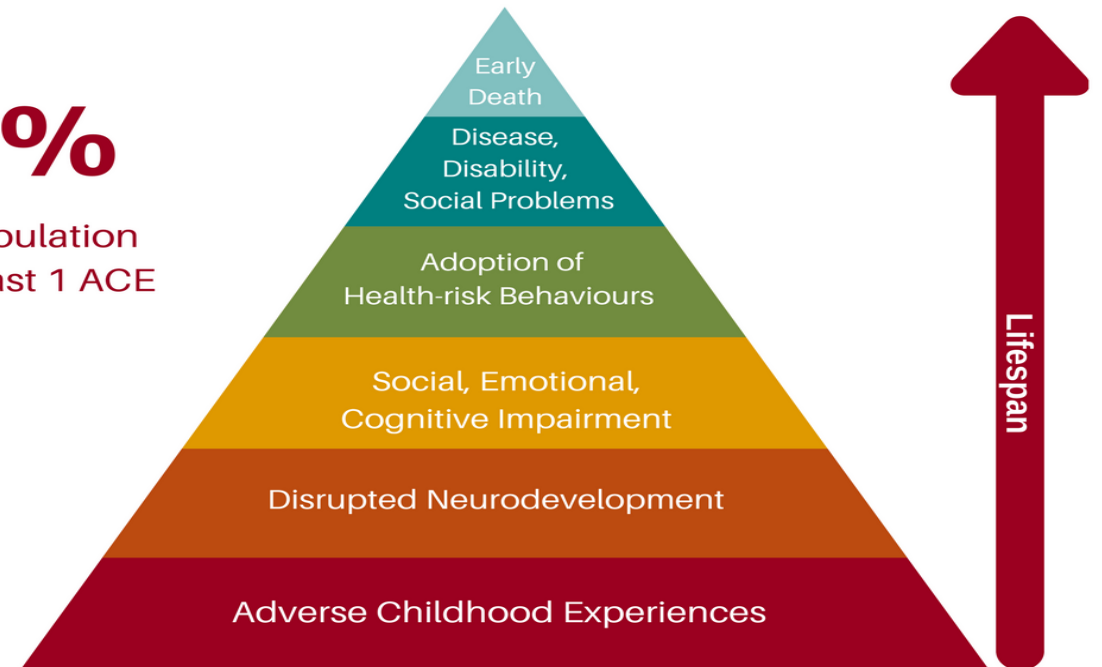
2x the level of liver disease 

“ Adverse childhood experiences are the single greatest unaddressed public health threat facing our nation today ”

Dr. Robert Block, the former President of the American Academy of Pediatrics

67%

of the population have at least 1 ACE



Prevalence:

Trauma is common among adults and children in social service systems.

98%

of **female offenders** have **experienced trauma**, often interpersonal trauma and domestic violence



96%

of **adolescent psychiatric inpatients** have histories of **exposure to trauma**



93%

of **homeless mothers** have a **lifetime history of interpersonal trauma**



90%

of **juvenile justice-involved youth** have experienced trauma, often **multiple traumas from an early age**



75%

of **adults in substance abuse treatment** report histories of trauma



70%

of **children in foster care** have experienced **multiple traumas**



Goal:

Trauma-Informed Systems

What Now?



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What is A Psychologically Informed Environment

- ▶ At its simplest, a psychologically informed environment has been described as "one that takes into account the
- ▶ **psychological make-up**
- ▶ – **the thinking,**
- ▶ **emotions,**
- ▶ **personalities**
- ▶ and **past experience** – of its participants, in the way it operates."

PIELINK.com

PIE and Organisation

- ▶ It is a Whole organisational model
- ▶ A PIE influences all areas of an organisation.



Psychologically Informed Environment

Five Principles

- ▶ Psychological Awareness and Framework
- ▶ Training and Support for Staff
- ▶ **Spaces for opportunity**
- ▶ The 3Rs: Rules, Roles and Response
- ▶ Learning and Enquiry

Creating Spaces For Opportunity

- ▶ **Physical space: thoughtful design with Client input**
- ▶ **Time: to build relationships**
- ▶ **Recognising that any contact is a space for opportunity**
- ▶ **Positive Human contact**
- ▶ **Recognising the incredible resilience and Strength it takes to survive homelessness**
- ▶ **Validate the cognitive and physical effects of Trauma**

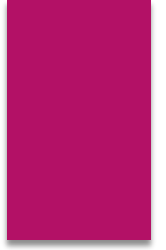




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A smile
is a
CURVE
THAT
CAN BE
STRAIGHTENED





Re-emphasise What informs our work

- ▶ Homelessness is Wrong.
- ▶ Homelessness does not define a person.
- ▶ Social Contract
- ▶ Homeless People deserve a quality service
- ▶ Homeless People have experienced persistent and ongoing Trauma which has lasting cognitive and Physical effects, compassion, empathy, understanding, patience, kindness are the antidote to Trauma
- ▶ People should not be blamed for their Vulnerabilities
- ▶ Environment plays a key role in interventions

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Thank You