



The Association of Directors of Public Health

Tackling adverse childhood experiences: new funding to address this vital determinant of health

The ADPH is delighted to be partnering with the Institute of Health Visiting (IHV) and the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) to tackle the serious consequences of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), as part of the Health Foundation's programme on the social determinants of health.

This project will bring together key partners – including the police, public health professionals, health care professionals and children's social services – to inform the development of resources on what good practice looks like, share and build on the work already underway in Scotland and Wales, and encourage more collaborative working on ACEs locally.

It is estimated that 50% of the UK population experience at least once ACE. Experiences such as physical or sexual abuse, domestic violence or parental separation can have a negative impact on a child's mental health, physical health, education outcomes, future employment and involvement in crime.

ADPH Chief Executive, Nicola Close said:

“We know the impact of ACEs can be severe and long term, which is why they are increasingly recognised as being an important social determinant of health. No single agency or organisation can provide the solution – a whole system approach should be adopted which requires engagement from services across the life course. This funding will help us work with local partners to scale up approaches to tackling ACEs and push forward the case for national action.”

IHV Chief Executive, Cheryll Adams said:

“Health visitors visit every family with a new baby giving them a unique opportunity to recognise and support parents who may be taking the trauma of ACEs experienced as children, into their new role as a parent. We know that ACEs can affect how parents respond to their own children, but also that with the right training and a trusting relationship, health visitors can help these parents to manage this early trauma either through direct work, or by referring them onto other local partners, thereby helping to reduce the risk of ACEs for the next generation.”

ENDS

Further information

- More about the project at: <https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/news/health-foundation-selects-five-projects-for-new-programme-on-taking-action-on-the-social>
- The Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) is the representative body for Directors of Public Health (DPH) in the UK. It seeks to improve and protect the health of the population through collating and presenting the views of DsPH; advising on public health policy and legislation at a local, regional, national and international level; facilitating a support network for DsPH; and providing opportunities for DsPH to develop professional practice.

The Association has a rich heritage, its origins dating back 160 years. It is a collaborative organisation working in partnership with others to maximize the voice for public health.

- The Institute of Health Visiting was established in 2012 as an academic and professional body to strengthen the quality and consistency of health visitor services.
- The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners is the national membership body for Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), and other local policing bodies across England and Wales.
- The Health Foundation is an independent charity committed to bringing about better health and health care for people in the UK. Visit health.org.uk

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February 2019