

South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board



Report by Angi Pinkerton to
Community Planning Partnership Board Meeting of 26th January 2023

Subject: Trauma Pledge

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update the Community Planning Partnership Board on the Trauma Informed and Responsive South Ayrshire agenda and to request the Community Planning Partnership Board signs up to the National Trauma Pledge to make that commitment to supporting the implementation of trauma informed systems across South Ayrshire.

2 The Board is recommended to:

- 2.1 **Join other local authorities and partners across Scotland and sign up to the National Trauma Pledge to support the development of trauma informed systems.**

3 Background

- 3.1 In the Scottish Government's programme for Scotland 2019-2020 it laid out a vision *'to achieve a trauma-informed nation capable of recognising where people are affected by trauma and adversity, capable of responding in ways that prevents further harm and which supports recovery, and in ways which addresses inequalities and improves life chances'*.
- 3.2 To help realise this vision, a National Trauma Training Strategy has been developed by NHS Education Scotland (NES). [Transforming Psychological Trauma: A Knowledge & Skills Framework for the Scottish Workforce](#) is designed to support organisations to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to meet the needs of people affected by trauma while seeking to ensure services can:
 - recognise that trauma is common;
 - realise that these experiences might have a range of impacts that affect how services are delivered;
 - respond safely and effectively; and
 - resist re-traumatisation.

3.3 NES have developed the [Trauma Pledge](#) as an opportunity to raise awareness of, and demonstrate a shared commitment to supporting and embedding a trauma informed culture across our workforce and services across Scotland.

Signatories to this pledge agree to:

- Work with others to put trauma-informed and responsive practice in place across our workforce and services.
- Deliver services that wherever possible are actively informed by people with lived experience of trauma.
- Recognise the central importance of relationships that offer collaboration, choice, empowerment, safety and trust as part of a trauma-informed approach.
- Respond in ways that prevent further harm, and that reduce barriers so that people affected by trauma have equal access to the services they need, when they need it, to support their own journey of recovery.

4 Progress

4.1 At a meeting of South Ayrshire Council in September 2021, a motion relating to trauma was unanimously agreed by Elected Members. The motion instructed officers to develop proposals which deliver on the following objectives:

- to become a trauma-informed organisation that recognises the impact trauma can have on people's lives;
- to deliver services in a way that responds to individuals' needs by creating nurturing and supportive environments where people feel valued;
- adopt the trauma informed principles of safety, choice, collaboration, empowerment, and trust in our approach to service delivery; and
- to support our partner organisations in adopting a trauma-informed approach as part of a Trauma Informed South Ayrshire.

4.2 To date the project has:

- Established a Member Officer Working Group to act as the strategic governance of the project.
- Developed a lived experience led, multi-agency network to share good practice, develop partnership working and agree key actions and objectives in relation to implementation.
- Developed a comprehensive training plan that includes a year-long organisational training package from external training provider Epione Training and Consultancy, including train the trainers.
- Developed comprehensive plans in relation to staff well-being that include initiatives that promote and protect staff well-being
- Participation across various strategic groups and policy review to ensure we are embedding trauma informed practice throughout the organisation

5 Next Steps

- 5.1 Agreement from the Community Planning Partnership board to sign up to the trauma pledge.
- 5.2 A brief and accessible statement to be prepared to outline what the organisation or service will be doing to support their commitment to the pledge.
- 5.3 Application will be submitted to NES

Trauma Informed Practice Officer
South Ayrshire Council
26/01/2023