



Strengths of Screening

ACE scoring could increase our Kindness Quotient when we forget to be helpful to children
 It could help us define early support
 Majority of people want to be heard, believed and told it wasn't their fault. That is often the lightbulb moment that accelerates a process of recovery



Questions

How would screening help schools?
 If we are going to track ACEs, how do we track resilience & protective factors?
 What are the effective interventions to offer those with positive ACE scores?
 What are the costs/negative outcomes?
 What exactly should we screen for?



Weaknesses of Screening

It could lead to a misdiagnosis rather than being used as an indicator
 Labels without support and knowledge can be detrimental
 It could lead to professionals describing complex needs with a snappy acronym
 We need to be clear on terminology ie the difference between adversity + trauma

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Should schools screen for ACEs?

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Is there another way?

How about being ACE informed instead?
 Targeting enquiry in schools
 Could we use other forms like a timeline? Or sensitive listening to stories?
 Could we join up good contextual development information (midwives, health visitors)?
 Scotland's GIRFEC/Child's Plan
 EmBRACE

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Issues

Potential for misdiagnosis
 Screening is unethical unless evidence-based help is available in a timely manner
 Is there the ability to refer on to trauma-informed services?
 If you give an overall score, do you lose some of the overall information?



For Parents of Children with ACEs

Discovering ACEs can be devastating for parents
 How will a parent feel if something in own history that has never been disclosed could have been a factor in ACEs?
 Lack of access to therapeutic input. view of children. Social Care. Why does child have high ACE score? What will friends think?