Supporting Disadvantaged Children: Protective Factors and Early Intervention

Awareness Raising

Introduction

Children who have difficult experiences at home or in their community may struggle more as they grow up. These challenges can lead to harmful behaviours and make it harder for them to succeed. This can continue across generations. Multi-agency partners can work together to reduce this risk support children and families early. and families.

Further information and resources

- Spectrum of Support 2025
- Children & Families Family Information Service
- Warwickshire Relational Practice Framework
- Warwickshire Safeguarding Multi-Agency Training Program
- Vanguard Trauma Informed - positive pathways

Barriers Faced by Disadvantaged Children

Children may face barriers such as:

- Living in poverty
- Missing school or early learning
- Being a young carer
- Having special educational needs without support
- Not having chances to play or make friends
- Feeling unsafe at home
- Lack of family support or neglect

Early Intervention and Multi-agency support in Warwickshire

Services in Warwickshire that work together to meet a child's needs will be coordinated by a team or service that knows the child or young person best. This can include patenting programmes, signposting, SEND support and health interventions. Advice and guidance can be accessed through Family Information Service.

Long term impact

When children don't have access to good food, healthcare, or a safe home, it can affect their health and wellbeing. Missing school or not having chances to learn and play can make it harder for them to succeed later in life. They may also be more at risk of extra-familial harm outside the home.

Trauma and attachment - informed practice

To continue to deliver multi-agency support through a trauma informed lens and restoratively, Warwickshire utilise the four Rs:

- Realise how trauma affects children and families
- Recognise the signs and impact of trauma in staff, children and families.
- Resist doing things that might cause more harm.
- Respond by using trauma-aware language, embedding trauma informed policies and procedures culture, and practices.

Understanding Protective Factors?

Protective factors are things that help children stay safe and healthy. These include having a caring family, going to school, living in a safe home, being part of a community, and getting the help they need. These factors can help protect children from abuse and neglect. Crucial for understanding and supporting children and families at risk in Warwickshire is a relational practice approach. This includes utilising the strengths of a family, working with families to encourage quality relationships to inspire positive change, an organisational approach to risk across the multi-agency partnership, and trauma and attachment awareness practice.