

# Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership

## Learning & Development Newsletter



Edition 4: Trauma Informed Practice

Date: February 2023

This newsletter has been developed to help support you in self-guided learning. Learning and development is not just attending training courses, it can include reading, researching, online sessions & webinars, shadowing and looking at useful tools, resources, and websites. For further information on current learning & development opportunities, including details of our next FREE forum <https://www.berkshirewestsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/scp/training/local-training-offers>

### Definition

Working Definition of trauma informed practice document: [Working Definition of trauma informed practice](#)

This document seeks to provide a working definition of trauma-informed practice for practitioners working in the health and care sector.

### Words matter

The words we choose can reflect our judgements, attitudes and can imply that we do (or do not) truly value people, believe in and genuinely respect them. We need to give thought to how the language we use is read and heard by the person to which we are communicating (verbally or in writing), and how it may positively or negatively contribute to their health and wellbeing.

Words we often use	Suggested alternatives
Refuses to engage	Is not ready to engage Is finding it difficult to open up at this time We (professionals) have not yet found the best method of engaging them as yet
Won't	Can't
Did not attend	Was unable to make the appointment Was not brought
Places themselves in risky situations/risk taking behaviour	Is at increased vulnerability to being abused/groomed/exploited The child is not in a protective environment The situation could reduce the child's safety The context makes the child unsafe The location is dangerous to the child
Choice	This implies that they have made a free and informed decision. Ensure you consider grooming, coercion, force, threats, fear, peer pressure etc

### Rethinking Did not Attend (this was in the effective engagement newsletter – shall we add something else?)

Nottingham City Council, NHS Nottingham City CCG and the NCSCB jointly commissioned this video to encourage practitioners to identify children as 'Was Not Brought' as opposed to 'Did Not Attend' when referring to them not being presented at medical appointments. The animation is a powerful reminder that children do not take themselves to appointments; they have to be taken by parents or carers and highlights the impact that missed appointments have on a child's wellbeing. **Link:** [Was](#)

### Implementing a trauma-informed approach to VAWG

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) – Implementing a trauma-informed approach to VAWG: [A guide for statutory services](#)

### Trauma informed organisations

The different approaches to being trauma-informed may create a continuum of staff and organisational service/care covering four stages of complexity: -

1. Trauma aware: workers understand trauma and how people may have behavioural presentations in response to traumatic experiences.
2. Trauma sensitive: an organisation's work practice can operationalise some concepts of trauma informed approach.
3. Trauma responsive: the individual and organisation response enables changes in behaviour and strengthens resilience and protective factors
4. Trauma informed: the culture of the whole system reflects a trauma approach in all work practices and settings

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/trauma-informed-practice-toolkit-scotland/pages/12/>

For further information on current learning & development opportunities, or to view previous newsletters please visit the BWSCP website

<https://www.berkshirewestsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/scp/training/local-training-offers>