

The association between childhood adversity and involvement in the criminal justice system informs two essential types of initiatives:

1. Recognising the impact of ACEs and trauma on individuals to **prevent initial experience** of the criminal justice system

1. Providing trauma informed interventions to those who **already have experience** of the criminal justice system to ensure risks of re-traumatisation are minimised.

In implementing these approaches, there is a need to ensure that those with ACEs are **not stigmatised** through implications that childhood adversity is inevitably associated with involvement with the criminal justice system.

Criminal justice processes such as being arrested, going to court and being imprisoned are often traumatising in themselves and should be avoided altogether wherever possible.

- Ensuring that at risk young people are not excluded from early crucial support
- Extending support to the children of those with mental illness or problem alcohol or drug use
- Finding innovative ways to access those who may not be already linked in with support
- Developing supportive, safe and trusting environments
- Equipping individuals with strategies to cope with the effects of trauma to support their resilience
- Supporting staff to be mindful of trauma when interacting with clients

Overall, the current climate of growing recognition around the impacts of adversity and trauma provides an opportune moment for innovation and collaboration in approaches to criminal justice.



Probation Service

