



Want even more insights into the history of Scotland's ACEs movement?

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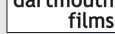



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The information below will help you dive more deeply into the events featured in *Scotland's ACEs Journey*.

Date	Event	Details	Links
2005 Jan	Violence Reduction Unit is founded 	<p>The current head of the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit is Jimmy Paul, who was appointed to the role in 2023. In this interview on the Safer Communities Scotland Podcast, he talks about the history of the VRU and why he was keen to lead it. The podcast was released in February 2024.</p>	tinyurl.com/4vbjzv4
2005 Sep	Harry Burns appointed as Chief Medical Officer 	<p>The TED Talk given by Sir Harry Burns in 2014 offers a good summary of the message he consistently brought to the public during his 9-year tenure as Scotland's Chief Medical Officer. Relationships, attachment and connection lay at the core of his perspective on health.</p>	tinyurl.com/vknm3wtt
2007 July	World Health Organisation Violence Prevention Alliance welcomed to Scotland  	<p>A detailed history of the SVRU, written by Gerry Hassan and published in 2020, recalls that the World Health Organisation's Violence Prevention Alliance has no other members that come from the police. The SVRU is unique in this regard, and it gave them a powerful platform for acting as hosts of the 2007 Conference.</p>	tinyurl.com/4emcw2tr
2008-2016	Lots of talking 	<p>For almost a decade, events were held across Scotland that focused on the power of relationships and the impact of early years experiences. The language of 'trauma' and 'ACEs' intersected with it. A range of speakers were involved, with many appearing regularly on public platforms. But there was no 'ACEs movement' or 'trauma movement'. That would not happen until later. When it did come, it would be spontaneous, unexpected and explosive.</p>	<i>continued...</i>

Date	Event	Details	Links
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Carnochan reflected on that early journey in his address at the 2018 ACE-Aware Scotland Conference. • Alan Sinclair wrote a book in 2018 laying out the case for investing in childhood. • Michael Smith spoke in 2017 of putting the science of ACEs into practice. • Suzanne Zeedyk referred to this early period as one of “tilling the cultural soil” in her address at the 2019 ACE-Aware Scotland Conference. • Harry Burns spoke repeatedly on the science of attachment and relationships. Here is his address at the 2015 Health and Wellbeing International Conference. • Karyn McCluskey talked constantly about hope, including in the face of loss and violence. Her 2015 TedTalk is on that theme. • Tina Hendry was loved in so many communities for her work promoting ACE awareness. When she died in February 2020, her loss was mourned across Scotland. <p>These are only some of the many individuals who worked persistently throughout this early period to drive awareness and change in Scotland. Perhaps it was this early drip-drip-drip effect that would eventually nurture the explosion of a grassroots movement?</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/mr3mwtxn</p> <p>tinyurl.com/smb5up3b</p> <p>tinyurl.com/4bzb8rjv</p> <p>tinyurl.com/ymyeu7sj</p> <p>tinyurl.com/mwm96rta</p> <p>tinyurl.com/3vuztbxh</p> <p>tinyurl.com/yc793n8f</p>
2016 April	<p>Glasgow Centre for Population Health hosts international speaker on ACEs</p>  	<p>The decision by Glasgow Centre for Population Health (GCPH) to invite Jane Stevens to speak in Scotland was a significant moment in the early days of the Scottish ACEs movement. As founder of the US-based ACEs Connection Network, Stevens had many insights to share. The lecture she gave – <i>How ACEs and the ‘Theory of Everything’ can help build healthy communities</i> – remains available on the GCPH website.</p> <p>There is a more recent discussion with Jane Stevens, filmed in 2021, in which she celebrates the reach of the ACEs movement in the USA.</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/4s5ukucm</p> <p>tinyurl.com/mrtcetcu</p>
2016 Nov	<p>Polishing our Gems Conference is held</p>  	<p>The 2016 <i>Polishing Our Gems Conference</i> was a seminal moment in the Scottish ACEs movement. The associated report had been published six months previously, in May 2016. It was titled: <i>Polishing the Diamonds – Addressing ACEs in Scotland</i>.</p> <p>A follow up report was published in 2020. This updated report was titled: <i>Ending Childhood Adversity - A Public Health Approach</i>.</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/zvzjun5f</p> <p>tinyurl.com/4wte77km</p>




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2016 Nov	<p>Scottish ACES Hub is created</p>  	<p>The Scottish ACEs Hub was established in 2016, overseen by NHS Health Scotland, to raise awareness of ACEs and encourage action across sectors. When Public Health Scotland replaced Health Scotland in 2020, it became affiliated with the Scottish Childhood Adversity Hub overseen by Public Health Scotland.</p> <p>The 2020 report <i>Ending Childhood Adversity: A public health approach</i> explains the role and history of the Hub well. The central point of this work is the value and potential of a public health approach to tackling childhood adversity.</p> <p>A second report that explores this policy landscape well is the 2023 publication from the Children and Young People’s Centre for Justice (CYCJ) <i>Children and Young People in Conflict with the Law: Policy, Practice and Legislation – Trauma and Adversity</i>.</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/bddzfm26</p> <p>tinyurl.com/5n749r9v</p>
2017 April	<p>Resilience documentary premieres in Scotland</p>   	<p>The story of the “two determined women” who brought the <i>Resilience</i> documentary to Scotland was told by campaigner Carol Craig in an article published in January 2018. In it, she says: “It’s the significance of the ACE research that gives the film its emotional power.”</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/47s4nwje</p>
2017 Summer	<p>Resilience documentary tours Scotland</p>   	<p>This entertaining trailer for the Scottish Tour of the <i>Resilience</i> documentary gives a sense of the enthusiastic curiosity about the science of ACEs that erupted across the country in the summer of 2017.</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/35zbt28x</p>
2017 June	<p>Community ACEs Hubs emerge</p> 	<p>The emergence of Community ACEs Hubs in 2017 was spontaneous and energetic. The pandemic undermined their continuity in many areas, but some continued to function within a digital space. Examples in 2024 include:</p> <p>Dundee & Angus ACEs Hub</p> <p>Fife ACEs Hub</p> <p>Edinburgh ACEs Hub</p>	<p>dundeeargusacehub.wixsite.com/dundeeargusacehub</p> <p>tinyurl.com/4kyt2nt7</p> <p>tinyurl.com/2s4zx9ca</p>
2017 June	<p>ACEs Scotland Forum launches</p>  	<p>The ACEs & Trauma Scotland Forum (renamed in 2019) operate as a private Facebook group. Anyone interested in ACEs and trauma is welcome to apply to join. The conversations that take place on the page are lively and wide-ranging. As of November 2024, the Forum hosts 16.2K members.</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/35z2w3pk</p>






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2017 Autumn	Scottish Resilience tour inspires Northern Ireland 	<p>The organisation Connected For Life has operated throughout Northern Ireland for almost a decade. The two dynamic women who run it aim to help all those - from individuals to communities - to explore routes to healing from trauma and adversity. They were the first organisation to bring the documentary film <i>Resilience</i> to Northern Ireland in 2017. A rich and uplifting account of that tour can be found on their website.</p>	tinyurl.com/43djphem
2017 Sep	ACE-awareness reaches the business sector 	<p>The Glasgow-based business, Tigers Group, has been active in Scotland in promoting greater awareness of ACEs. Their work with young people, through providing apprenticeship training across a range of sectors, leaves them aware of gaps in societal understanding about the impacts of ACEs. That is why, in September 2017, they hosted a screening of the film <i>Resilience</i> specifically for the business community. You can find out more about the work of Tigers Group on their website.</p>	tigersgroup.co.uk
2017 Sep	Programme for Government incorporates ACEs 	<p>The Government's <i>Programme for Scotland</i> is published every year in September. The <i>Programme</i> for 2017 gave dedicated attention to ACEs by explaining the science and relating its insights to the wider GIRFEC approach (Getting It Right For Every Child) used in Scottish policy. Page 71 included this headline statement: "We will reduce the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences suffered by vulnerable young people."</p>	tinyurl.com/2vyamz2u
2017 Nov	Books on ACEs in Scotland published 	<p>Darren McGarvey and Carol Craig are two of the country's leading commentators on Scottish culture. It is no surprise that their work is both edgy and lauded. Both have undertaken wider projects that consider the impact of trauma and ACEs on contemporary and historic culture. This work includes:</p> <p>McGarvey's 2024 <i>Trauma Industrial Complex</i></p> <p>McGarvey's 2019 BBC Scotland <i>Darren McGarvey's Scotland</i></p> <p>Craig's 2024 book - <i>A Time of Hope: The Story of Scotland's Centre for Confidence</i></p> <p>Craig's 2018 reflections on corporal punishment in schools</p>	tinyurl.com/bdec3e57 tinyurl.com/yp52ry5j tinyurl.com/c96m9dds tinyurl.com/mv9kdjr8
2017 Dec	Scottish Prisoners Survey includes ACEs 	<p>The full set of findings obtained by the Scottish Prison Service in their biennial survey, for the first time in relation to ACEs, can be found in their 2017 report.</p> <p>It is useful to place these Scottish findings in the context of research in Wales regarding the prevalence of ACEs within the prison population. Their 2019 report is very comprehensive.</p>	tinyurl.com/mypuy9fd tinyurl.com/55n73prs



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2018 Mar	<p>Ayrshire Health Board promotes trauma awareness</p> 	<p>The North Ayrshire Children Services Plan 2020-2023 recalls the extensive amount of work undertaken in Ayrshire in 2018 to familiarise members of the local community with the impacts of childhood trauma. More than 65 screenings of the documentary film Resilience were held, with approximately 4500 people attending. A conference followed these efforts in March 2019, entitled <i>ACEs: Adversity is Not Destiny</i>. The <i>Children Services Plan</i> detailing this history is available online.</p> <p>In September 2024, North Ayrshire Council announced the introduction of mandatory training on trauma for all council employees. This builds on the strong view of regional leaders that “trauma is everyone’s business”.</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/arx2wpsy</p> <p>tinyurl.com/emjbsw37</p>
2018 June	<p>National Trauma Training Programme launches</p> 	<p>The NHS Education Scotland (NES) team was proud when, in 2017, Scotland was the first country in the world to have developed a Knowledge & Skills Framework for informing the entire workforce about psychological trauma. The National Trauma Training Programme was developed in 2018 to enrich this capacity, within both individuals and services. In 2023, it was renamed the National Trauma Transformation Programme, and it continues to be funded by the Scottish Government and delivered through partnership agencies. A total of £9.6 million has been invested in the Programme since 2018. It provides freely available training resources and implementation support.</p> <p>A description of the Programme can be found on the adjacent link.</p> <p>Recent reports charting evaluations of the Programme include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 - Trauma-informed substance use pathfinders • 2024 – Local authority delivery trials 	<p>tinyurl.com/3hbrzj9j</p> <p>tinyurl.com/ydp55h4w</p> <p>tinyurl.com/58az3v2b</p>
2018 June	<p>Portobello Learning Festival is initiated</p> 	<p>Keynote speakers at the Portobello Learning Festival included Paul Dix, Chris Kilkenny, Jaz Ampaw-Farr, Nina Jackson and Suzanne Zeedyk. Some of these speakers were recorded on video, and you can find those posted in this playlist on the YouTube Channel for <i>connected baby</i>.</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/3dcrctce</p>
2018 June	<p>Cross-Party Group on ACEs is formed</p> 	<p>A Cross-Party Group on ACEs within the Scottish Parliament was proposed in June 2018. It operated until December 2022. If you would like to see how a Cross-Party Group (CPG) is established, you can see the discussion that took place on 13 September 2018, convened by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee.</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/5e5s68ze</p>

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2018 Aug	Falkirk Council ensures all new teachers are ACE-aware 	<p>The voice of Susanne McCafferty, Headteacher at Bainsford Primary, has been heard widely throughout Falkirk Council, because she has spoken so openly of the impact that learning about ACEs had on her thinking about practicing as a teacher. You can hear more of her personal journey in the interview she gave in May 2019.</p> <p>McCafferty's interview was later featured in an article from the alliance <i>Word On The Streets</i>. Their strapline is "information for transformational people", which gives a sense of the value of her observations.</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/58t5c8w7</p> <p>tinyurl.com/458wmtwr</p>
2018 Sep	ACE-Aware Nation Conference takes place   	<p>Videos for all speeches at the 2018 ACE-Aware Nation Conference can be found on the ACE-Aware Scotland YouTube Channel. There are more than 100 videos available.</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/5fjdwjny</p>
2018 Sep	The charity Trauma Informed Parenting reaches out to caregivers 	<p>The goal of the charity Trauma Informed Parenting is to make others aware of the vast amount of information now available about the impacts of childhood trauma. Providing lived experience and practical examples of acting on that information, they show it is possible to respond to 'challenging behaviour' with curiosity, calm and connection. They offer evidence that, with these insights, generational patterns of dysregulated behaviour can be changed.</p> <p>Their training is fully funded through external sources, which means that they are able to offer free workshops across Scotland. They work groups for a range of sectors, including foster carers, family support groups, schools and many others. More information on their website.</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/3xeeje6c</p>
2018 Oct	Public debate about ACEs unfolds    	<p>The academic community is used to debates, including nuanced arguments about everything from theory to data to statistics. When that debate enters the public realm, it can sometimes create fear and doubt, rather than curiosity and deeper engagement. That was the challenge faced as 2018 gave way to 2019. Lots of debate was underway in the press and in professional magazines about how to talk and think about the concept of ACEs. Some of the many articles published were these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Times Educ Supplement (TES) Scotland</i> - Oct 2018 • <i>Times Educ Supplement (TES) Scotland</i> - Oct 2018 • <i>Times Educ Supplement (TES) Scotland</i> - Nov 2018 • <i>The Scotsman Newspaper</i> - Feb 2019 • <i>Children in Scotland Magazine</i> - June 2019 	<p>tinyurl.com/2s4ejdmh</p> <p>tinyurl.com/3y9zdycj</p> <p>tinyurl.com/5arkmp3</p> <p>tinyurl.com/5n7dmm2s</p> <p>tinyurl.com/5ctdxph9</p>
















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2018 Nov	Highland Health Board highlights evidence on ACEs 	<p>It is not possible to know whether the office of the Director of Public Health in NHS Highland realised what a useful document they were creating when they took the decision to focus their 2018 <i>Annual Report</i> on ACEs. The report provides a concise summary of a massive amount of material, conveyed in a hopeful tone that stresses the possibilities of healing and recovery. Individuals, families and communities are affected, which does indeed make trauma “everyone’s business”. The interesting and accessible report is available on the adjacent link.</p>	tinyurl.com/kres9sxx
2018 Nov	Trauma-informed nursing course thrives at University of Stirling  	<p>It is inspiring to hear firsthand how nursing students at University of Stirling feel about the training they receive in trauma-informed practice. “We have to get away from this blame & shame society that we have now.” This quote comes from a video made in 2017 about the course on offer at the University. It is still relatively unique, but the staff and students hope that, with their advocacy, it will become the norm for nursing courses.</p>	tinyurl.com/bd2f662h
2019 Jan	Scale of ACEs amongst Scottish children revealed 	<p>The researchers responsible for conducting this 2019 exploration of ACEs’ prevalence amongst Scottish children were Dr Louise Marryat and Dr John Frank, both based at the University of Edinburgh. The paper, published in the <i>British Medical Journal Paediatrics Open</i>, is available for the public to read.</p>	tinyurl.com/mushz6w9
2019 April	The language of ‘distressed behaviour’ ripples out from Pitteuchar East Primary School  	<p>When Headteacher Jenn Knussen retired in June 2024, her local newspaper <i>The Courier</i> published an account of how she had come to practice in a trauma-informed way. It tells story of how the phrase ‘distressed behaviour’ came to be so central to the culture established at her school, Pitteuchar East Primary.</p>	tinyurl.com/zs89jcar
2019 June	ACEs to Assets Conference is held 	<p>Kim McGuigan and James Docherty gave interviews about what it meant to them to bring Dr Gabor Maté to Scotland. These featured as part of the Stories of Resilience Series, recorded in 2019. You can find their conversations on the ACE-Aware Scotland YouTube Channel.</p>	tinyurl.com/ypnawne6 tinyurl.com/5f4wh93d
2019 Aug	Debate on ACEs continues   	<p>These links give a sense of the way in which the ACEs framework was being debated in Scotland during 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabaret of Dangerous Ideas • Repackaging old problems • A social justice perspective • ACEs high or low? 	tinyurl.com/4m9kjr48 tinyurl.com/2jys3usu tinyurl.com/44rkjaet tinyurl.com/v74asjbj

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2019 Dec	West Lothian primary schools adopt Teddy Bear Policies 	<p>The Handbooks at three West Lothian primary schools explain how their Teddy Bear Policies operate. The headteachers all say that adopting a relational approach such as this helped to transform the school cultures, in part because staff were better equipped in paying attention to children’s stress levels.</p> <p>St Joseph’s Primary School St John the Baptist Primary School Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/ybd4h96e tinyurl.com/3dfuevu5 tinyurl.com/beeba8u2</p>
2020 Feb	The Promise drives change in the care system 	<p>“Scotland’s care system isn’t working. It’s not done as much as it could ot make sure care-experienced children grow up loved, safe and respected. That’s made things harder for those children. Sometimes, things have remained hard as they’ve moved into adult life....It is time for real change to happen.”</p> <p>These words, from the website of Scotland’s Promise to its care-experienced children and young people, arose from the work done by the Independent Care Review commissioned in 2016 by the Scottish Government to address the numerous and long-standing failings of the care system. In effect, the Promise acknowledged that not only do children enter the care system carrying trauma, but that being in the system often exacerbates that trauma, rather than helping it to heal. The hope of the many people who served the Review in some way, by the time it reported in 2020, was that there is enough now understood about childhood trauma for those gaps to finally be addressed. You can see the kinds of actions being taken by different policy-making bodies on the following links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Promise website • Scottish Government website • Cosla (Local Government) website • Education Scotland website • Care Inspectorate website 	<p>tinyurl.com/78bzu3zj tinyurl.com/bddpydhz tinyurl.com/ym9suceh tinyurl.com/2kf7u2nk tinyurl.com/56292rwa</p>
2020 Feb	Early years guidance is updated 	<p>“Our focus should be on supporting babies and children when they are with us, in our early years settings, to form a secure and emotionally resilient attachment base which will stand them in good stead as they grow and develop.”</p> <p>This is an excerpt (pg 14) from the document <i>Realising The Ambition</i>, released by Education Scotland in Feb 2020, to provide updated practice guidance for early years staff. Its emphasis on attachment, trauma and relational care is welcomed by the sector. You can read the full document on this link.</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/32w55fxj</p>

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2020 Feb	Clydebank High hosts Learning Festival 	<p>Clydebank High has developed a robustly consistent school ethos. This frames their understanding of all distressed behaviour, as well as the social and emotional needs of students. Staff are actively engaged in teaching students about brain function and the stress system, and they work with young people to craft conscious strategies of self-regulation. The school's efforts have been enthusiastically supported by their local authority West Dunbartonshire, resulting in interest from a range of external organisations.</p>	tinyurl.com/3kbrzmjy tinyurl.com/yt9sb7n4 tinyurl.com/2k8b6cp6
2020-2021	Covid descends 	<p>The Covid pandemic of 2020 and 2021 had lasting impacts across the world. In Scotland, it slowed down the progress of the ACEs movement. For many families and communities, it also exacerbated the prevalence of ACEs, as a study published in the research journal Paediatrics in 2023 has shown.</p>	tinyurl.com/3ftv3hd9
2020-2021	ACEs Conversation Series hosted online 	<p>The entire <i>Conversation Series</i> hosted by ACE Aware Scotland in 2020 and 2021 can be found on their YouTube Channel. It covered a diverse range of topics, featuring an array of speakers. They proved especially popular during the Covid lockdowns of this period.</p>	tinyurl.com/5fjdwnjy
2020 July	ACEs movement features in BBC documentary 	<p>Kate Silverton shares insights about her BBC <i>Panorama</i> report in this 2020 article from Place2Be. She describes the personal testimonies she heard about the personal and public cost of youth violence as "hair-raising".</p>	tinyurl.com/4dbsnmzw
2020 Sep	Data gathered on prevalence of ACEs in Scottish population 	<p>The inclusion of questions about ACEs in the <i>Scottish Health Survey</i> (data collected in 2019, published in 2020) was an important step in Scotland's ACEs Journey. The findings of the <i>Survey</i> showed, in particular, how common ACEs are: 71% of participants reported at least one ACE. They also show the frequency of verbal abuse. This was reported by 47% of participants, featuring as the most common ACE. These findings help us to think more deeply about what it feels like to live in modern Scotland. What is Scottish culture like? What impact does it have on our bodies and stress systems?</p>	tinyurl.com/3vzc63cj
		<p>The complete set of findings for the <i>Survey</i>, including useful graphs, can be found on the following link.</p>	
		<p>It is intended that the 2025 <i>Scottish Health Survey</i> will again include questions on ACEs, with findings expected in late 2026.</p>	




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2020 Oct	Trauma-informed approaches to housing explored    	<p>“Ensuring that housing services and policy are trauma-informed is important so that we can respond to, where possible, prevent adversity.” This is one of the opening sentences in Public Health Scotland’s 2020 examination of trauma-informed housing policy. The three case studies they derived (for council, private and housing association providers) are inspiring, for they show what is possible when housing policy sees itself as dealing with more overseeing the provision of houses.</p>	tinyurl.com/5dsa954x
2020 Nov	Arts sector championed 	<p>The idea of trauma-informed practice with the creative arts sector strikes many people as unusual. They aren’t sure what that would look like. This is precisely why the early years arts charity Starcatchers has been advocating for a shift in understanding. They have done so in a variety of ways, as demonstrated in the following links.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report for Starcatchers 2020-2021 • Annual report for partner project ‘Cashback’ 2023-2024 • Where We Are residencies 	tinyurl.com/mrxfdtmt tinyurl.com/2z9p2t8z tinyurl.com/35hbsa3d
2021 Mar	Dementia care considered by the charity Iriss 	<p>The charity Iriss partners with organisations with the aim of creating knowledge that can support practice in caring for people. They have produced a range of papers related to ACEs and trauma. These include:</p> <p>Their 2021 paper on dementia</p> <p>Their 2018 review of interventions within the education system</p> <p>Their 2014 paper on children in care</p>	tinyurl.com/mpbkfd7n tinyurl.com/2canu5fh tinyurl.com/mvc4xx72
2021 June	Links between ACEs & Attachment Theory emphasised 	<p>Writer Simon Partridge has been a determined champion for the insights of John Bowlby, grandfather of attachment theory. He points out that a decade before Felitti and Anda settled on the now well-known term ‘adverse childhood experiences’ (in 1998), Bowlby himself had also used it (in 1988). This overlap in terminology and conceptualisation shows the links between ACEs and attachment theory. Partridge argues we should be delving into these much more deeply than we yet have. Papers that develop this position include:</p> <p>Partridge, S. (2021). What happened to you? Attachment theory extended. <i>Attachment: New Directions in Psychotherapy and Relational Psychoanalysis</i>, 15(June): vii-xiii.</p> <p>Partridge, S. (2019). The origins of the adverse childhood experiences movement and child sexual abuse: a brief history. <i>Attachment: New Directions in Psychotherapy and Relational Psychoanalysis</i>, 13(1): 113–116.</p>	tinyurl.com/c4b5sr2w tinyurl.com/4s7ctrcy

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2021 Nov	<p>Scottish Law Society introduces trauma-informed certification</p>   	<p>“Becoming a trauma-informed lawyer is an increasingly essential competency that sits at the heart of a fair justice system....With this in mind, we created this course at a lower rate than our other certification courses to reflect our ambition to increase awareness among our members about the importance of trauma awareness in all areas of law.”</p> <p>These words are taken directly from the Scottish Law Society’s website. Since their first certification course in trauma-informed practice was launched in 2021, the professional demand for it has only increased. This shift has been led by several Scottish lawyers who actively advocated for greater understanding within their profession. And it certainly seems they have succeeded!</p> <p>You can find out more about the course, and put the above quote in context, by going to the relevant page on the Scottish Law Society’s website.</p> <p>The contributions of the lawyers who make up Trauma Aware Law should also be highlighted. These individuals include Iain Smith of Keegan Smith Law and Melissa Rutherford of Rutherford Sheridan Law. Their leadership has had a dramatic impact on the legal landscape in Scotland, as reflected in their awards, such as the Herald Law Awards of Scotland 2022, Winner in the Innovation category.</p> <p>A good source for reading about the inspiration that led Iain Smith to work with colleagues in setting up Trauma Aware Law is the 2020 collection <i>ACE Interrupters of Great Britain</i>.</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/43vhs68r</p> <p>tinyurl.com/mpkzd7ss</p> <p>tinyurl.com/3xdx4erh</p>
2022 Jan	<p>New guideline on sentencing young people issued</p> 	<p>The Lord Justice Clerk, Lady Dorrian, explained the reasoning behind the new guideline on sentencing young people in a video released in February 2022. In it, she says: “There is now compelling evidence in relation to the cognitive development of young brains, in particular that aspect of cognitive development which affects self-control, judgement and decision making.... Brain development can be adversely affected by factors such as ACEs and other factors.... We are conscious that the age of 25 is being seen, both in Scotland and elsewhere, as a key age in other criminal justice developments.” It is encouraging to see the legal system acting on the scientific evidence in this proactive way.</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/4ymfj5v9</p>

Date	Event	Details	Links	
2022 Feb	<p>West Lothian College launch their newest trauma-informed initiative</p>  	<p>West Lothian College has gained a deserved reputation as one of the leading trauma-informed educational institutions in Scotland. As this 2023 research report recalls, they have recognised the association between trauma and poverty – and that relationships are the key strategy for countering the impacts. As the Principal of the College puts it: “Leading with vision and empathy underpins our whole-college approach.”</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/mr237phv</p>	
2022 June	<p>Compassionate Prisons Conference is held</p>     	<p>International activist Fritzi Horstman has been diligent in her efforts to bring greater awareness of ACEs to the prison system. The release of her 2020 documentary film <i>Step Inside the Circle</i> dramatically illustrates her point about the high levels of childhood trauma amongst men and women sentenced to prison terms, even though they themselves often do not recognise their childhoods as traumatic. That means the film is a call to action for prison services, the legal system and society more generally. A trailer of this ground-breaking film is available on the adjacent link.</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/bdd4c7ts</p>	
2022 Sep	<p>Dentists receive training in trauma</p>  	<p>Encouragingly, the team at Dundee Dental Hospital and School are now delivering trauma-awareness training to their students and, in 2024, to colleagues in other health authorities. The researchers argue that even generic trauma training can be of value to dental staff, given that education in trauma remains uncommon in the dental field. It is also hoped that as dentists become more confident with this information, they can develop means of informing their patients.</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/592ynuzm</p> <p>tinyurl.com/mss4khn7</p> <p>tinyurl.com/yc5ewdru</p> <p>tinyurl.com/msf8ucs3</p>	
2023 Aug	<p>Bairns’ Hoose launches</p>      	<p>Bairns’ Hoose is an initiative that aims to transform the way Scotland cares for children and young people involved in the justice system. Originating in Iceland in 1997 and then spreading to other European countries, the potential of the ‘Barnahaus model’ was recognised here by the charity Children First. They campaigned for several years about the importance of establishing a network of such ‘hooses’, with the first one opening in August 2023. At the end of the first year, they had supported 300 children and family members. ACEs such as sexual abuse, domestic violence and physical abuse lie at the centre of the situations faced by most of the families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Independent – Aug 2023 <li>• Fife Today – Oct 2023 <li>• STV News – Aug 2024 	<p>tinyurl.com/m5cvpdu7</p> <p>tinyurl.com/3uhtshwd</p> <p>tinyurl.com/3b92wx3h</p>

Date	Event	Details	Links
2023 Aug	Funding of school deferrals becomes law 	<p>“No two children are the same. There are different personalities, different support needs, and development happens at different rates. Balancing these differences is one of the major responsibilities of parents and teachers. And one of the biggest decisions is: When to start school?”</p> <p>These are the words that open one of the many articles (<i>Herald</i>, 2024) published about the importance of the Give Them Time Campaign. The determination of two mums have altered the developmental paths open to 4-year-olds across Scotland. The success of their campaign will resonate over the years in ways we probably have not fully comprehended. You can read more about the campaign on these links.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Herald Scotland</i> – Jan 2024 • <i>Mums & Dads Edin (MADE)</i> – Jan 2020 • Give Them Time website 	<p>tinyurl.com/4c3s56h6</p> <p>tinyurl.com/3tatst5z</p> <p>tinyurl.com/bdeefjmd</p>
2023 Sep	Immersive Event with Dr Gabor Maté is hosted 	<p>The Highlights Video from the 2023 event with Dr Gabor Maté as keynote speaker gives a clear sense of the energy at an ACE-Aware Scotland Conference.</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/5fjdwnjy</p>
2023 Oct	Parents share stories of insight 	<p>The 2023 <i>Courier</i> article featuring mum Melanie Stuart includes the welcome headline statement: “There’s no shouting [anymore]. There’s fun, there’s laughter, there’s lightness.”</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/ywkjwuyk</p>
2023 Nov	Boarding school abuses highlighted by journalist Neil Mackay 	<p>Award-winning journalist Neil Mackay has published a number of articles on the harms of boarding school. His steadfast attention to this issue is valued by the community of boarding school survivors. His articles in <i>The Herald Scotland</i> include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 May • 2021 August • 2022 July • 2023 Feb • 2023 Nov 	<p>tinyurl.com/bdz2ndyh</p> <p>tinyurl.com/42cwp8rt</p> <p>tinyurl.com/3fnk3a9n</p> <p>tinyurl.com/bdZX5wru</p> <p>tinyurl.com/3ahvmuyv</p>

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2024 Feb	<p>Secondary schools replace Behaviour Policies with Relationship Policies</p> 	<p>A growing number of secondary schools in Scotland have replaced their traditional Behaviour Policy with a Positive Relationship Policy, growing out of an understanding of trauma, ACEs and nurture. Some of the many schools who have done so include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carnoustie High • Kirkintilloch High • All Saints RC Secondary • Bannerman High • Portobello High • Kirkwall Grammar • Clydebank High 	<p>tinyurl.com/388hydp9</p> <p>tinyurl.com/yzvk6d3z</p> <p>tinyurl.com/mwyebv23</p> <p>tinyurl.com/mwambkpd</p> <p>tinyurl.com/4wcpvy79</p> <p>tinyurl.com/yc2n8j8s</p> <p>tinyurl.com/5n6wtm98</p>
2024 July	<p>UNCRC Scotland Act comes into force</p> 	<p>In 2017, Children’s Parliament published an article about how the aims of the UNCRC and the Scottish ACEs movement support one another, especially if we aim to have Scotland be the best place in the world to grow up. They both call on adults to ensure that children experience more respect and greater protection from adversity in their lives.</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/57yhemtw</p>
2024 Oct	<p>The Strength of Community event takes place</p> 	<p>Sir Michael Marmot and Mayor Andy Burnham have gained a reputation as a dynamic pair, because Greater Manchester has been such an enthusiastic proponent of the Marmot Principles as a way of enhancing the lives of citizens. They were able to tell their story at the 2024 ACE-Aware Scotland event. This built on other occasions when they have talked about their mutual goals, such as their webinar in 2021, discussing the initiative Build Back Fairer.</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/sp35sje9</p>
2024 Nov	<p>The Little Iceberg Musical comes to Fife</p> 	<p>The history of <i>The Little Iceberg Musical</i> is beautifully told on the Anam Alba website. You can find a trailer of the theatrical production and lots of interviews about the powerful impact of this metaphoric story.</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/2kn36kp7</p>

Date	Event	Details	Links
2025 June	<p>Impact of Scottish Violence Reduction Unit celebrated</p>    	<p>Alistair Fraser, Professor of Criminology and Sociology at the University of Glasgow, has traced the remarkable transformation of the city of Glasgow, once dubbed ‘the murder capital of Europe’, to its more recent reputation as a leader in violence reduction. He and his research team provide a fascinating analysis of the impact of charismatic storytellers at the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit, as well as the influence of cultural factors such as the push for Scottish independence.</p> <p>They end their 2023 publication with this sentence: “The story of Glasgow has shifted from one of tragedy to redemption, resuscitating the city’s image in a way that perhaps shows that the miracles of St Mungo remain relevant to this day.”</p> <p>Their 2024 report traces this history. Their book <i>The Public Health Approach to Violence Reduction: Stories, Movements and Hope</i>, to be published by Oxford University Press in 2025, will provide a rich, in-depth account. Seeing violence as a matter of public health is crucial if we are to succeed in improving the lives of children and young people.</p>	<p>tinyurl.com/4up5dtfp</p> <p>tinyurl.com/37xcbbkv</p> <p>tinyurl.com/3m9fkxuv</p> <p>tinyurl.com/2s92zps3</p> <p>tinyurl.com/yrcck3j</p> <p>tinyurl.com/475djfy</p>

