



Social Care Professionals' Perceived Barriers to Implementing Attachment and Trauma-Informed Care Training in their Practice

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Introduction

Children's social care workers offer frontline support to those who have experienced high levels of adversity and trauma.

However, there is limited research exploring the barriers social care professionals face whilst working in an attachment and trauma informed way.

Aims:

1. To address the research gap by exploring social care professionals' perceived personal, professional and organisational barriers to working with children with trauma and attachment difficulties.
2. To provide recommendations based on their perspective of what is needed to overcome them.
3. To contribute to creating a trauma-informed children's social care workforce.

Method

Ethical approval: Granted by ABUHB R&D

Sample: 98 social care staff across Gwent.

Design: Secondary Data Analysis.

Three qualitative items from a 56-item routine post trauma-training questionnaire were selected and analysed.

Data Analysis: Thematic Analysis

Acknowledgements

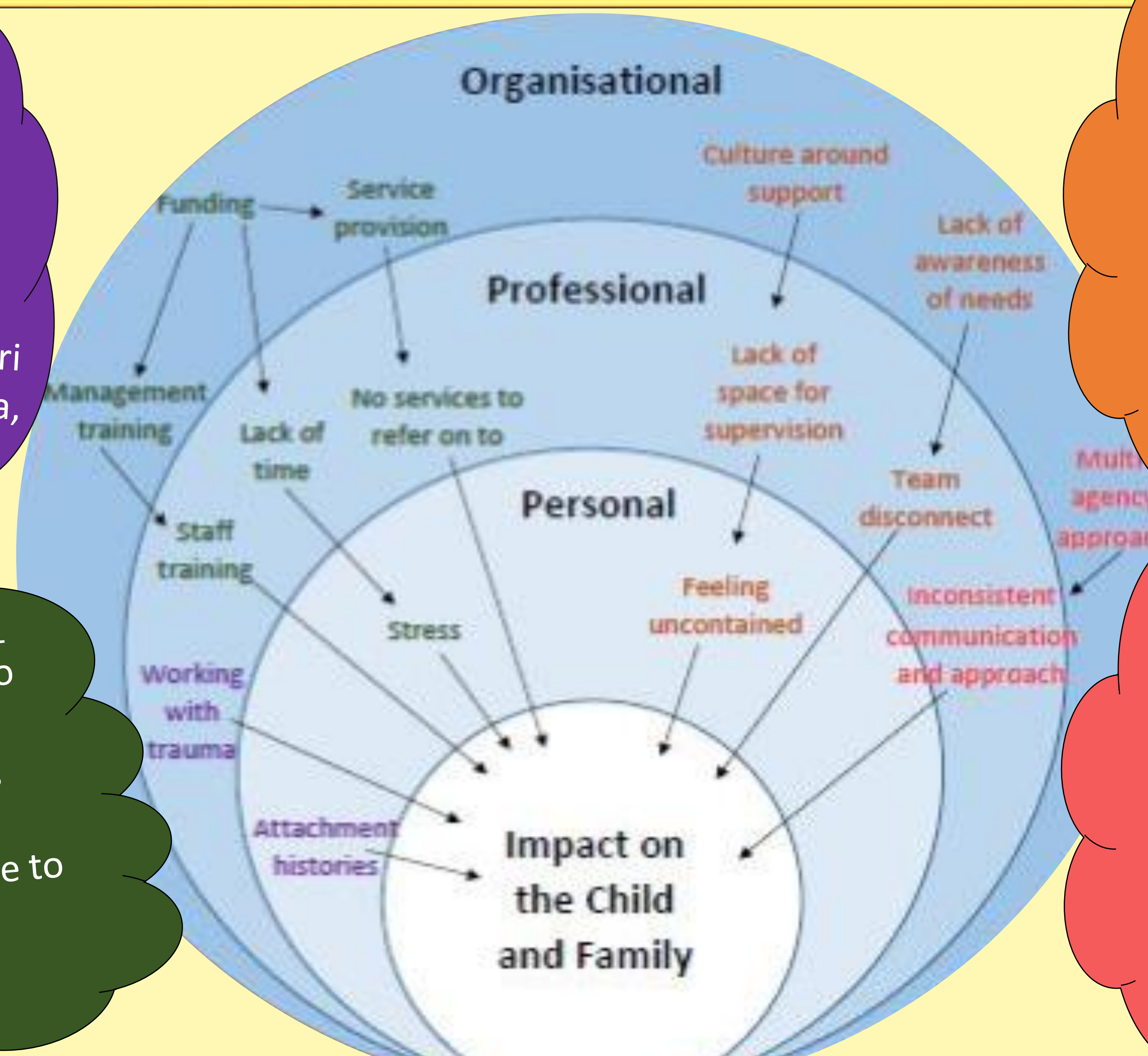
Thank you to those who contributed to the collection of the data, those who completed the initial survey and The Integrated Care Fund for their provision of funding.

1: The Widespread Impact of Trauma

Both working with complex trauma and managing own lives, attachment histories and at times, trauma, can impact perceived ability and confidence in practice.

2: Lack of Funding

Funding is linked to the impact on resources such as, training, service provision and time to form therapeutic relationships.



3: Inconsistent Supportive Culture

Capturing an organisational culture in which collaboration, supervision and support are not always being advocated.

4: Multiagency Approach to Trauma-Informed Care

The absence of communication across agencies means there is not always a shared approach when working with children and families.

Conclusions

This study is novel in exploring the barriers social care professionals face when seeking to work in an attachment and trauma-informed way. Four main barriers were identified.

Recommendations:

- Participants recommendations included: consistent supervision, protected time for relationship building and developing a shared understanding and approach.
- To take a whole systems approach through working with heads of service to overcome identified barriers. This should support the development of an attachment and trauma informed workforce.

Future work:

- Future research should explore barriers to working in an attachment and trauma informed way at an organisational level to aid change across services as a whole.
- The attachment service offering attachment informed supervision to all service managers. This will be evaluated yearly so impact can be measured.



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