



Identifying ACEs in families who use maternity and neonatal services, to improve the response to risk and build resilience to strengthen parenting

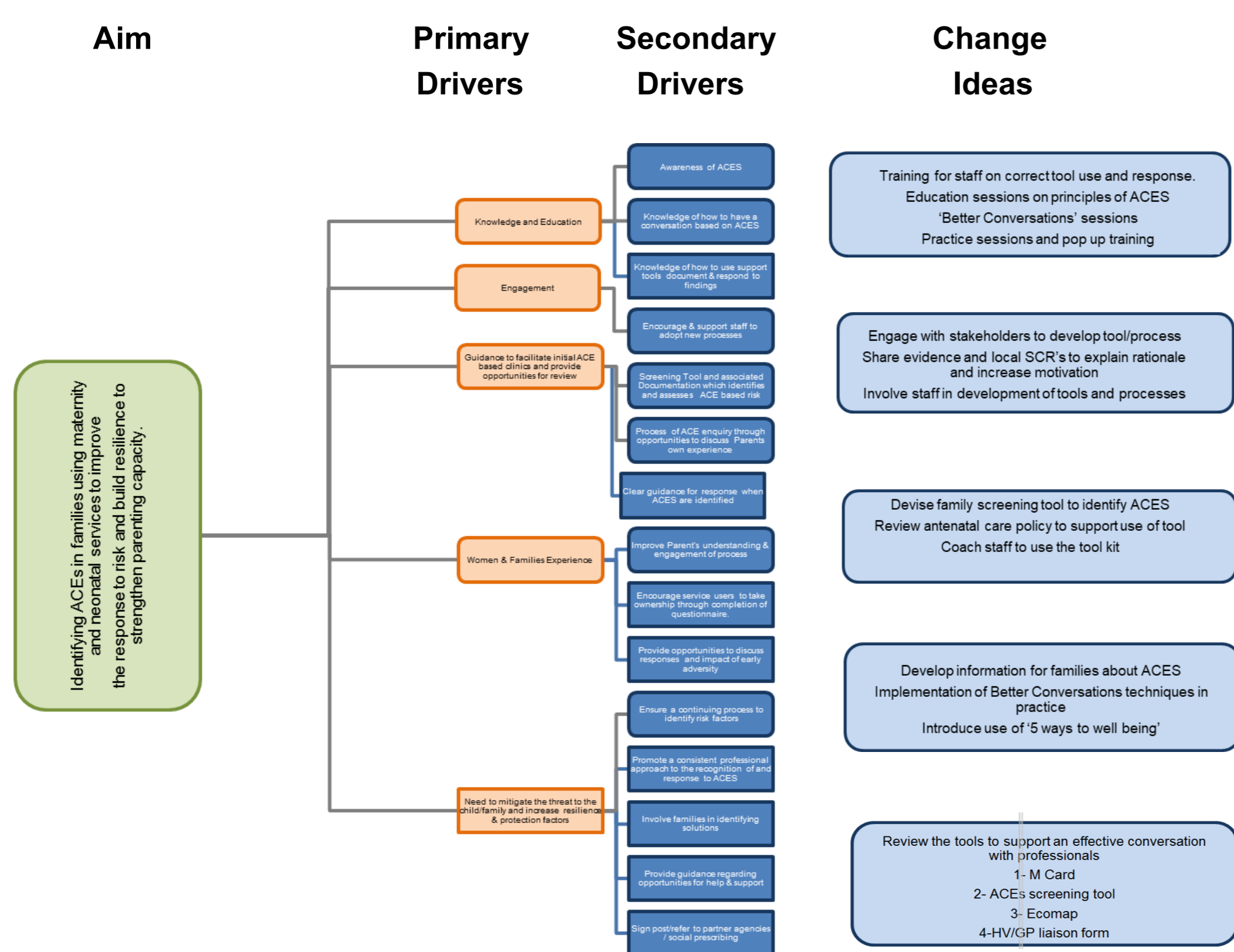
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1. Aim of Project:

Use an ACEs screening tool at booking with 100% of women and their partners who use maternity services in a specific pilot area by July 2019. Assessment of existing protective factors/risk and an associated personalised care plan in 100% of cases where ACEs have been identified.

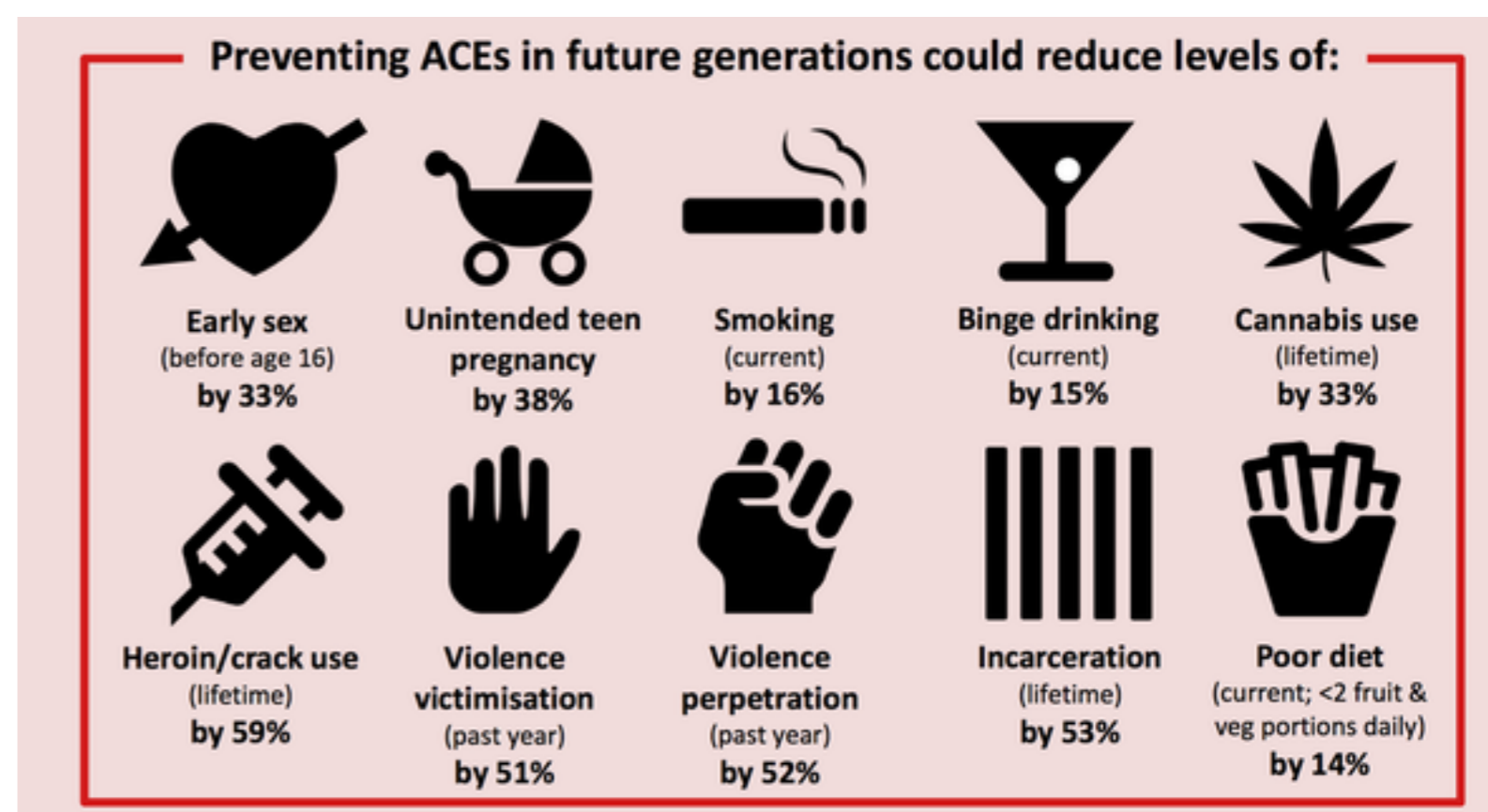
2. Drivers:

Evidence from local and national Serious Case Reviews.
International Studies on ACEs demonstrate the risks to children and families when ACEs are present and families have no resilience.
Better Births Prevention Workstream to improve outcomes in maternity.



3. What are ACEs?

ACEs are specific traumatic events occurring before the age of 18 years. High or frequent exposure to ACEs without the support of a trusted adult can lead to toxic stress.



Adverse Childhood Experiences infographic, Centre for Public Health, Liverpool John Moores University

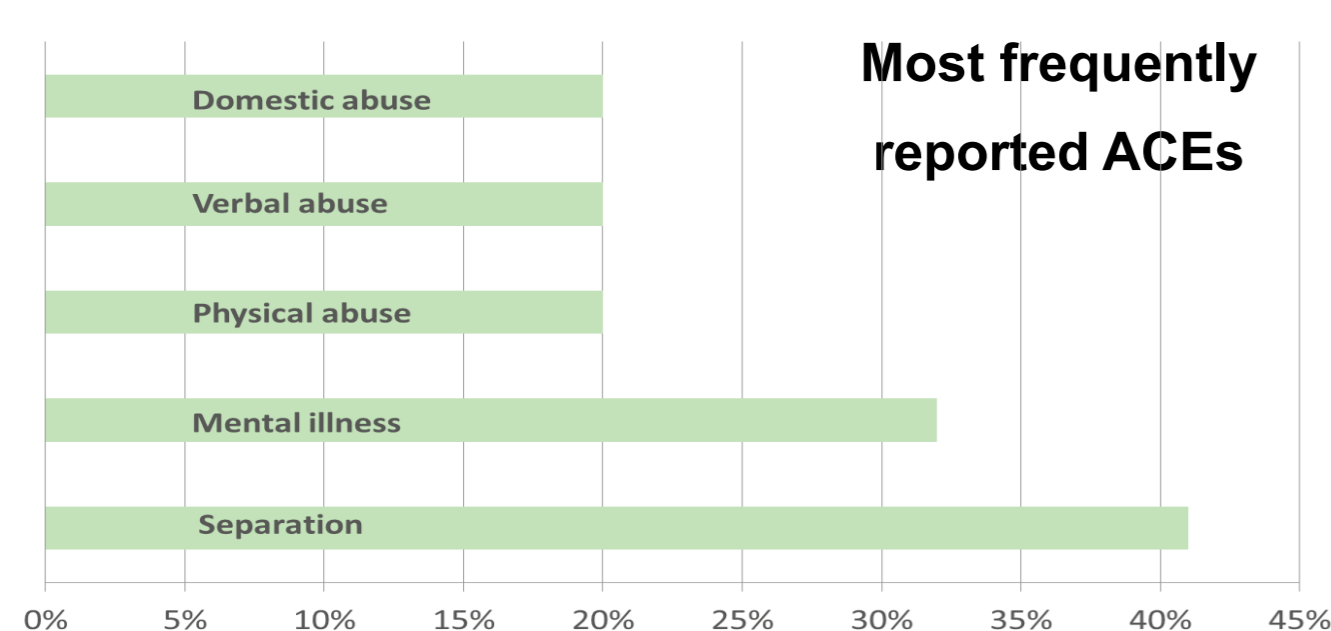
4. Intervention: Introduction of ACE enquiry

A bespoke ACEs toolkit was developed which included:

- *Pathway
- *M-card
- *Ecomap
- *Screening tool
- *GP/HV liaison form
- *Information leaflet

5. Findings:

44 pregnant women and 23 partners participated in the ACEs pilot. All completed the screening tool at booking.



10 families with ACEs were identified by the pilot team. Of these:

- 1 was referred through existing safeguarding processes
- 4 were offered Early Help referral
- 5 had existing protective factors in place to minimise risk

Parental comfort with ACEs

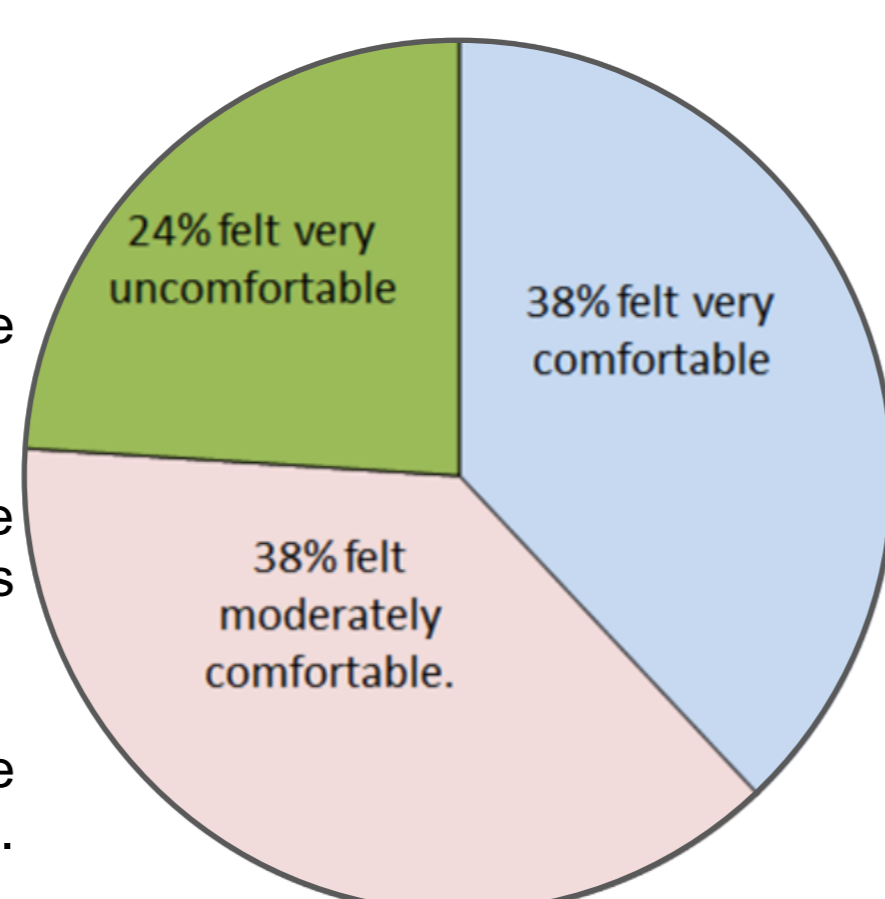
Impact / Outcome of conversation

100% of parental respondents found the questions being asked acceptable.

90% of respondents felt that booking was the right time to be asked the questions.

100% of respondents felt that as a result of the conversation appropriate additional support was identified.

75% of respondents felt that the ACEs conversation with the midwife was positive. 25% found it neither positive or negative.



6. Feedback:

- Allows people the opportunity to "open up" *Midwife*
- Good to know potential mental health problems / need for support are being considered from the start of pregnancy *Parent*
- Lots disclosed - Sometimes bringing up emotive events...eg one lady in tears re bullying and history of self harm *Midwife*
- ACEs have been experienced by many... now expected to offer support whilst silently coming to terms with this new knowledge on ourselves/ own children's future *Midwife*
- Unexpected, but didn't mind, although it was quite personal *Parent*
- Reminded me of some of the issuesso as not to repeat things that happened in our childhoods that ... affected our self esteem and confidence *Parent*

7. The way forward:



- * Review information governance, consent and data sharing.
- * Refining of tools based on feedback.
- * Strengthen the response when ACEs are identified:-
 - increase social prescribing confidence
 - improve knowledge/access to Early Help
 - work with partner agencies.
- * Publish findings in professional journals
- * Implementation throughout maternity services and beyond.