

The MACE Project Aims to:

- Help our communities become better informed about adversity and trauma in childhood;
- Help support our families and communities to recognise some of the potential issues that might arise when we experience adversity or trauma in childhood;
- Help communities/parents/carers/services to develop techniques to engage better with children and
- Consider what we can do to help ourselves deal with any potential negative impact of our Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

MACE Project Partners: Co-operation and Working Together (CAWT) is the cross-border health and social care partnership comprising the Health Service Executive in the Republic of Ireland and the Southern and Western Health & Social Care Trusts, Health and Social Care Board and the Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland.

CAWT, along with TUSLA (the dedicated Child and Family Agency in the Republic of Ireland responsible for improving wellbeing and outcomes for children), has been successful in securing funding from the European Union INTERREG VA programme, to progress the MACE Project.

Project Area and Co-ordinator Details



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General Information Leaflet

A project supported by the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body.

Why we need the MACE Project?

Experiences of adversity and trauma occur in almost everyone's life at some point. Sometimes these experiences occur in our childhood when we are more sensitive to trauma and the affect can last longer. How we learn to cope with these experiences can help improve future outcomes for us, the children we care for, our families and friends and the wider community.

The MACE (Multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences) project aims to help children/families who are at risk from multiple adversities in their lives, through raising awareness about childhood trauma/adversity and providing nurturing support within our communities. The project aims to provide three categories of nurturing support for families with a child within the **0-3 or 11-13** age group. The categories are **Universal, Targeted and Specialist**.

Universal Interventions are information/awareness raising programmes for families/children. These aim to help participants build healthy relationships, reduce stress, develop coping strategies and build resilience. Examples include parenting workshops, mindfulness or school transition programmes, etc. For more information **contact your local MACE project co-ordinator**.

Targeted Interventions are programmes that are designed to help children/families who have experienced specific trauma or adversity. They aim to enhance and promote skills for coping, managing emotions and developing resilience. These can be either group based or individual interventions. Examples include Addiction support, Domestic Violence Recovery support, Parental separation support etc.

Specialist Interventions are for those children and families whose identified adversity and trauma needs cannot be fully met through universal or targeted interventions. These involve more intensive one to one support for a child/family. Examples include therapeutic services, family support or one to one outreach programmes etc.

Requesting Specialist or Targeted interventions

Only the **'Mace Project Approved Requesters'** can request Targeted or Specialist interventions on behalf of children/parents/carers. Working together with children/families, the approved requesters will be able to request interventions when matched with the identified need. They will have access to a limited list of MACE funded interventions available in each area. Subject to funding, supply and demand for specific interventions, the Mace project will endeavour to purchase requested interventions.

Who are the 'MACE Approved Requesters' of Targeted and Specialist interventions?

Within the WHSCT, SHSCT, TUSLA and HSE those working with children/families who routinely carry out professional assessments as part of their role. Examples include Social Worker, Public Health Nurses, Health Visitor, Speech and Language Therapy Manager, Lead Practitioner in Meitheal, Educational Welfare Officer, Clinical Psychologist, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Social Worker, Addiction Counsellor, Disability Network Social Worker, Nurse/Midwife Manager, Family Nurse Partnership Manager etc.

It is your choice

It will be **the family's/parents/guardians choice**, if they wish to participate or not. If a family chooses to participate, they will need to give consent for their contact details to be shared with the provider to arrange delivery of the intervention. Then, subject to capacity of the providers and the availability of funds the requested intervention will be purchased for the child/parent/guardian/family.

Availability of Interventions

As the MACE project is entering a trial delivery period, the range of interventions available in your area may be limited currently by the number of providers applying for and winning the contract to deliver within specific areas. By December 2020 a number of approved providers will be appointed to deliver MACE interventions. There will be opportunities to increase this in 2021 with further invitations for providers to apply.