

WORKING ON HEARTS AND MINDS: AN APPLICATION FOR SUPPORT TO DEVELOP A STUDY OF STRESS RESPONSIVITY, NEUROIMMUNOLOGY, GENETICS/EPIGENETICS AND BRAIN DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN WHO EXPERIENCED ADVERSITY IN EARLY LIFE

Abused and neglected children are at higher risk of later physical (e.g. heart disease) and mental health problems. Animal research suggests that adversity causes “up-regulation” of stress and immune systems - like turning up a thermostat - with effects on brain development. We want to know if this is true in children. Finding out will require us to ask children aged 7-9 to take part in stress testing, give us about two teaspoonfuls of blood for examination of their immune system and a brain scan. We would use this funding to find out, by conducting engaging consultation events, if children are happy to take part in these tests.