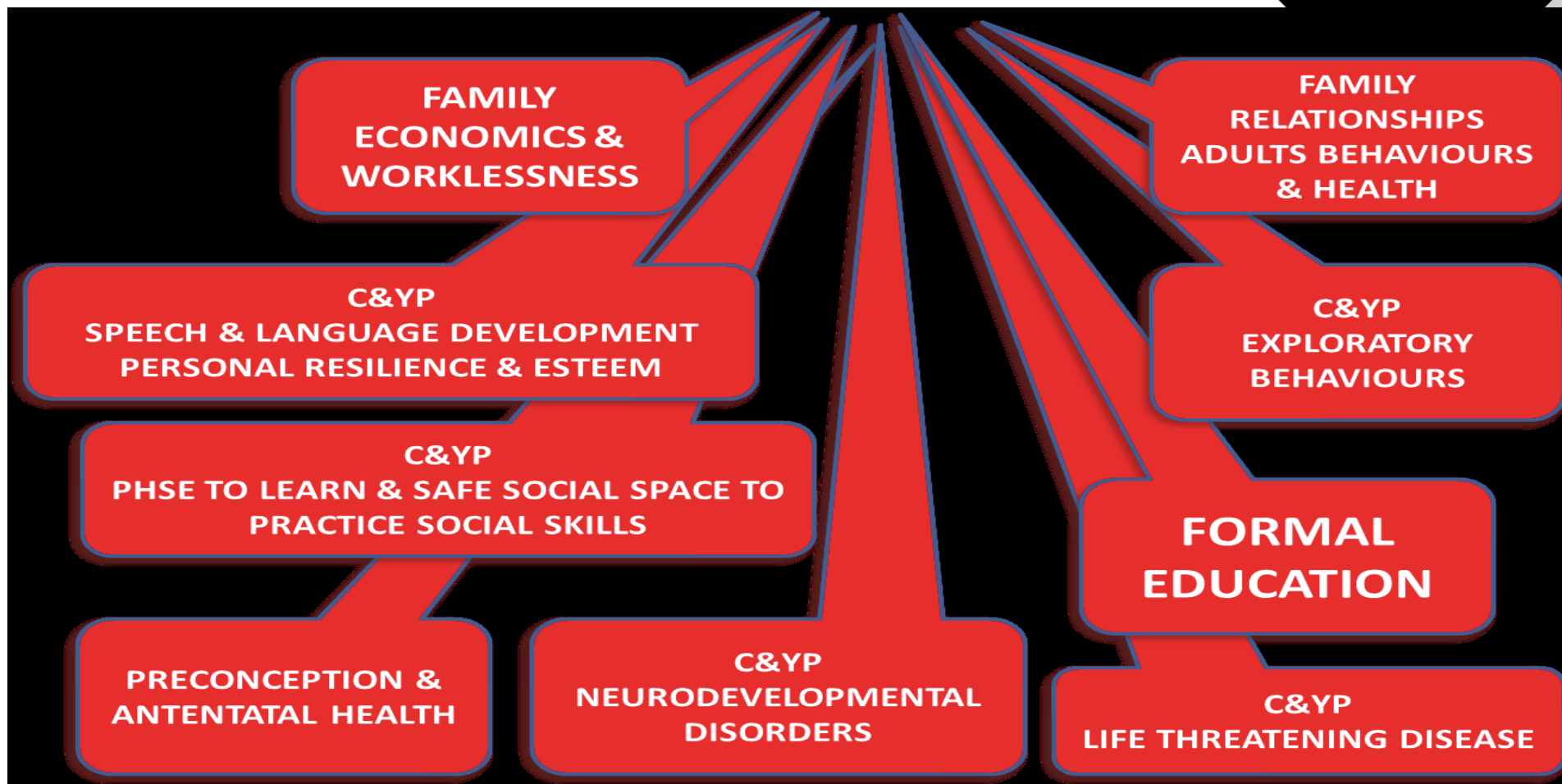


# **ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCE**

Andy Wright  
Head teacher of Birmingham Virtual School  
& Social and Emotional Health Partnerships  
March 2017

# Identified Influences On Health & Wellbeing Of Children



# Early Life Experience and The Brain

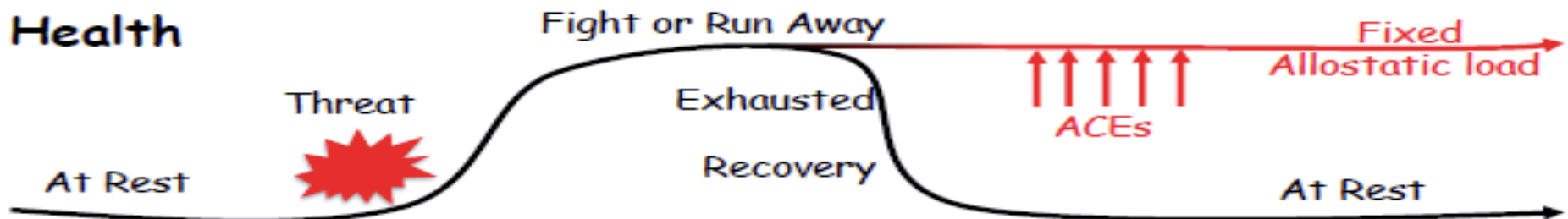
## Early Life Experience and The Brain



### Critical Years

- First 2 years - baby's brain grows from 25% to 80% of adult size
- Development continues in childhood learning *empathy, trust, community*

### Health



### Chronic Stress from ACEs

- Violence - over-develop 'life-preserving' brain  
***NEUTRAL CUES LOOK THREATENING***
- School – anxious, disengaged, poor learner

# Adverse Childhood Experiences

- **Physical Abuse**
- **Sexual Abuse**
- **Verbal Abuse**
- **Parental Separation**
- **Domestic Violence**
- **Mental Illness**
- **Alcohol Abuse**
- **Drug Abuse**
- **Incarceration**

# How Many ACE's?



Compared with no ACEs, those with 4+ ACEs were:

- 3x more likely to be a **current smoker**
- 3x more likely to have had **sex under 16 years**
- 6x more likely to have **used drugs**
- 10x more likely to be **problem drinkers**
- 49x more likely to have ever **attempted suicide**

*INDEPENDENT OF POVERTY*



If they had no ACEs problems could be reduced by:



Smoking  
**22%**



Early Sex  
**21%**



Drug Use  
**36%**



Problem Drinking  
**51%**



Suicide  
**83%**

Aged 18-25 years

# ACE's and impact on life

**UK: Compared with no ACEs, those with 4+ ACEs were:**

- 2x more likely to **binge drink**
- 3x more likely to be **current smoker**
- 5x more likely to have had **sex under 16 years**
- 7x more likely to be involved in **recent violence**
- 11x more likely to have **used heroin or crack**
- 11x more likely to have been **incarcerated**

INDEPENDENT OF POVERTY



**If they had no ACEs problems could be reduced by:**



Smoking  
**16%**



Early Sex  
**33%**



Heroin/Crack  
**59%**



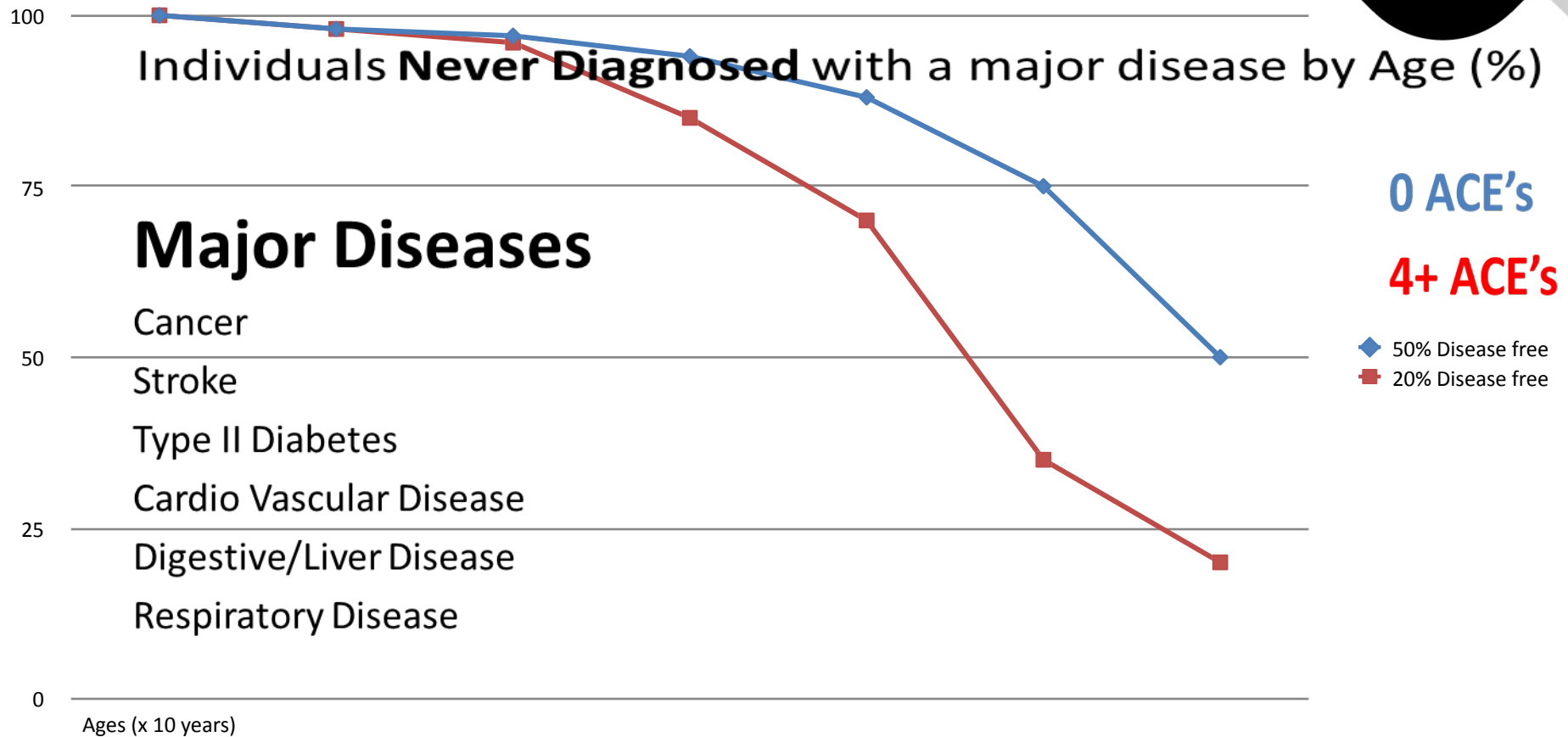
Binge Drinking  
**15%**



Violence  
**60%**

**Aged 18-70 years**

# The Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences on ADULT DISEASE





# Intergenerational Cycles





# Intergenerational Cycles



# Who Is Involved - Agencies & Partnerships

- Schools & Educational Settings – All phases
- Educational Psychologists
- Forward Thinking Birmingham
- Third Sector Emotional Health Providers
- West Midlands Police
- Youth Offending Service
- Community Groups

# Helping To Find Solutions

- NewStart
- West Midlands Police – TIPT
- West Midlands Health Prevention Project
- Virtual School/Educational Psychology Service – Attachment Aware Training Programme
- Sustaining Inclusion – A Strategic Approach Across Secondary School Collaborations
- SEMH Pathfinder Project
- Education & Emotional Well-Being Strategy Group