One Page Summary: Practical Applications for Trauma-Informed Commissioning

Trauma-informed commissioning integrates safety, trust, and empowerment into service design, delivery, and evaluation. These practices create systems that support recovery, reduce harm, and promote equity.

Embedding Trauma-Informed Principles

- **Safety:** Ensure commissioned services prioritise psychological and physical safety.

- **Trustworthiness:** Foster trust through transparent decision-making and consistent communication.

- **Collaboration:** Co-produce services with stakeholders, including those with lived experience.

- **Empowerment:** Focus on strengths-based approaches that build resilience and autonomy.

- **Inclusivity:** Address systemic inequalities and ensure accessibility for marginalised groups.

Trauma-Responsive Commissioning Cycle

1. **Needs Assessment:** Conduct trauma-aware community assessments to identify gaps and barriers.

2. **Procurement and Tendering:** Include trauma-informed criteria in tender documents and evaluate bidders' commitments.

3. **Contract Management:** Monitor adherence to trauma-informed principles and provide ongoing support.

4. **Evaluation:** Use feedback to assess service impact and refine contracts for trauma-responsivity.

Tools and Strategies

- **Self-Assessment:** Provide providers with tools to evaluate trauma-responsivity.

- **Training:** Require staff training on trauma awareness and intervention.

- **Clear Outcomes:** Define goals like improved engagement and reduced re-traumatisation.

- **Partnerships:** Collaborate with local organisations to enhance delivery.

Benefits

- **Improved Engagement:** Builds trust and reduces barriers to access.

- **Better Outcomes:** Focus on recovery and resilience.

- **Cost Savings:** Proactive approaches reduce crisis interventions and staff turnover.

- **Community Impact:** Supports healthier, cohesive communities.

Trauma-informed commissioning transforms service delivery by centring well-being and equity, benefiting individuals, organisations, and communities.