

# ‘Holding the Space’ - Nurturing the Intangible; the importance of the relational dynamic in the joint investigative interviewer role and what we can learn from this.

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National Joint Investigative Interviewing (JII) Project



# National Joint Investigative Interviewing Project

- ▶ 2017 - 2019      Research and Development phase
- ▶ 2019 - 2020      First year of pilot
- ▶ 2020 - 2021      Second year of pilot
- ▶ 2021 - 2024      Three-year national programme to introduce the Scottish Child Interview Model across the country

# Scottish Child Interview Model - A trauma informed approach to practice

- ▶ Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC)
- ▶ United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- ▶ National Trauma Transformation Programme for the Scottish Workforce
  
- ▶ *“one in which they are offered safety and predictability rather than unpredictable threat; choice and empowerment rather than control; collaboration rather than coercion; and trust rather than betrayal”*

# Trauma Informed Principles In Practice



How do interviewers operationalise these principles?

What does this look and feel like for the child?

What is their experience?

# Children's Views

## SAFETY

“I did not feel judged”

“I felt good because it was getting dealt with”

“I felt safe”

“I always feel scared talking to new people but you made it easier”

## TRUST

“I knew I was being listened to”

“Very easy to talk to, I didn't feel nervous”

# Children's Views Continued ...

## EMPOWERMENT

“Helped me get a lot off my chest”

“When I was talking, I was letting it all out and I felt better”

## CHOICE

“They let me pick who I felt was easier to talk to and didn't pressure me to pick one or the other”

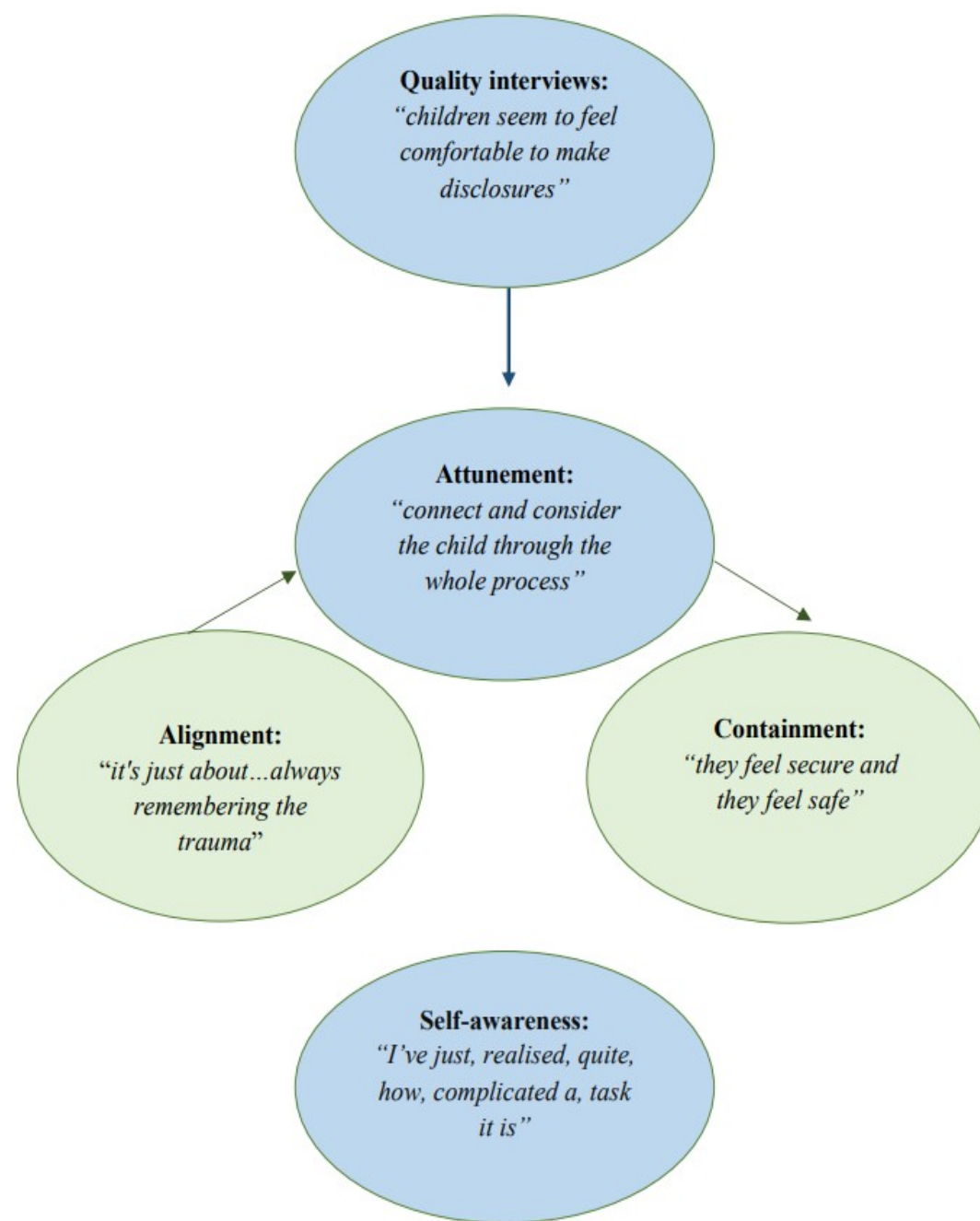
“I am not sure I would need to come back but if I did, I would be fine with it”

## COLLABORATION

“I felt very glad that when I needed a break I was able to have one”

“I fully understood what was happening and what was going to come next”

# What's the difference?



# Applying this in our workplace

## Attunement

Noticing when someone is maybe not okay and not panicking or trying to 'fix' it for them - just taking time to listen.

Giving staff space and balancing the opportunity for self-care and operational demands.

Maintaining an open line of communication.

## Containment

Managers being honest about what is coming and what they don't know when changes are planned.

Taking time to focus on the individual worker within protected time - not trying to split your attention by checking emails or answering the phone.

## Alignment

Making time to understand the individual and their own needs.

Being connected, included and involved as part of the team and identifying team goals.



# What do professionals need to support them?

- ▶ In groups, consider the themes; **alignment, containment and attunement**:
- ▶ Discuss what professionals/staff need to support them that could be an example of the theme.
- ▶ Note examples on the mentimeter, under the appropriate theme.
- ▶ Include any action that you or your organisation is currently taking, or any action you would like to take.
- ▶ Let's collaborate and share ideas!

