

Pre-Birth Team

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

7th February 2020

Jac Tyler, Strategic Manager Children and
Families South and East

Altogether better



Pre-Birth Team

- To enable babies to remain with their parents, or within the birth family where it is safe to do so OR identify quickly that parents cannot meet their babies needs and ensure children achieve permanence without delay and numerous moves.
- The Criteria is that either parent has had a previous child permanently removed from their care through care proceedings.

Altogether better



Performance

- All but 3 pre-birth assessments have been completed by 29 weeks
- All Child Protection and Looked After Review meetings have been held within timescales
- 2 children's plans have been ratified as adoption within 4 weeks of their birth
- Care proceedings have been issued with final plans for 2 children, with a further 13 sets of care proceedings concluding within 14 weeks.

Altogether better



Outcomes for Children

- 76 appropriate referrals, of which 55 progressed to assessment and intervention.
- Planning and thorough assessment have lead to timely outcomes which has meant no delay for the baby once born.

Altogether better



Working with others

- The Pre-Birth operational includes representatives from Early Help, Housing, Midwifery, Substance Misuse and domestic abuse services.
- The Pre-Birth manager role is to also provide a level of management oversight on all pre-birth cases open to the Families First teams and share best practice.
- Barnardo's were commissioned to deliver the Pause model for an 18 month period working closely with Pre Birth team with non recurrent funding - ends April 2020

Altogether better



Next Steps

- Contribute to improvements in early permanence planning for all babies across the service
- Support the increase in Foster to Adopt placements
- Share best practice across the safeguarding partnership
- Explore alternative ways to support families who are unable to safely care for their children to reduce the number of repeat pregnancies and referrals leading to care proceedings and removal of children.
- Develop a performance 'dashboard' to support management oversight
- Undertake a review of the Pre-Birth criteria to ensure as many families as possible benefit

Altogether better



Ofsted

“The work of the pre-birth service is strong and effective”.

ILACs 2019

Altogether better

