

Pre-birth intervention & Pause in Durham



Pre-birth intervention service – criteria

New criteria for pre-birth intervention service;

- Parents who have had a previous child removed through care proceedings, where there is evidence of some positive change of circumstances
- Parents with a diagnosed learning disability
- Teenage mother under 16 who are still in fulltime education
- All care leavers up to the age of 25, who are currently permanently resident in Durham, and where the unborn meets the requirement for a statutory pre-birth assessment

To accept a referral, the following additional criteria must apply;

- The referral must be made prior to 21 weeks gestation
- Meaningful consent must have been given by the parents

Pre-birth intervention service

Summary of current needs of Parent cohort;

- 9 families where a parent or parents have a learning disability
- 3 mothers who are school age
- 9 parent/s who are care experienced – 2 of which have had previous children removed
- 17 families where a parent has had a previous child removed
- 9 families outside of the criteria due to capacity in families first

Children's plans;

- 14 babies are in the care of their parents
- 4 babies have plans of adoption and 1 plan of Special Guardianship
- 13 are unborn and in assessment stage
- 16 sets of care proceedings

Pre-birth intervention service

- All families receive the intensive pre and post birth intervention, delivering proactive, practical and emotional support building on strengths and addressing gaps in knowledge
- Hope boxes
- Real care babies
- All Social workers have received training to support them to assess parents with learning disabilities
- Pre-Birth and Under One Delivery group - oversight of integrated pathways of support across universal, targeted safeguarding and specialist services

Next steps

- Reviewing the criteria to widen and expand the scope for referrals
- Pre-birth clinics - ensure there is consistency of practice and the progression of plans across Families First Teams
- Focus on fostering for adoption

Pause in Durham

- Pause Durham is actively working with 23 women in total – 2 are in pre-engagement stage
- The 21 women on the programme have had a total of 83 children removed from their care.
- The women range in age from 22 – 40 years old.
- 38% of the women are care experienced
- The feedback for the service and the women has highlighted a number of positives, in terms of their confidence, access to sexual health, domestic abuse services, housing and education
- None of the women have had any further pregnancies during intervention

Pause model in Durham

- Funding is secured to in-source a Pause model in Durham with a plan to integrate this as a seamless service with the Pre Birth Service
- Staff from PAUSE will work in the Durham service
- PAUSE are working with us to develop a model/ criteria to meet the needs of women who have had children previously removed