

Pause Durham

Jac Tyler, Strategic Manager Children and Families East
Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

26 April 2023



Strategic Priority

What data tells us

- In 2020/21 Durham had the 5th highest under one CiC starts in the country, with 29% of all CiC starts in Durham.
- In 2021/22 this reduced to 23rd highest in the country, with 24% of all CiC starts in Durham
- In 2022/23 Durham were 50th highest in the country, with 21% of all CiC starts in Durham

What have we done

- Pre-birth & Under 1 development group
- Mapped out universal offer for pre-birth and under 1
- CSC introduced pre-birth clinics
- Pause

Pause Durham

- Pause aims to reduce the number of children being taken into care and improve the lives of women who have had one or more children permanently removed from their care.
- Pause is unique in targeting adults who have had engagement with children's social care as mothers but are no longer eligible for support due to their children being permanently removed from their care.
- The women who are eligible have some of the most significant and complex needs
- Pause offers them an intensive, flexible programme of support, to tackle destructive patterns, develop new skills and avoid further trauma in order to build a more positive future for themselves
- The Pause programme is delivered with each woman over a period of 18 months.

Durham Pause Journey

Barnardo's were initially commissioned to deliver the Pause programme in the east of the county, which came to an end in April 2020.

Apr. 2020

Pause were then commissioned to deliver a county wide programme in Nov 2020, this was jointly funded by DCC and Pause, who had been successful in achieving match funding DfE grant

Nov. 2020

Funding was secured and Pause moved over to Durham in August 2022. Pause have agreed to fund the licence for 20 months

Aug. 2022

Pause Durham – Previous Cohort

- Pause Durham actively worked with 22 women
- The 22 women on the programme 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 22 women graduated from Pause in July 2022
- The feedback from the women has highlighted a number of positives; grown in their confidence, access to sexual health, domestic abuse services, housing and education
- None of the women have had any further pregnancies during or following intervention
- One woman has had her 2 children returned to her care

Pause Durham – Current Cohort

- Pause Durham are actively working with 21 women in total – 11 who are fully on the programme
- The 11 women have had a total of 33 children removed from their care
- 73% of the women are care experienced
- The main area of need for the women currently on the programme is mental health, domestic abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, learning needs and homelessness

One Woman's Story

Before Pause

- 4 children removed from her care
- Chronic alcohol and drug use
- Financially exploited by drug dealers
- Substantial drug debts
- Risk of eviction
- Poor relationships with her family
- Isolated
- Socially anxious
- Low self esteem & self worth

During & After Pause

- Granted a dept relief order
- Secured housing away from drug dealers
- Paying bills regularly
- Abstinent from drug and alcohol for over 7 months
- Rebuilt relationships with her family and children
- Working towards drug & alcohol, support volunteer
- Unsupervised time with her children
- Grown in self confidence and self work
- Positive about her future

Pause Graduation – July 2022

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LzlOsg-ltE4>

