

Pre-birth intervention & Pause in Durham



Pre-birth intervention service – criteria

Criteria for pre-birth intervention service;

- 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
- 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

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

Parents needs;

- 9 mothers who are school age,
- 12 parent/s who are care experienced – 2 babies were both parents were care experienced
- 41 families where a parent has had a previous child removed
- 22 families outside of the criteria due to capacity in families first
- 20 specialist assessments of parents with learning disabilities/ difficulties

Children's plans following care proceedings;

- 9 babies are in the care of their parents following
- 10 babies have plans of adoption (2 early permanence foster placement)
- 5 plan of Special Guardianship
- 14 sets of care proceedings ongoing

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Baby S

- Both parents were teenagers
- Baby S was born extremely early, and his chances of survival was low
- Families First and Pre-birth team worked together to supported parents visit their baby as much as possible
- Mum and baby went to live in a foster home. Mum struggled adapting to being a Mum, being separated from her family and undertaking her exams.
- Social worker was persistent and not want to give up the possibility of Mum caring for baby S
- Work to build Mum's parenting skills and confidence, led to Mum and baby being reunited in a foster home

Pre-birth intervention service

Good stuff

- All families have the an 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

What others think

Judge:

'This is a case which reflects extremely well on all those involved with care planning, professionals and the lay parties. My thanks to all those involved in the outcome,.... This Local Authority have shown a refreshing willingness to deal with things appropriately....'

Foster Carer:

'I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved, of their guidance and support during a very difficult few weeks.... I feel very privileged to have all of your support'