

Pre-birth intervention & Pause in Durham

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Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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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

Pre-birth intervention service

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'