

Safeguarding Unborn and Newborn Babies Flowchart

Practitioner has concerns about the welfare of an unborn baby

Pregnancy is confirmed and mother is engaged with health services

Mother has concealed or denied pregnancy

See Concealment and Denial of Pregnancy Procedure

Consult Safeguarding agency lead about possible need for referral to children's social care

If decision made not to refer, consider completing FCAF or signpost to Early Help services with consent of mother – services to monitor and refer again if necessary

Referral to Children's Social Care

Pre-birth Strategy Meeting

Assessment led by CSC with midwifery involvement (Specialist assessment if necessary)

Include in assessment: other siblings and all household members and significant adults

Midwifery and other health services continue to monitor and support

Pre-birth Child Protection Conference at timescale determined

Ensure all relevant stakeholders are involved, including extended family and third sector agencies as necessary

Pre-Birth Core Group Meeting

Legal Gateway Planning Meeting or PLOPP if relevant

If decision made to separate baby at birth, ensure all legal processes and documentation is ready

Discharge Planning Meeting

Ensure all relevant stakeholders are involved, including extended family and third sector agencies as necessary

Baby born – implement Discharge Plan

Discharge Plan – mother / father and all stakeholders have copy

Separate baby from mother – ensure legal advice taken; support contact arrangements

Baby and mother go to home or placement with or without Child Protection Plan

Baby placed in permanent placement as soon as possible

Implement plan until there is no risk to the baby

Signpost parents for therapeutic and bereavement counselling

Still concerns that unborn baby is at risk of significant harm

