

## UNBORN THRESHOLDS OF NEED

	Overview	Unborn Baby Development and Antenatal Factors	Family and Environmental Factors	Parenting Factors
<b>Universal Families and children with no Additional Needs</b>	<p><b>All children use universal services which include schools, healthcare Midwives and Health visitors, GP's Housing and other easily accessed services. At this level, babies and children would be expected to do well with minimum intervention from any additional services</b></p>	<p>Early booking, Attends all antenatal appointments / care Planned and wanted baby Unplanned pregnancy but very happy to be pregnant Warmth conveyed towards pregnancy Aware of Nutritional requirements during pregnancy Does not smoke Does not drink alcohol in pregnancy Does not misuse substances</p>	<p>Stable family environment Good network of family and friends/ strong social support No Housing Issues Preparing for baby's arrival No Domestic Abuse issues disclosed No recent or historical involvement with police/YOS or probation</p>	<p>Mother aged 16 – 19yrs, mature young woman with good family support Stable , supportive relationship between Mother and Father Realistic expectations of impact on family of a new-born Both parents have no drug or alcohol issues No unmet health needs No concerns regarding Mothers ability to cope Positive experience of parenting other children in family No communication difficulties known Good educational attainment Mother, Father or partner have no history of being looked after by Local Authority (Partner of Mother must be considered also if not Father of unborn) No mental health concerns such as depression, self-harm, overdose (May have had reactive depression to a life event such as bereavement but this is not current or on-going depression) No physical or learning disability which could impact upon the care of a new born</p>
<b>Single Agency Families and Children with additional needs: consider Early Help Assessment</b>	<p><b>Babies and children with additional needs may need extra support from a single agency to help them achieve their outcomes and to make good progress. Their identified needs may relate to their health, educational or social development.</b></p>	<p>Late booking over 20 weeks with no known social concerns – (GP records must be thoroughly checked) Unplanned pregnancy, mother struggling to accept the pregnancy Does not attend antenatal appointments regularly but no social concerns Mother drinks alcohol, would like to stop drinking Mother has a recent history of low level drug misuse but has now stopped Mother smokes but would like help to stop Three or more children under 5 years making it difficult for mother to access antenatal care</p>	<p>Some instability within family network, but has a supportive role model (e.g. grandmother, close friend ) Sofa surfing in early pregnancy but has made plans to be housed Recently moved to area, isolated Poor home conditions – unhygienic on a low level, cluttered Little preparation for baby's arrival (does not have the finances to buy baby equipment) Unemployment requiring support with work or benefits History of domestic abuse / no longer in relationship with perpetrator, may still be at risk of abuse - consider issues such as Father having contact with the children Low level criminality but no violent offences Subject to bullying, prejudice, or harassment in the neighbourhood by reason of culture, sexuality, disability</p>	<p><b><u>Consider the Vulnerable Parent's Pathway (Northumberland)</u></b> Mother / Father aged 16-19yrs and immature for age may require support but declined Concerns regarding Mother and Father's ability to cope with new baby Previous History of risk taking behaviour, self-harm, overdose - but no current concerns Recent or previous low level (Infrequent or experimental, within the last 2 years, not requiring or continuing treatment) substance/alcohol misuse (prior to pregnancy) Difficulties bonding /parenting a previous child which required another family members support to care for child Older children subject to Early Help Assessment Communication difficulties, Poor or no English, Cannot read or write, Mild physical/learning disability but with good robust support. Asylum Seeker Mother or Father have history of being a Looked after Child themselves Current reactive depression to life events with some on-going issues of low mood /hopelessness / depression Mother or Father have mental health problems but engaged with GP/CPN or are willing to engage with support services (Referral Pathway for Women's Health Psychology and Mental Health services) Surrogate pregnancy, information required regarding proposed parents</p>
<b>Multi-Agency Families</b>	<p><b>At this level babies and</b></p>	<p>Late booking over 20 weeks unplanned pregnancy</p>	<p>No family stability or support, or a history of family conflict , Persistent dysfunctional relationships No friends , Isolated, recent move to area</p>	<p><b><u>Consider the Vulnerable Parent's Pathway (Northumberland)</u></b> Mother and or Father aged 16-19yrs immature for age</p>

<p>and Children with complex needs and Higher Complex Needs (Early Help Assessment)</p>	<p>children and their families will need additional help to prevent problems escalating and becoming more difficult to resolve. The help may come from Health services, children's centres or early help teams in the local authority through locality hubs.</p>	<p>No warmth felt towards baby, talks negatively of the pregnancy</p> <p>Persistent defaulter to antenatal care</p> <p>Mother continues to drink alcohol, has been advised of risks</p> <p>Mother uses low level drugs such as cannabis and continues despite advice</p> <p>Previous involvement with children's social care</p>	<p>Mother or Father has a transient lifestyle, frequent moves, sofa surfing – chaotic lifestyle</p> <p>Poor home conditions, unhygienic, no carpets, hoarding, many animals that could be a risk to the new born</p> <p>Mother has housing or financial difficulties and no means to improve circumstances</p> <p>Unemployment requiring support with work or struggling to access appropriate benefits, at risk of financial exclusion e.g. fuel poverty</p> <p>Little preparation for baby's arrival (does not have the finances to buy baby equipment and no desire to address this)</p> <p>History of domestic abuse, still in relationship with perpetrator and potentially at risk of abuse but parents are willing to engage/are engaging, with appropriate support services</p> <p>Mother accompanied at every appointment with a 'partner' who talks for her, mother hesitant to speak when 'partner' with her (consider trafficking or modern day slavery and Domestic Abuse, coercive and controlling behaviour)</p> <p>Cultural/religious beliefs that may be detrimental to the unborn/child</p> <p>Unknown immigration status</p>	<p>Mother aged between 13-16yrs but with good family and social networks</p> <p>Mother aged 16 – 19 years with considerably older partner (consider sexual exploitation)</p> <p>Unrealistic expectations of a new born,</p> <p>Mother or father are currently a Looked after Child (LAC) themselves</p> <p>Concerns regarding Mother or Fathers ability to cope with a new baby (history of anger issues/stress/personality disorder) – but parents are willing to accept support</p> <p>Inability to care for self, unkempt (could be linked to a learning disability)</p> <p>Mother low level substance misuse continues in pregnancy or Father has current low level drug or alcohol misuse</p> <p>Mother continues to drink alcohol regularly in pregnancy</p> <p>Either parent has a recent history of drug or alcohol misuse requiring treatment or currently engaged with a treatment programme (check out engagement with treatment provider)</p> <p>Mother or Father currently involved in YOS / Children's social care in their own right</p> <p>Recent risk taking behaviour self-harm and or overdose – prior to pregnancy/being aware of pregnancy</p> <p>Mother or Father have a long standing history of current mental health concerns (Service involvement) and have poor or no engagement with support services (Referral Pathway for Women's Health Psychology and Mental Health services)</p> <p><b>DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING WITH CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE, MULTI AGENCY APPROACH TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE REFERRAL:</b></p> <p>Previous difficulties parenting children who are now cared for by other family members</p> <p>Previous removal of a child from either parent or Mothers partner – may have a legal order in place but subsequently have a child now living with them with or without current social care involvement</p> <p>Mother or Father are on a Child in Need Plan</p> <p>Vulnerable adult requiring social care (refer to adult social care)</p> <p>Mother or Father have a life limiting disability or life threatening illness which may have an impact on parenting</p>
<p>Specialist Families and Children with Acute/Severe needs</p>	<p>Babies, children and families at this level will be facing complex problems which will require an integrated and co-ordinated response from services / agencies as they may be at risk without support. Children's social care will take the lead in safeguarding Babies and children at this level</p>	<p>Late booking over 20 weeks persistent defaulter due to previous history with children's social care</p> <p>Previous concealed pregnancy. Mother deliberately delivering alone to evade services</p> <p>Does not attend antenatal care although unborn baby has a known anomaly/small for gestational age</p> <p>No warmth felt towards the baby</p> <p>Three or more children under 5 years old where there are social concerns</p> <p>Continues to use harmful levels of drugs and or Alcohol although</p>	<p>Extreme family conflict – involves police/community safety team</p> <p>Social exclusion, does not have friends or support networks</p> <p>Current risk taking behaviour or sexual vulnerability (could be due to capacity/Learning disability/sexual exploitation)</p> <p>Transient Lifestyle with little evidence of antenatal care, regular moves between family members, different parts of country</p> <p>Domestic Abuse in current relationship, prior to or during pregnancy, known to MARAC (High Risk victim) and/or in denial regarding the abuse and not accepting of support services</p> <p>Poor home conditions, no heating or electricity regularly, unhygienic, no carpets, hoarding, many animals (excrement) that could be a risk to the new born</p> <p>Dangerous breeds of animals that could be a risk to the new born</p> <p>Homelessness, no plans to establish housing and no support or inhabitable dwelling financial difficulties often no food to eat in the home, Mother goes without or depends on others to provide food, no preparation for baby's arrival, no desire to address this</p> <p>Mother has had FGM and other children and unborn baby at risk of FGM (complete data set and referral to CSC)</p>	<p><b>Consider the Vulnerable Parent's Pathway (Northumberland)</b></p> <p>Mother aged under 16 years with no support</p> <p>Immature young Mother, no family stability or support, Looked after Child exhibiting risky behaviours that are of concern e.g. self-harm, overdose, sexual vulnerability</p> <p>Mother aged 16 – 19 years with considerably older partner (consider sexual exploitation)</p> <p>Acute concerns about parenting ability / capacity:</p> <p>Mother or Father are currently on a Child Protection Plan themselves</p> <p>Mother or father have current complex mental health concerns which impact on their ability to safely care for an unborn/child such as schizophrenia, personality disorder, admission to psychiatric care, significant self-harm or threats to harm unborn child; including suicidal intent (Referral Pathway for Women's Health Psychology and Mental Health services)</p> <p>Misuse of substances - frequent drug /alcohol use that is impacting upon daily functioning and has no engagement in treatment programme</p> <p>Previous concerns that parents have abused or neglected a child- no children in their care currently</p> <p>Parents have a history of suspicious child death involving their previous children or significant non-accidental injury</p> <p>Previous children in care due to neglect, physical, sexual, emotional abuse, DV, mental health issues, parenting</p>

		<p>advised of risks to unborn</p> <p>On a drug/alcohol treatment programme but relapses regularly</p>	<p>Parents and/or wider family have a belief in witchcraft, spirit possession</p>	<p>abilities</p> <p>Lives with a sex offender or dangerous person (consider violence, use of drugs, weapons, MAPPA) and does not accept the risk to the unborn or other children</p> <p>Mother or Father have a severe learning or physical disability requiring daily one to one support and care which will impact upon care of new born</p> <p>Extensive police/YOS involvement with violent offences</p>
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