

7 MINUTE BRIEFING - Pre Birth Assessments

7 In all cases where an assessment has been in progress/completed, upon the baby's birth, no baby should be discharged from hospital until all the professionals involved hold a pre discharge planning meeting to agree the next steps. This meeting will usually take place at the hospital where the baby was born, and is crucial to ensure the baby is safeguarded and family and all professionals involved agree with and are aware of the plan.

6 If a parent/s do not engage in the assessment, this may be due to a number of factors which will need to be explored, i.e. it may be a care leaver is fearful of engaging because of past experiences. The worker will need to work hard to engage the parent/s. In some cases it may be that the parent/s are just not complying i.e. may not be home for assessment visits, in this case the worker should refer to the No Access Visit Guidance.

5 The assessment Will be managed by multi-agency meetings, which includes parent and family members led by CSC. If the assessment identifies concerns of risk of significant harm, the child is subject to a plan, or subject to pre proceedings, this meeting should include the relevant Team Manager. The case should also be tracked by The Child Protection Chair. Where the prebirth meeting identifies that support

birth meeting identifies that support needs can be met through a **Child in**

4 Its purpose is to gather and analyse all information and should be the foundation for future multi-agency planning. It is important that all relevant agencies actively contribute and that the completed assessment is mutually owned. The pre-birth assessment must be well planned and completed in a timely manner, and regularly reviewed. A pre birth planning meeting should be held at the earliest point of the assessment to clarify the above. to clarify the above.

- help to minimise harm. An unborn baby should be referred to the MASH, via a MARF as soon as a professional become aware of any safeguarding
 - 2 Risk indicators in respect of unborn babies may include, Young parents, Domestic Abuse, Drug or alcohol misuse, Homelessness, Parents who have had children removed from their care and Concealed pregnancy. This is not an exhaustive list, and there may be other factors or a combination of the factors that deem an unborn baby to be in need of support and/or protection.

clear to the parents, there must be clarity of understanding between the process. Care must be given to working collaboratively with parents, parental strengths and capacity to change as well as areas unborn child remain at the entre of the assessment.

ACRONYMS:

MASH Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub MARF Multi Agency Referral Form **CSC** Childrens Social Care

For more information regarding 7 minute briefings, please email sarah.herron@knowsley.gov.uk Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership, 2nd Floor, Nutgrove Villa, Westmorland Road, Huyton L36 6GA www.knowsleyscp.org.uk