

All cases of pre-birth are to be tracked, if a case is presented to the pre-birth liaison meeting or MASH and is agreed a full pre-birth assessment is required then this process must be followed

Where it is necessary to refer unborn baby to children's services, referral to be between weeks 12 – 16 gestation if the case has a referral later due to being open to level 3 services it is expected to have a completed EHAT.

MASH make their checks and send to the Assessment Team for Pre-Birth Assessment and consider referral to Pre-Birth and Infant Team (PBIT only accept referrals up to week 28).

When progressing to referral the Assessment Manager needs to select Pre-Birth assessment option when triggering the single assessment.

An initial multi-agency Pre-Birth Planning Meeting should take place by 18 – 20 weeks gestation.

The pre-birth assessment should be completed by 22 weeks gestation in order for the Social Worker to understand what the issues are and to make a plan for support.

Social Workers and Team Managers will be invited to pre-birth tracking meetings at approximately 25 weeks gestation and approximately 35 weeks gestation. These meetings are chaired by Practice Improvement.

If the pre-birth assessment indicates that a Child In Need Plan is required the initial planning meeting should be held by week 24 and a SMART plan developed.

The Pre-birth CIN plan should reviewed at least 6 weekly.

The discharge plan for unborns open to CIN can be agreed in the final CIN review prior to birth and incorporated in to the CIN plan.

If the pre-birth indicates that PPM or Care Proceedings may be necessary, the case must be presented to Legal Gateway (LGM) by 24 weeks gestation at the latest, sooner where possible.

Pre-birth ICPC should take place by week 30 gestation. This will require a strategy meeting to have taken place by week 27 and a Section 47 enquiry to have been completed.

If agreed as an outcome, the first Pre-Proceedings meeting (PPM) should be held by 26 weeks gestation at the latest.

A PPM review should be held by 32 weeks gestation.

The pre-birth assessment should be updated by 34 weeks gestation with the outcome of work undertaken in the preceding months.

The final recommended plan needs to be in place and agreed in LGM by 35 weeks gestation.

If Care Proceedings is the outcome, all the necessary paperwork required to initiate proceedings must be filed with the LA Solicitor by 36 weeks gestation.

A placement request must also be made to fostering to ensure that all available options have been appropriately analysed and are available to the Court at the first hearing.

A discharge Planning Meeting should also be arranged once the plan for the baby has been agreed and no later than 36 weeks gestation. (pro forma appended to Pre-birth procedure).