

Pregnancy Pathway - Parents Plan

Working alongside families when vulnerabilities are identified to support change before birth.



Parents plan



The Parents Plan approach has been introduced in South Lanarkshire as part of the vulnerable pregnancy pathway. The approach aims to reduce the number of babies being subject to child protection or looked after procedures at birth.

The Parents Plan approach will normally be offered to families that are at risk of their situation escalating to child protection or looked after procedures and the threshold will be determined by a multi-agency discussion either at EYMAS (Early Years Multi Agency Support Team)or IRD.

As Parents Plan is often being used as an alternative to child protection procedures the level of contact with a family and review of the plan should be at the same level as child protection procedures unless determined by the multi-agency parents plan meeting that this is not proportionate to the presenting risks and needs.



Pregnancy Pathway

Working together for a safer, healthier start

Supporting families, brighter futures 



Vulnerable Pregnancy Identified

Concerns identified during pregnancy through universal or targeted services.



Multi-Agency Review (EYMAS or IRD)

Multi-agency discussion to determine level of risk and appropriate pathway.



Parents Plan Agreed

Offered to families at risk of escalation to child protection or looked after procedures.



Assessment & Family Involvement

Allocated worker completes an assessment using the universal template. Family Group Decision Making is offered.



Support & Review

Plan implemented with level of contact and review at the same level as child protection procedures (unless agreed otherwise).



28 Week Review

Is the family engaged and are risks reducing?



Continue Parents Plan

Family engaged, risks reducing, plan remains appropriate.



Escalate to Child Protection Procedures

Significant concerns remain or non-engagement after 28 weeks.



South Lanarkshire
University
Health and Social Care
Partnership



Family
Support
Hub

Support During Pregnancy and Early Parenthood

Peer Support

Support from trained people with lived experience of pregnancy and parenting challenges.

Therapeutic Support

Emotional and therapeutic support during pregnancy and after birth.

Family Group Decision Making

Bringing together family and friends to create a support plan for you and your baby.

Mellow Bumps

A supportive programme to help build confidence and prepare for parenthood

Intensive Family Support

Coordinated support, practical help and relationship-based intervention during pregnancy.

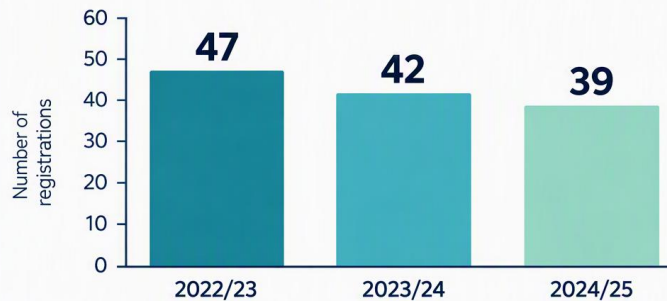
Group Work

Supporting parents during pregnancy and after birth to build confidence, strengthen relationships, and develop parenting skills through shared learning

The change we are seeing

Pre-Birth Registrations Continue to Reduce

Fewer pre-birth registrations, brighter futures for families.



↓ **17%**
reduction
over 3 years



Pre-birth registrations have reduced from **47** in 2022/23 to **39** in 2024/25, a reduction of **8 registrations (17%)** over three years.

*Stronger families.
Brighter futures.*

“It was just different. I can’t explain it. It felt like we were working together and not just social work telling me how to be a mum”.

- “I have worked with parents who have had children removed in the past and have been guarded/fearful of SW intervention. Yet, when PP is discussed, it seems to allow for a window of opportunity for practitioners and families to communicate openly/work together to form relationships with a focus on the unborn baby/child.”

“I was referred during pregnancy and I was anxious and scared due to previous bad experiences with social work. I always felt supported and listened to”



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