

FOI 1828

11/08/23

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Question:

I would be grateful if you could supply me with any and all guidance, protocols or information provided by the Trust to social workers in Children's Services about unplanned pregnancy in looked-after young people.

Response:

There is no specific policy in relation to unplanned pregnancy in Looked After young people.

The Southern Trust's CYPS Child Pathway and Case Transfer Protocol section 6.6.1 outlines the steps to be taken if a young person known to 14Plus service becomes pregnant.

6.6.1 Pregnancy of a Young Person known to 14 Plus Services

Where a young person currently receiving support from the 14 plus service becomes pregnant (or an expectant father known to the service) the UNOCINI referral and the initial visit to the expectant mother should be completed by the young person's social worker within 14 plus. The 14 plus service will convene the Pre-Birth Planning Meeting which will include all relevant professionals from 14 plus, FIT, allied Health professionals, Health Visiting and midwifery.

The 14 plus Social worker will ensure that all relevant current and historical information in relation to the expectant mother and/or father is shared at this meeting which will determine whether or not a pre-birth risk assessment is required and whether the matter should be referred for a Pre-birth Child Protection Case Conference. This meeting will comprise the transfer of the case to FIT if required.

If a pre-Birth Risk assessment is required the 14 plus social worker will contribute to this in relation to the information they hold pertaining to the expectant parent(s).

If a young person under the age of 16 years becomes pregnant there will be an assessment of potential child protection issues in respect of the expectant parent which will be managed by the current social worker and addressed within the Looked After Child Review and/or Child Protection Case Conference as appropriate.

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