

# PRE-BIRTH RISK ASSESSMENT

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# Background

- Pre birth guidance for all professionals required a review, more importantly, and in light of Serious case reviews the learning would need to be included in updated guidance to support professionals to work better together, and increase understanding of practice and process in Family Operations.

- **Documents**

- ESCB Pre Birth Assessment Multi Agency Protocol
- Family Operations Pre Birth Guidance and Risk Assessment Tool

# PRE BIRTH WORK

- *‘In relation to the assessment of risk, all of the concerns regarding an unborn child and its family is best undertaken where there are good professional relationships built with children, families and agencies’.*
- *‘Full consideration must be given to the family, their history, and their relationships with partners, friends and family, and with visitors to the home. The lifestyle choice of the family, the complicating factors of drugs, alcohol, mental health, post-natal depression, learning disability/difficulty, previous children, Local Authority involvement and criminal activity all need to be considered within the assessment.’*

# PRE BIRTH RISK ASSESSMENT

- Why we need additional guidance to assess?
- Complexity of the work
- Based on previous SCR cases
- Risk Assessment Tool
- Practice Guidance and Multi Agency protocol which can be found at;  
[www.escb.co.uk/workingwithchildren/policiesandguidance](http://www.escb.co.uk/workingwithchildren/policiesandguidance)

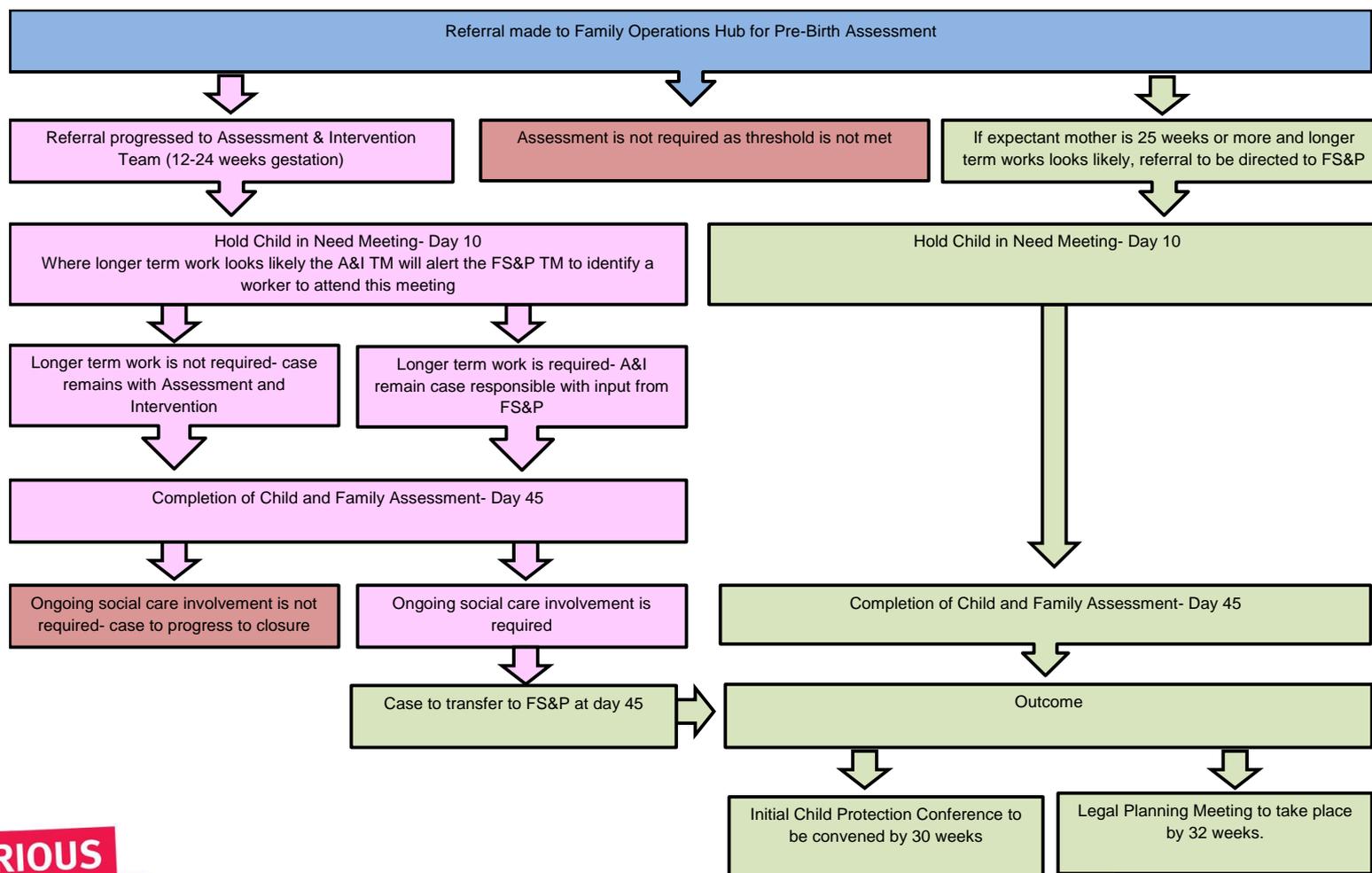
# Using the Guidance

- Referrals and timeliness
- Dedicated to supporting families
- Historical concerns about a lack of urgency
- But It's a busy time to ensure we get things right
- Rule of optimism

# Timeliness

- Partnerships are crucial
- Undertaking a pre birth assessment is complex work
- We need maximum time to gather all the information
- The first action is to set up a multi agency child in need meeting within 10 days of the referral
- The next milestone is the 20 day reflective supervision
- Recommendations from the 20 day supervision will be documented and assist in the development of plans
- Pre birth and post birth planning is important to ensure the family and all professionals are clear about the planning

# Flowchart



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# Children in care and care leavers

- It is not always necessary for a child in care or care leaver to be referred
- If threshold is met, referral at 12 weeks
- Case responsibility
- Preservation of the relationship with the Leaving care worker
- Children in care and those leaving care likely to face similar experiences to many young mothers

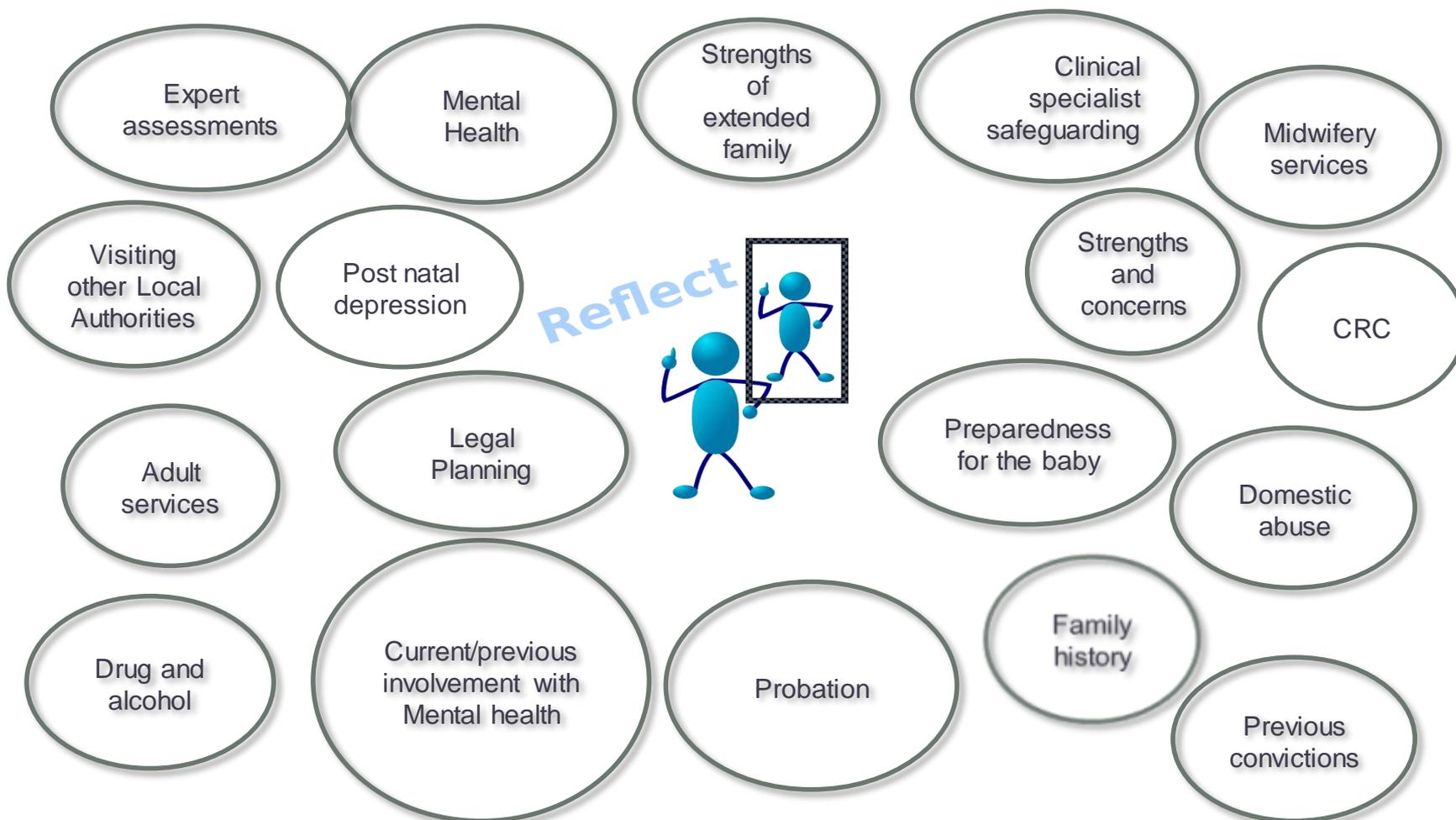
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# The Assessment

- Good Practice to use the full 45 days
- Focus on strengths
- Family relationships
- History
- Current and previous partners
- Build good relationships with partner agencies and the family
- Consider early family group conference
- Use the risk assessment tool and consider the elevated and lowered risks in the analysis

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# 20 day Reflection



# Recommendations from the Supervision

- It is important that the recommendations from the reflective supervision are completed
- Recommendations are reviewed at the next supervision.
- Management oversight is crucial and will ensure there are no delays in progressing the case.

# Analysis

- Your analysis within the assessment will evaluate all of the strengths and the risks within the family and extended networks and the thinking from the risk assessment matrix.
- Consider the information shared from all partner agencies in order to formulate a clear understanding of the support required, or protection needed, and will include the information from previous social care involvement, and any other expert assessments and all previous relevant public and private proceedings.
- The analysis will inform a clear and specific plan, either Child in Need or Child Protection as required, which will be shared with parents and partners and will inform the specific birth and post-birth plan.

# Planning

- Child in need planning arranged at the end of the assessment
- At 30 weeks if the threshold is met for child protection a strategy meeting and s47 CA 1989 will be undertaken
- A discharge planning meeting will be convened for all child protection cases
- Legal planning will be agreed at Panel in each quadrant
- Consideration by multi agency professionals for a discharge planning meeting under child in need

# Birth and Post Birth Planning

- The planning before the baby is born and following the birth is needed to ensure that the family and all professionals are clear about what the plan is.
- The plans must be shared with partner agencies and should be evident on all cases where Childrens services are undertaking a pre birth assessment

# QUESTIONS

