

# NSCP 'AT-A GLANCE' PROTECTING BABIES FROM HARM STRATEGY



## AIMING TO GIVE ALL BABIES THE BEST START IN LIFE

### Strategic Objectives: What Will the Partnership Achieve?

#### NON ACCIDENTAL INJURY

**Preventing Non Accidental Injuries: We will work with professionals from all disciplines to implement the learning from local and national Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.**

Building on a trauma informed approach, we will support staff to have safe and challenging conversations with families and each other to ensure practice is baby focused and risk sensible. There will be specific focus on: respectful scepticism (“thinking the unthinkable”); professional challenge and deference; and giving voice to the baby’s lived experience of care.

**Objectives and high level actions:**

- Review of pathways into services, including barriers and promote these as part of the Protecting Babies communication plan, including improved communication with Primary Care
- Building stronger links with the Neglect Strategy Implementation Group and promoting the use of Norfolk’s Graded Care Profile,
- Developing robust and dynamic risk assessment to include professional curiosity about parental experience of adversity and the impact of Adverse Childhood Experience (ACEs) on parents’ ability to care for vulnerable babies
- Improved understanding and inclusion of fathers/male partners and other carers.

#### UNBORN BABIES

**Unborn babies: We will develop practice to better safeguard unborn children and address risks posed by concealed or denied pregnancy.**

The definition of neglect incorporates risks posed in utero and we will have transparent and challenging conversations with parents and each other to address reasons why a pregnancy may be concealed/denied, including the impact that this could have on unborn children.

We also need to consider how we manage ‘flight risk’ at the point of birth and ensure that we draw in learning from best practice in risk assessment and prevention in these cases.

**Objectives and high level actions:**

- Promote and seek feedback on the recently developed policy and procedure on concealed/denied pregnancies
- Review of pre-birth assessment policy in response to a multi-agency audit undertaken in spring/summer 2022
- Guidance on flight risk to be written and disseminated throughout the partnership in line with NHS national guidance

#### SAFER SLEEPING

**Safer Sleeping: We will provide the training, tools and resources to families and staff from across the partnership to ensure that safer sleeping messages are delivered to and understood by families with newborn babies.**

We will communicate effectively with parents of newborn babies to ensure that they understand the risks posed by inappropriate sleeping arrangements and can provide a safe place for their babies to sleep. Partners from all agencies will reinforce the messages and contribute to robust risk assessments and safety planning for changes in routine to address any underlying issues, including overcrowding, substance and alcohol misuse and parental mental health.

**Objectives and high level actions:**

- Refine the monitoring process to understand the reach and impact of communication assets developed to date with the support of the NSCP’s Senior Data Analyst
- Continue to promote and gain feedback from families via the Just One Norfolk platform

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## Protecting Babies at Risk of Harm Strategy

The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted risks posed to babies nationally, with a significant rise in reports of children who suffered non-accidental injuries (NAIs). As of 6 November The Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) agreed to make protecting babies a priority in the summer of 2020. This was partly in response to the national increase in cases of non accidental injury (NAI) to infants as well as in the context of local Serious Case Reviews and Safeguarding Practice Reviews (SCRs/SPRs). This strategy was originally published in autumn of 2020 and this revision is intended to set out the progress made as well as the ongoing actions to further improve practice. The Protecting Babies from Harm strategy has a dedicated multi-agency steering group chaired by Health (Cambridgeshire Community Services, Norfolk's 0 – 19 Healthy Child Programme Provider) who over see the underpinning action plan. The steering group benefits from the NSCP's Senior Data Analyst who has supported the group by developing a comprehensive data profile on this cohort.

The original strategy covered four main areas: non-accidental injuries to babies; assessing risk to unborn babies, including concealed or denied pregnancy; the capacity of parent/carer to manage crying; and safer sleeping. In this iteration, the actions against all babies cry have been completed and are embedded in practice so no longer included in this iteration of the strategy. The successful implementation of the strategy so far can be summarised by five C's:

<b>Creativity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing innovative tools to engage with families, such as Safer Sleeping videos</li> <li>• Ensuring tools and policy development are more accessible and easier to follow</li> <li>• Establishing dedicated resource for how we work with fathers in response to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review <a href="#">The Myth of Invisible Men</a></li> <li>• Using data and performance intelligence to establish better grip on the risks and presenting issues for vulnerable babies and families</li> </ul>
<b>Connectivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthened partnership working involving professionals from across health, social care and other sectors</li> <li>• Bringing people together through All Babies Cry briefings</li> <li>• Reporting to the NSCP Partnership Group and three statutory partners to ensure strong links between strategy implementation, leadership and the frontline</li> </ul>
<b>Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing development of the award winning <a href="#">Just One Norfolk</a> (JON) platform to support parents, families and professionals</li> <li>• Promoting Joint Agency Group Supervisions where the professional network working on cases involving babies can reflect together in a safe space</li> </ul>
<b>Community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement and communications planned and monitored with relevant aspects of communication and resource development noted above</li> <li>• Recognition of the strengths and resources within families to support parents with newborns through DIY Family Networking tools available on JON</li> </ul>
<b>Consultation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies developed – medical examinations and concealed/denied pregnancy - and road tested with professionals prior to launching to incorporate feedback and ensure buy-in</li> <li>• Workshops with frontline professionals: feedback from practitioners of the energising focus of the strategy</li> <li>• Gaining feedback from families and communities on assets developed to ensure they are part of the solution</li> </ul>

This strategy refresh recognises that while much has been achieved there is no room for complacency. The action plan underpinning this strategy is reviewed regularly and where appropriate recommendations from audit and SPRs are marked as complete or new recommendations added.