

Trauma-Informed Concealed Pregnancy Pathway

If pregnancy is suspected, enquire sensitively if child/ adult may be pregnant. If disclosure made about concealment of pregnancy, take a supportive view of why pregnancy has been concealed or denied.

immediate actions

- Contact [Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub](#) (MASH)
- Complete [Multi Agency Referral Form](#) (MARF)
- Seek advice and support from [relevant Safeguarding Lead](#) (NHS)
- Child protection concerns/ immediate concern of harm – Children's Social Care to notify Police
- [Medical assessment and consent](#) Consider [Gillick Competence and Fraser Guidelines](#) and MCA if appropriate

- Does person have capacity to make decisions about the pregnancy? Seek advice from Named Professional for Safeguarding Adults and MCA
- Best Interest decisions if no capacity
- Referral to Perinatal Mental Health Service if needed
- Support to use 0-19s services

Be non-judgmental/ non-directive of reasons behind concealment
 Be mindful of cultural and religious factors (e.g. family honour)
 Be aware of possible traumatic experiences and/or adverse childhood experiences:

- Being abused (physical, sexual and verbal), coercive control and/or emotional and physical neglect
- Being in/ growing up in households where there is substance abuse, mental health difficulties, domestic violence, parental separation, adult who has been in prison
- Experience of previous miscarriage or stillbirth, death of a baby or child
- Self-harm, bullying, poverty, living in a deprived neighbourhood, anti-social and violent behaviour, fear of having child removed by Social Services

child
(u18)

adult
(18+)

next steps and things to consider

- Convene multi-agency meeting/ strategy discussion
- Refer to GP for antenatal care booking, MKUH midwifery services/named safeguarding midwife
- Pre-Birth Assessment by Children's Social Care/ [Pre-Birth procedures](#)
- Are the child's parents/guardians aware of the pregnancy?
- Is this a [missing child](#)?
- Is there a risk of [exploitation](#) / [modern slavery](#)?
- Has [abuse by children](#) taken place (peer to peer/ sibling abuse)?

- Support referral to GP and MK Maternity Service, if safeguarding concerns:
- Contact [Adult Safeguarding Team](#) and MASH
 - Seek advice and support from [relevant Safeguarding Lead](#)
 - Complete [Multi Agency Referral Form](#) (MARF)
 - Pre-birth assessment (see next steps for child)

- If an appointment for antenatal care is made beyond 12 weeks, explore why, and if concerns, refer to MASH & Named safeguarding midwife.
- If mother presents in labour: urgent referral to MASH and safeguarding team
- If mother abandons child: contact Police and initiate safeguarding procedures

Agencies and teams who will/ may need to be involved:
 MASH, MKUFT, CNWL, MK Together, Emergency Duty Team, MK ACT domestic abuse services, MK Young Persons or Adults Drug & Alcohol services, CAMHS, Perinatal services, School nursing, school mental health and pastoral support, sexual health services, Police, health visiting, social housing