

WORKING TOWARDS A MORE STABLE FUTURE: setting up a midwifery care pathway for homeless pregnant women

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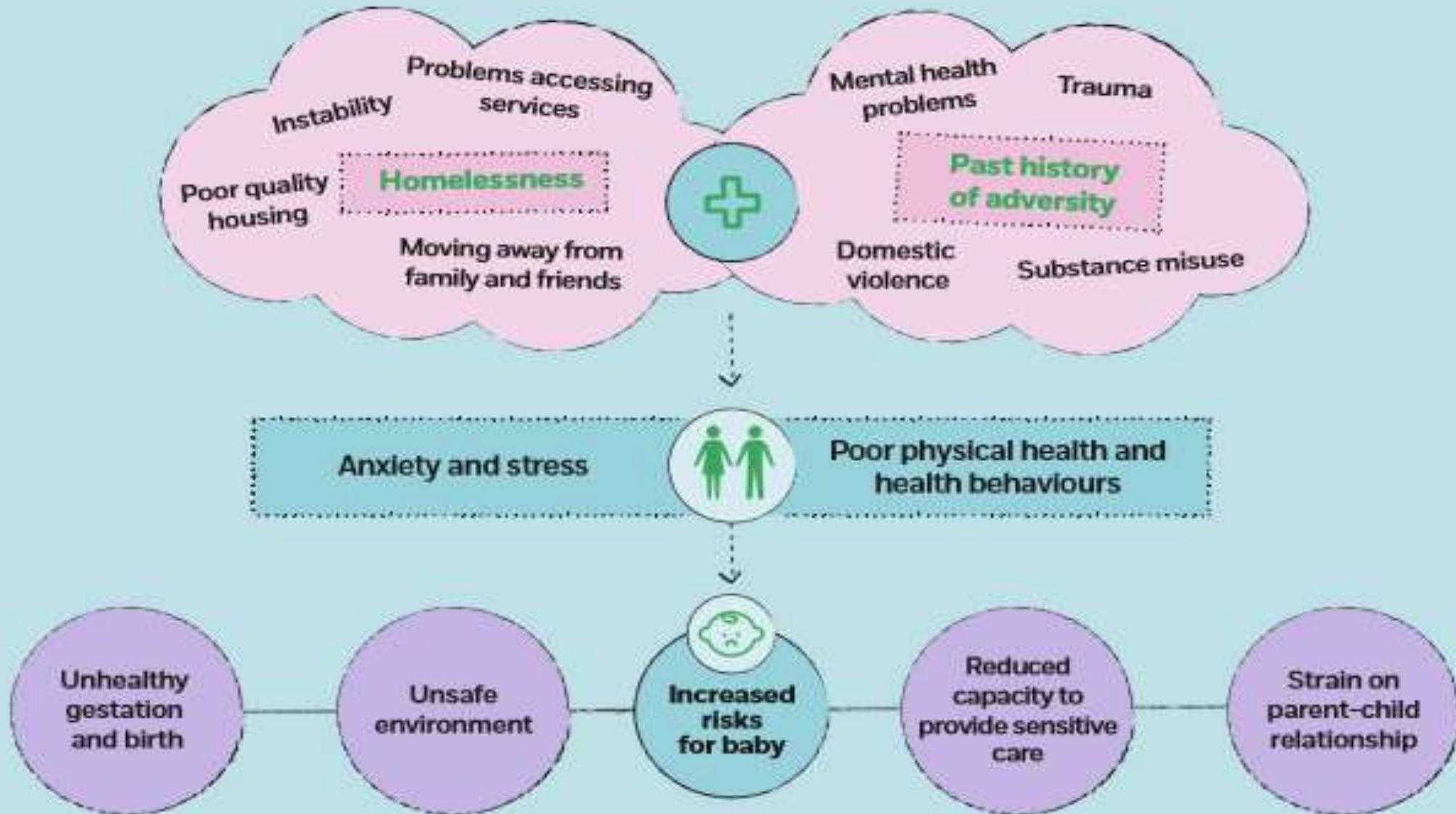


IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS ON PREGNANT WOMEN AND THEIR BABIES

- During pregnancy, the woman's mental and physical health, behaviour and environment can all have a significant impact on the developing fetus
- Pregnancies in women in areas of high social deprivation in the UK >50% more likely to end in a stillbirth or neonatal death
- Homelessness & temporary accommodation during pregnancy are associated with increased risks of preterm labour, low birth weight, poor mental health in infants and developmental delay

Double jeopardy: How homelessness can affect babies

NSPCC (2015) An Unstable Start - All Babies Count:
Spotlight on Homelessness



MY ROLE AS SPECIALIST MIDWIFE FOR HOMELESS WOMEN

- Improve the identification of homeless women and devise a care pathway to ensure their needs are met
- Provide advice, support, supervision and training to health professionals
- Link between community and hospital based maternity services
- Engage with local authorities and voluntary organisations

01

Quantify the number of pregnant women booked with the Trust experiencing homelessness

02

Identify current service provision and/or midwifery practices to support these women

03

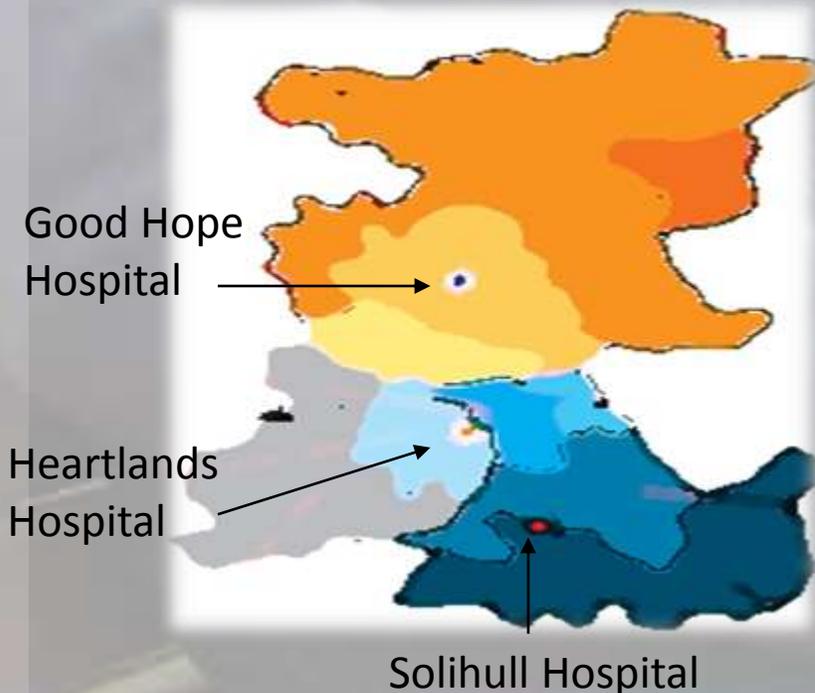
Identify any published practice guidelines for homeless pregnant women

04

Identify support agencies internal / external to the Trust who support homeless pregnant women

SETTING THE FOUNDATIONS

IDENTIFYING HOMELESSNESS IN PREGNANCY AT HEFT



- No previous data gathered within HEFT maternity services
- Rate of family homelessness across Birmingham 6.1 per 1000 households, Solihull 4.6 per 1000 (national average 1.8 per 1000)
- Initial data gathering from maternity information system flawed
 - Data fields already in place but issues with definitions
 - Missing information
- Midwives not fully understanding homelessness, situation not identified as an issue to be acted upon

HOMELESS PREGNANT WOMEN REFERRAL FORM

NAME:

PID:

DOB:

Address:

EDD: G: P:

Tel contact:

GP:

Com MIU:

Com MIU No.

Homelessness is a term that encapsulates a range of situations in which people lack an affordable and decent home. Homelessness can cover the following:

- having no accommodation at all
- in temporary accommodation such as bed & breakfast, hostel, night shelter, refuge
- not in contact with homelessness services but are without a stable home e.g. sofa surfing, stopping with friends or relatives on a temporary basis

Offer referral as a means of extra support during pregnancy and signposting to other services

Is the woman happy for referral?

If not, please write for information sharing only.

Does she need an interpreter? If yes, what language?

Date of referral:

Does she need an interpreter? If yes, what language?

Date of referral:

Background:

Accommodation:

Temporary housing: B&B

Hostel

Night shelter

Refuge

Staying with friend/ relative

Sofa surfing

Street homeless

Other

Any other issues:

Current support agencies or referrals to support agencies:

Once referral completed, please place in the referral folder in ANC for Suzanne Reynolds, Specialist Midwife for homeless, asylum seeking and migrant women.

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Mobile: 07970 317 827

IDENTIFIED SERVICE PROVISION AND CARE PATHWAYS

- Locally – different approaches, no consistency
 - Signposting to local council
 - May refer to Family Support Worker or Pregnancy Outreach Worker
 - May involve CAF/ Early Help approach
 - Inform health visiting team
 - Involvement of children's services postnatally if no home to discharge to
- Regionally – no specific care pathway identified
- Nationally – services identified used case-loading team approach

GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CARE

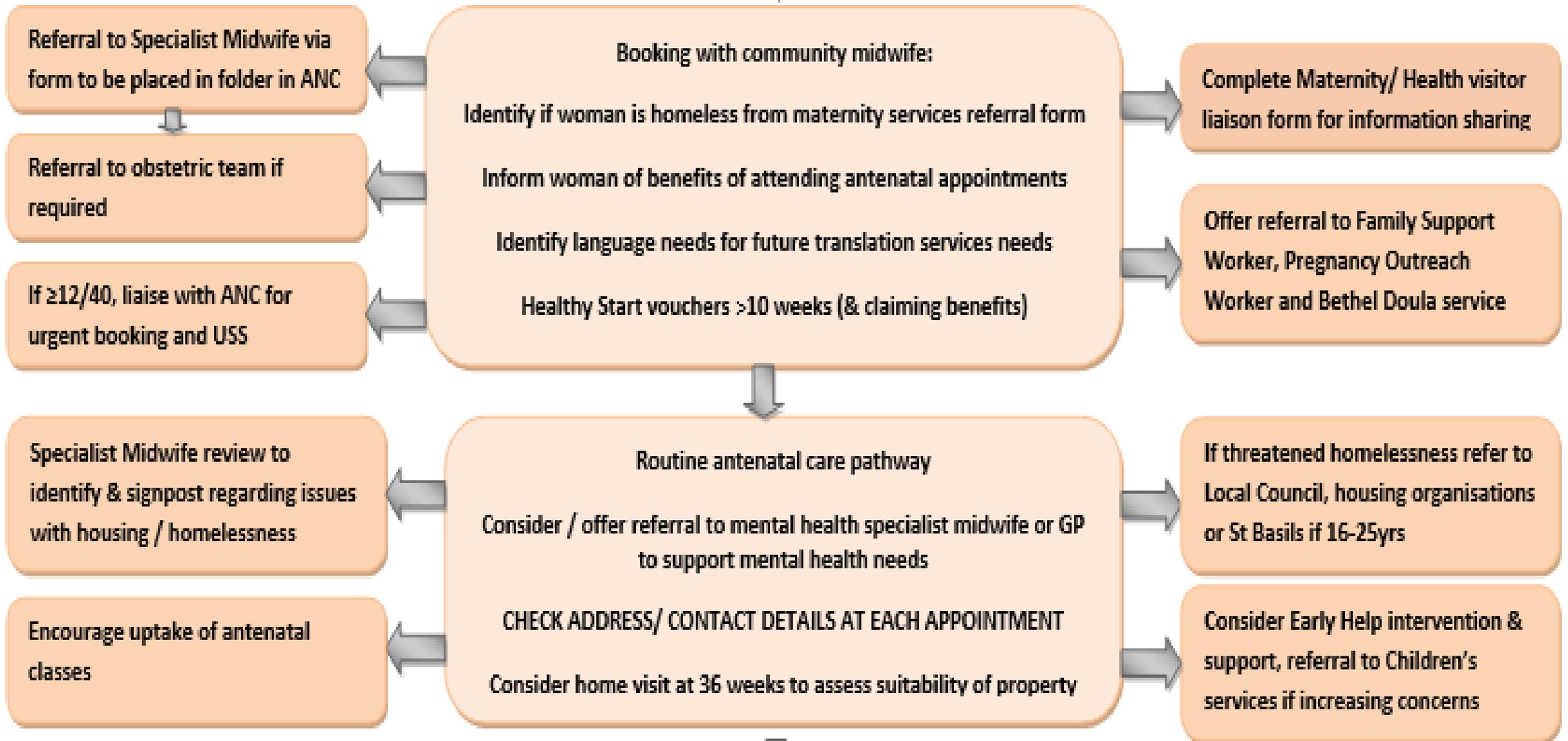
- NICE (2010) Pregnancy and complex social factors
 - General guidance including emphasising need for antenatal care and considering multi-agency assessment for coordinated care plan
 - No specific model for homeless pregnant women
- RCOG (2008) Standards for Maternity Care
 - Standard 7: women with social needs – homelessness not specifically mentioned
 - General guidance suggests interagency referral for support and care plans
 - Updated in 2016 – wider vulnerable groups but no generic guidance
- NSPCC (2015) All Babies Count
 - Proposes ‘Gold standard’ general care recommendations, including multi-agency coordination following an early assessment
- St Mungo’s (2014) Rebuilding Shattered Lives
 - Recommends access to parenting support and making perinatal interventions more widely available

TEAMS & ORGANISATIONS OFFERING HOMELESS SUPPORT

- Within HEFT - Homeless Pathways Team
Homeless Primary Care Team
- Across Birmingham including -
 - Birmingham / Solihull Council
 - Homeless organisations – Shelter, SIFA, BIRCH, YMCA, The Project, Hope housing (destitute failed asylum seekers)
 - St Basil's - mother and baby accommodation
 - Pregnancy Outreach Worker Service
 - Family Support Workers in Children's Centres
 - Bethel Doula Service



CARE PATHWAY FOR HOMELESS WOMEN



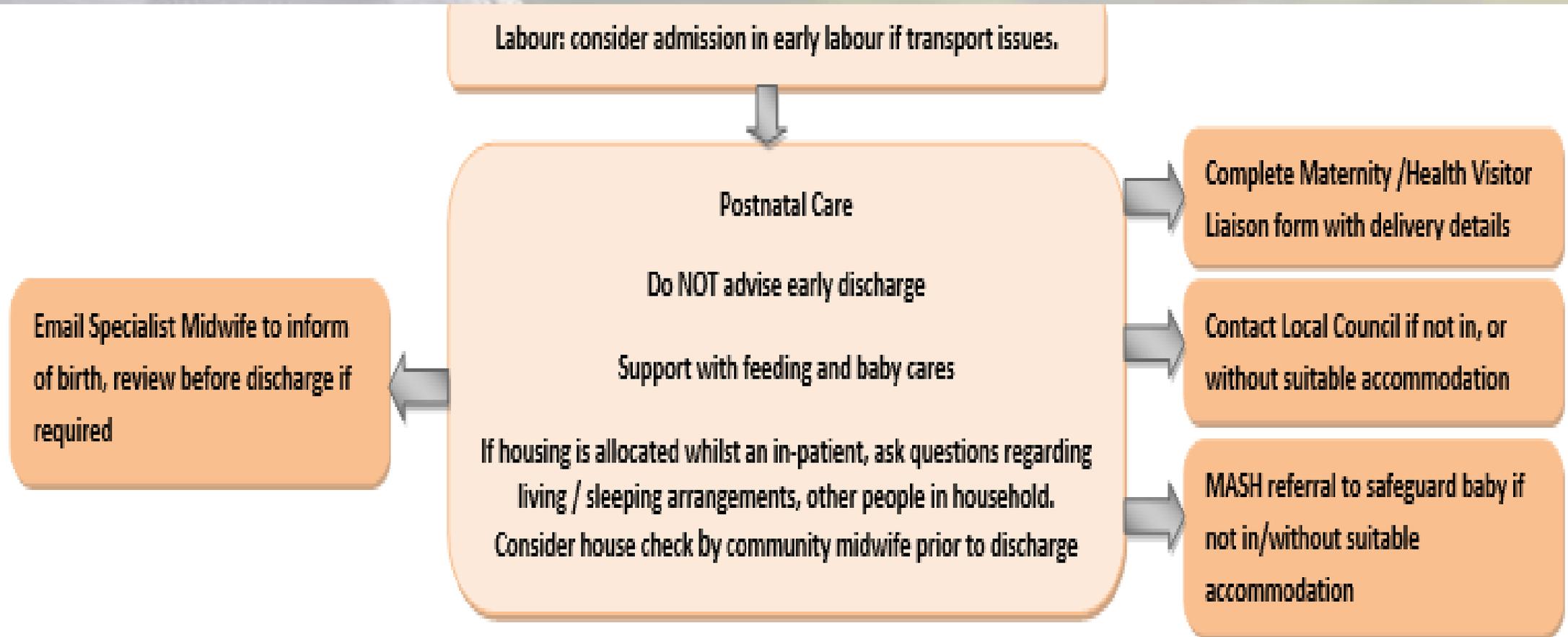
OFFERING SUPPORT THROUGH EARLY HELP

- Access to Early Help can be invaluable in providing women with ongoing additional support throughout pregnancy and following the birth of the baby
- Encourage midwives to use the Signs of Safety & Wellbeing framework to identify where support is required

What are we worried about?	What is working well?	What needs to happen?
Past harm, future danger- if no change in behaviour, complicating factors – circumstances behind behaviours	Existing strengths, existing safety / protection	Safety goals / future safety steps

- Multi-agency meetings encourage a more coordinated approach, clear plan and identification of roles/tasks
- More appropriate referral to Children's Services
- Clear postnatal care planning

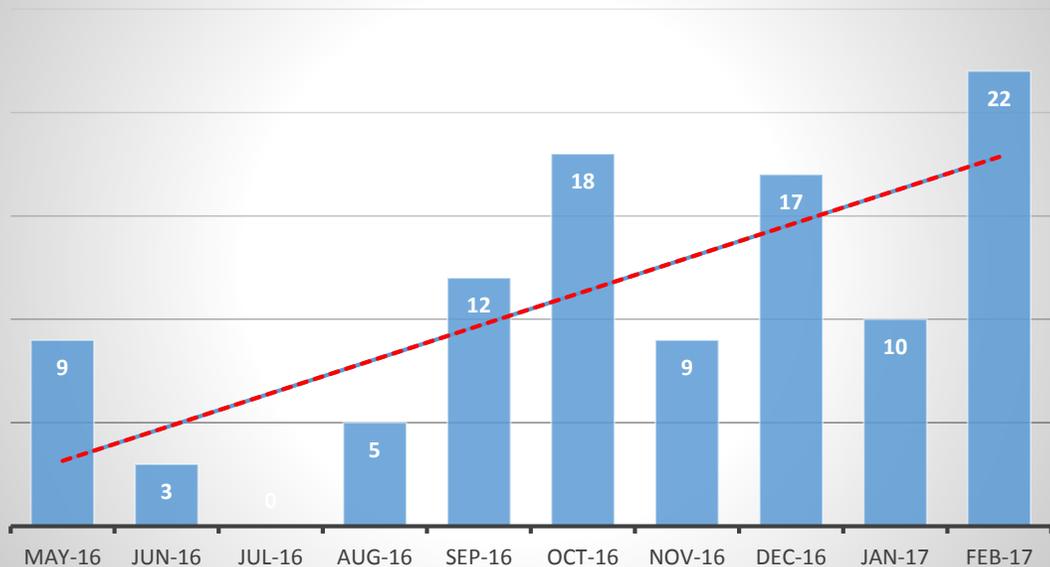
LABOUR AND POSTNATAL CARE



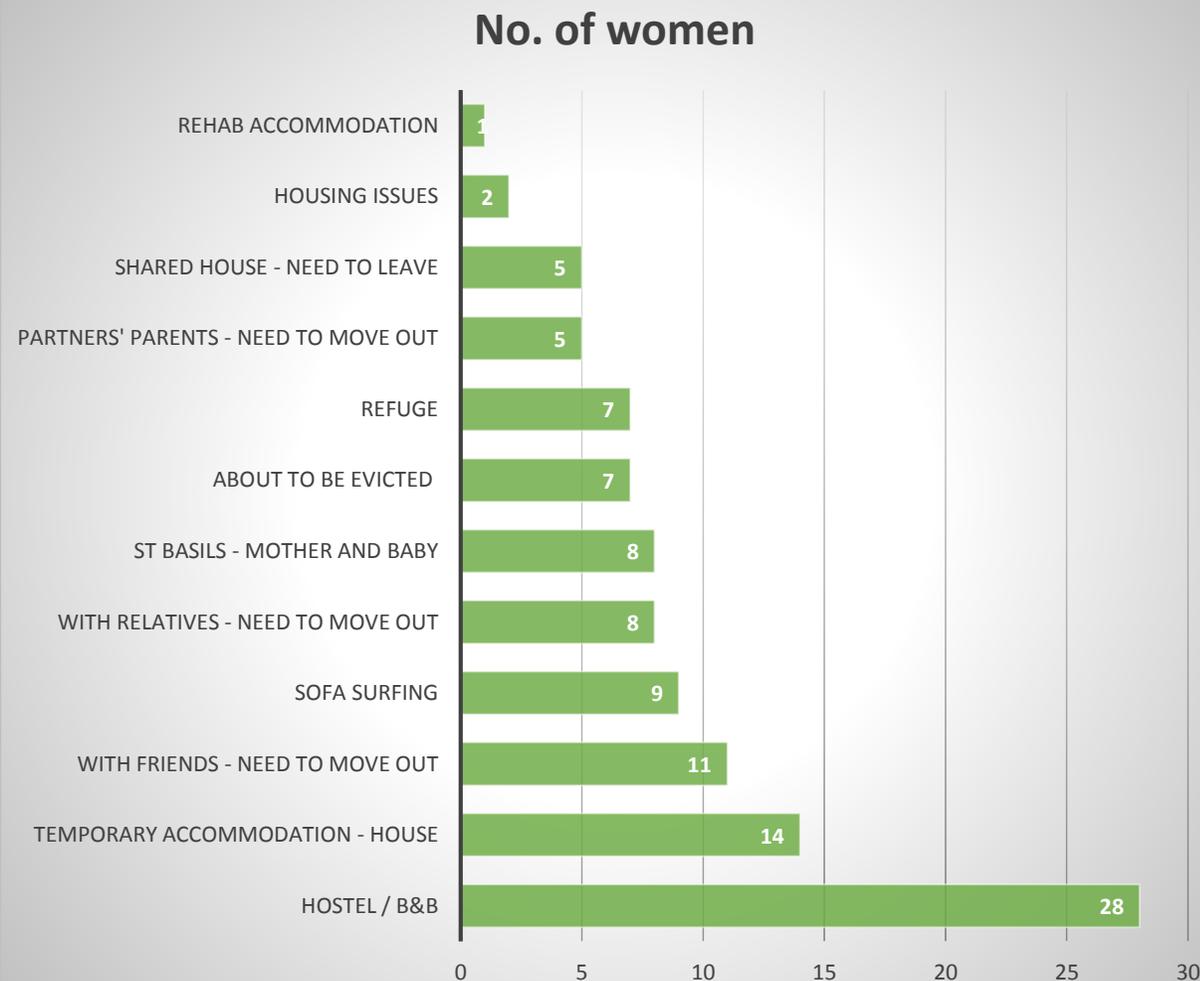
10 MONTHS ON.....

Pregnant women experiencing homelessness account for 1 – 2% of women booked each month

No. of referrals



Breakdown of type of homelessness



FUTURE PLANS

- Work with midwives to increase confidence in using Early Help framework in women who are experiencing homelessness
- Set up focus groups with women experiencing homelessness to identify gaps in care provision
- Carry out audits with midwives around knowledge gaps in homelessness issues and develop a training package
- Work with a local Children's Centre to provide drop in service where women experiencing homelessness issues can meet a range of professionals
- Complete Solihull Approach training to be able to facilitate parenting sessions to suit the needs of pregnant women experiencing homelessness

THANK YOU.

ANY QUESTIONS?

REFERENCES

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