

Subject of assessment:	North East Pause			
Coverage:	Service Specific – Children's Services.			
This is a decision relating to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Function
	<input type="checkbox"/> Process/procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Review
	Organisational change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Budget Savings Proposals		
It is a:	New approach:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Revision of an existing approach:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
It is driven by:	Legislation:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local or corporate requirements:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Key aims, objectives and activities

The Pause Programme is an intensive model to support Women who have had multiple Children removed from their care. The aim of this work is to reduce the number of instances of Children being removed into care.

The Service will also seek to improve individual wellbeing, aspirations and resilience.

Other intended outcomes include:

- a. Increased ability of women to pause, reflect and take control of their lives;
- b. Where relevant increased ability of partners / those in the women's network to pause, reflect and take control of their lives;
- c. Improved navigation of practical issues; for example, in relation to housing, budgeting and health support;
- d. Improved health and wellbeing;
- e. Reduction in number of care proceedings for new born infants resulting in removal;
- f. Improved engagement with partner agencies including children's social care, Public Health and Clinical Commissioning Groups;
- g. Improved aspirations for the future, and
- h. Improved basic skills and movement towards education, training and employment where appropriate

Women who experience repeat removals often have complex needs which are not currently being addressed. They may experience trauma and grief associated with the removal of their children. They may experience domestic abuse, mental ill-health or substance misuse and they may have built up a mistrust towards children's social care services, resulting in poor engagement with existing support services. The Pause ethos is that the best method of tackling this is to focus on supporting these vulnerable women to build a more positive future for themselves and ultimately, reduce the number of children coming into care.

Pause is a voluntary programme for women who have experienced, or are at risk of experiencing, repeat removals of children from their care. Pause aims to reduce the number of children coming into care by working intensively with women who have had two or more children removed, to improve their wellbeing, resilience and stability. The service is designed to provide women with an opportunity and the right support to 'pause' and take control of their lives.

Statutory drivers (set out exact reference)

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children) guidance applies to all local authorities which under section 10 of the Children Act 2004, have a responsibility to promote inter-agency co-operation to improve the welfare of all children. This includes providing effective early help and preventive services.

Pause is a key element of the Early Help Strategy in Middlesbrough, which is focussed on increasing the role of prevention within communities, to reduce the need for more costly statutory social work services. The Early Help Strategy reports progress directly to the Children's Trust and to the Children's Services Multi Agency Strategic Improvement Board and is a key driver in the Improvement of Children's Services and the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services.

As well as the emotional cost to the parents and children of the removal of children into care, there is a financial driver to this service. One in four women who has a child removed through the family courts is likely to return to have another removed and that number increases to one in three if they're a teenage mother. On average, the women who work with Pause have had between three and four children removed, although in some cases this is much higher. The average reduction in the number of children entering local authority care is 14 per year, in each local authority area that has a Pause practice (Department for Education Evaluation 2020).

Differences from any previous approach

Description:

The Pause contract has been in place in Middlesbrough since 1st March 2020. Pause works directly with women who have experienced, or are at risk of, repeat removals of children from their care. Through an intense programme of support, it aims to break this cycle and give women the opportunity to reflect, tackle destructive patterns of behaviour, and to develop new skills and responses that can help them create a more positive future. Prior to the Pause contract being in place in Middlesbrough Children's Services, there has not been a previous approach which has focussed directly on the reduction of repeat removals of children into care.

Key stakeholders and Intended beneficiaries

The Pause Programme delivers an intensive model to support Women who have had multiple Children removed from their care. The aim of this work is to reduce the number of instances of Children being removed into care.

Key beneficiaries are the women who have experienced or are at risk of repeat removals of children from their care. Other intended beneficiaries are the children who may be removed from their mothers into local authority care, fathers and wider family members including grandparents and siblings. As the women who are supported through Pause are vulnerable the other key stakeholders of the service include; Adult Social Care, Domestic Abuse Services, Substance Misuse and Alcohol Services, Mental Health Services, Sexual Health Services and Housing.

Intended outcomes

The contractual value for the term of the contract was £206,568. The previous contract was funded from savings from staffing but this is no longer an option, learning from the project will be incorporated into current practice.

Live date:	28 th February 2023 onwards
Lifespan:	1 st March 2020 – 28 th February 2023
Date of next review:	Not applicable

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
	No	Yes	Uncertain	
<p>Human Rights</p> <p>Could the decision impact negatively on individual Human Rights as enshrined in UK legislation?*</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The proposed review will not impact on the duties performed by the service and will not impact on individual Human Rights as defined in the UK legislation.</p>
<p>Equality</p> <p>Could the decision result in adverse differential impacts on groups or individuals with characteristics protected in UK equality law? Could the decision impact differently on other commonly disadvantaged groups?*</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The Equality Act 2010 requires that the impact of recommendations is considered as part of the decision-making process. The Act requires that the Council must have due regard to the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act. • Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. • Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. <p>Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic • take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it; • encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low. <p>The decision to cease the Pause contract could result in an adverse impact on those women who have had or who are at risk of, repeated infants being removed into local authority care. However, this is not a protected characteristic which is protected by the equality duty.</p>

* Consult the Impact Assessment further guidance appendix for details on the issues covered by each of these broad questions prior to completion.

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
Community cohesion Could the decision impact negatively on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town?*	☒	☐		
<p>Next steps:</p> <p>🔄 If the answer to all of the above screening questions is No then the process is completed.</p> <p>🔄 If the answer of any of the questions is Yes or Uncertain, then a Level 2 Full Impact Assessment must be completed.</p>				

Assessment completed by:	G Earl	Head of Service:	<i>G. Earl</i>
Date:		Date:	27/1/23