



Professional Roles Explained.

Gloucestershire benefits from an experienced team of outstanding professionals who work transparently together to provide the best possible package of care for school age parents to be. The influx of professional involvement, however, can be overwhelming with confusion around who does what. Whilst individual circumstances will determine the exact combination of professional involvement, it is helpful for schools to have full understanding of the roles of professionals involved as schools are often best placed to support the school age parents to be on a day-to-day basis.

Midwifery Services.

Community Midwives

Community midwives are the named midwife allocated to delivering the standard midwifery antenatal and postnatal pathway. In pregnancy they see the young person either at home or at a clinic to provide antenatal wellbeing checks for the young person and her unborn child. Appropriate information is provided for the young person to make informed decisions throughout the pregnancy. The standard total appointments for a first time mother are ten plus scan appointments. Community midwives also provide postnatal care following the birth for 10-28 days dependent upon need.

Midwifery Partnership Team.

Are a team of community midwives who cover young people living in specific areas of Cheltenham and Gloucester. The Midwifery Partnership Team is able to offer enhanced care throughout the antenatal and postnatal period. They hold smaller caseloads and are therefore able to offer additional appointments to the standard midwifery pathway. They can continue to support the mother and family until 6 weeks postnatally. They work closely with other professional agencies to ensure the best outcomes possible and deliver public health interventions to reduce health inequality.

Specialist Midwives for Young Parents.

Midwives for Young Parents are specialist midwives who work directly with the pregnant young person in addition to the community midwives to provide a comprehensive package of care. The Midwives for Young Parents expertise knowledge is often required to guide professionals on caring for pregnant teenagers. They offer dedicated teenage pregnancy clinics, antenatal groups and provide one-to-one support at home and at school dependant upon need. These appointments will be additional to the standard pregnancy pathway. Specialist Midwives for Young Parents also provide postnatal care following the birth for up to six weeks dependent upon need.

Antenatal Services.

Gloucestershire Youth Support Team (YST).

YST have a dedicated, Sexual Health & Teenage Pregnancy worker who works closely with the Specialist Teenage Pregnancy Midwives and Gloucestershire Hospital Education Service, as well as colleagues within the YST to ensure that any young person and their family is offered appropriate support and guidance during pregnancy or parenthood.

The range of support varies dependent on need and may include support to access benefits, funding for childcare via Care to Learn, budgeting, referrals to local charities to access equipment and clothing needed for the baby, sexual health, healthy relationships, housing, substance misuse, emotional health and well-being etc. Working in partnership with the Specialist Midwives for Young Parents, YST also offer an ante-natal group for young parents called Bambinos, helping to prepare young parents to be for parenthood.

Gloucestershire Hospital Education Service (GHES)

GHES's Young Parent Support Worker offers Preparation for Parenthood mentoring which is a flexible and individual program of support to prepare, equip and empower school age parents to be, so they are ready and confident for the task ahead. The Young Parent Support Worker works closely with schools, Specialist Midwives for Young Parents, YST and other agencies to ensure a cohesive approach to care and education.

Nursing Services.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

GHES have a registered NHS CAMHS practitioner who is a registered nurse attached to the service. All school age mothers are routinely referred for an initial assessment which takes place in the home, school or an appropriate community setting with or without a parent present. The CAMHS practitioner offers advice, support and care planning in relation to mental health and emotional well-being particularly managing low mood and anxiety.

They work closely with the GHES Young Parent Support Worker and are involved with planning reintegration to school where applicable. They liaise with other professionals in order to fully support the young parent. All information shared is confidential unless there are concerns about safety.

School Nursing Service.

School Nurses are qualified NHS nurses who work with children, young people and families who have concerns, issues and worries about their health and mental wellbeing. This may be in relation to healthy relationships including sexual health, staying safe, gender issues, it may be in relation to mental health including self-harm, managing stress and anxiety or it may be in relation to healthy lifestyles

including healthy eating, activity, smoking, drugs and alcohol. School Nurses can see young people (aged 11-19) in schools, at home or in a mutually agreeable community setting either with parents or without. All information shared is confidential unless there are concerns about safety. Young People can also text a School Nurse anonymously for confidential help and advice on 07507 333 351 Monday to Friday 9:00-16:30.

Health Visitor.

Health visitors are registered nurses who have undergone additional training so they can partner with families to promote good health and prevent illness. Health visitors are usually involved from the birth of a child until the child is five years old and are a valuable source of advice and guidance as the young person adjusts to their new role of parenting and as their baby grows and develops.

Education Services

Gloucestershire Hospital Education Service (GHES).

GHES offers academic support to school age mothers up to and including Year 11 who are unable to access full time education through their school during maternity leave. GHES provides tutoring in core subjects and wellbeing which is usually accessible from home. Our Young Parent Support Worker remains the primary point of contact for the duration of the pregnancy and subsequent maternity leave to provide continuity of care and to liaise with GHES's specialist subject teachers and other agencies, as appropriate, to ensure a personalised educational package is provided and oversee reintegration into full time education.

The Virtual School

The Virtual School is a small team of teachers and dedicated education professionals who work to support the education of Gloucestershire Children in Care and care leavers, although our children also remain the responsibility of the school at which they are enrolled. The Virtual School work to raise the educational attainment and school attendance of children and young people. We track educational progress and implement and monitor interventions to help young people in care to achieve their full potential.