

Building bonds and breaking cycles with vulnerable parents and infants

Building Attachment and Bonds Services(BABS)

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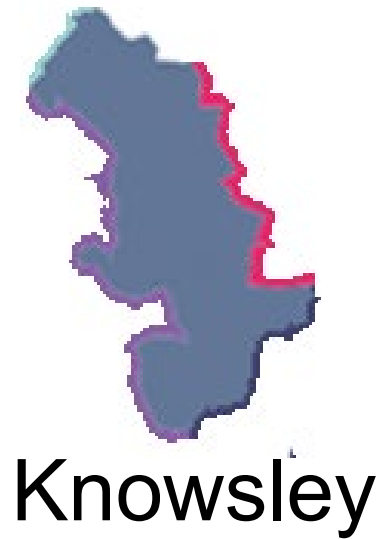


Supporting Vulnerable Parents and Babies to Build Bonds and Break Cycles at the Earliest Opportunity



Mersey Care
NHS Foundation Trust

BABS – Across 5 Cheshire and Merseyside Boroughs





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BABS Ethos

**1 - Relationships
are Everything!**



BABS ethos

2 - We must work partnership to safeguard relationships, mental health, as well as risk

BABS ethos

3. Vulnerable families are *not* difficult to engage or hard to reach - services are.



BABS – Heart of Early Intervention, Building Resiliency and Strengthening Families



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Families with Lived Experience.. Say it Best! – BABS Video and ICB Case Study Piece

<https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/posts/supporting-vulnerable-parents-and-babies-to-build-bonds-break-cycles-and-stay-together/>



Whole
person
health

OUR SERVICES

Operational
and clinical
excellence

Cheshire and Merseyside ICB Spotlight on BABS Services

“BABS demonstrates what neighbourhood health and care integration looks like. BABS has invested in growing services grassroots up alongside families, partners, and leaders with shared goals and accountability to deliver integrated services that make a ‘real’ difference to the most vulnerable parents and babies”

(Professor Iain Buchan) – November 2025



WHY: Best Practice Neighbourhood Model?

- ***Ahead of Curve for 10yrs*** - specialist, preventative neighbourhood model of care. Outreach service, targeting and accessing vulnerable parents and babies in neighbourhoods with highest deprivation and inequalities
- **Built and developed with lived experience** – driven and supported for 12 years by BABS vulnerable families (BEBE groups and programme)
- **Strengths based, easy to engage, ‘psycho-social’ model** – engages families who are judged or viewed as *‘hard to reach or difficult to engage’*
- **Built on 12 years of evidence, best practice**, research, evaluations, life changing outcomes (and lessons learnt!) and vulnerable family’s journeys



WHY: Best Practice Neighbourhood Model?

- **Advocates and believes in vulnerable families** with highest inequalities. Invested in helping families build bond and transform ACES to PAACES
- **‘All About Relationships!’** Which is the Foundation and golden thread throughout BABS model, service delivery and integrated partnerships
- **Changes culture and thinking across systems** – Instils belief that as a partnership we **CAN** safeguard relationships, mental health, and risk
- **Prevents trauma of separation, loss and babies entering care.** Saves significant health and care costs for the system and families.
- **Offers true integrated health-care model** to families who need it most



BABS Integrated Model - Families First for Children' National Reforms for Children Services

BABS is committed to supporting Local Authorities nationally to put 'Families First for Children'

BABS services are aligned to McCalister (2022) review and steer "It is loving relationships that hold the solutions for children and families overcoming adversity."

BABS part of National Pathfinder Programme for FFfC Reform (Partnership with Warrington Local Authority)

Warrington MACPT

Multi-Agency Child Protection Team

Lead Child Protection Practitioners (LLCPs)

COP/DOLs Specialist

Pre-birth assessor

Education

Specialist Safeguarding Children's Nurse

Police

Probation

BABS



BABS within the MACPT

- Developing integrated pre-birth model
- Sit on Legal Gateway Meetings
- Assessment and formulation
- Consultation
- Reflective Spaces and Multi-Agency Conversations
- Signposting
- Reflective Supervision



Feedback and Reflections

Mum has started opening up to Kate (this is a parent who doesn't like talking about difficult things) so even this is a massive win.

She has completed a clinical supervision with me when I have been feeling stuck with a particular case.

Kate has joined various meetings to ensure her work remains purposeful, and compliments the plan for the children

She has given me a new perspective when working with families

She has supported a mum I have been working with to feel more empowered

I wish we had utilised Kate earlier

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair looking at a baby. The baby is wearing a pink long-sleeved top and holding a yellow and pink beaded rattle. The baby's mouth is open as if they are laughing or crying. The background is blurred.

Thank you for listening



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