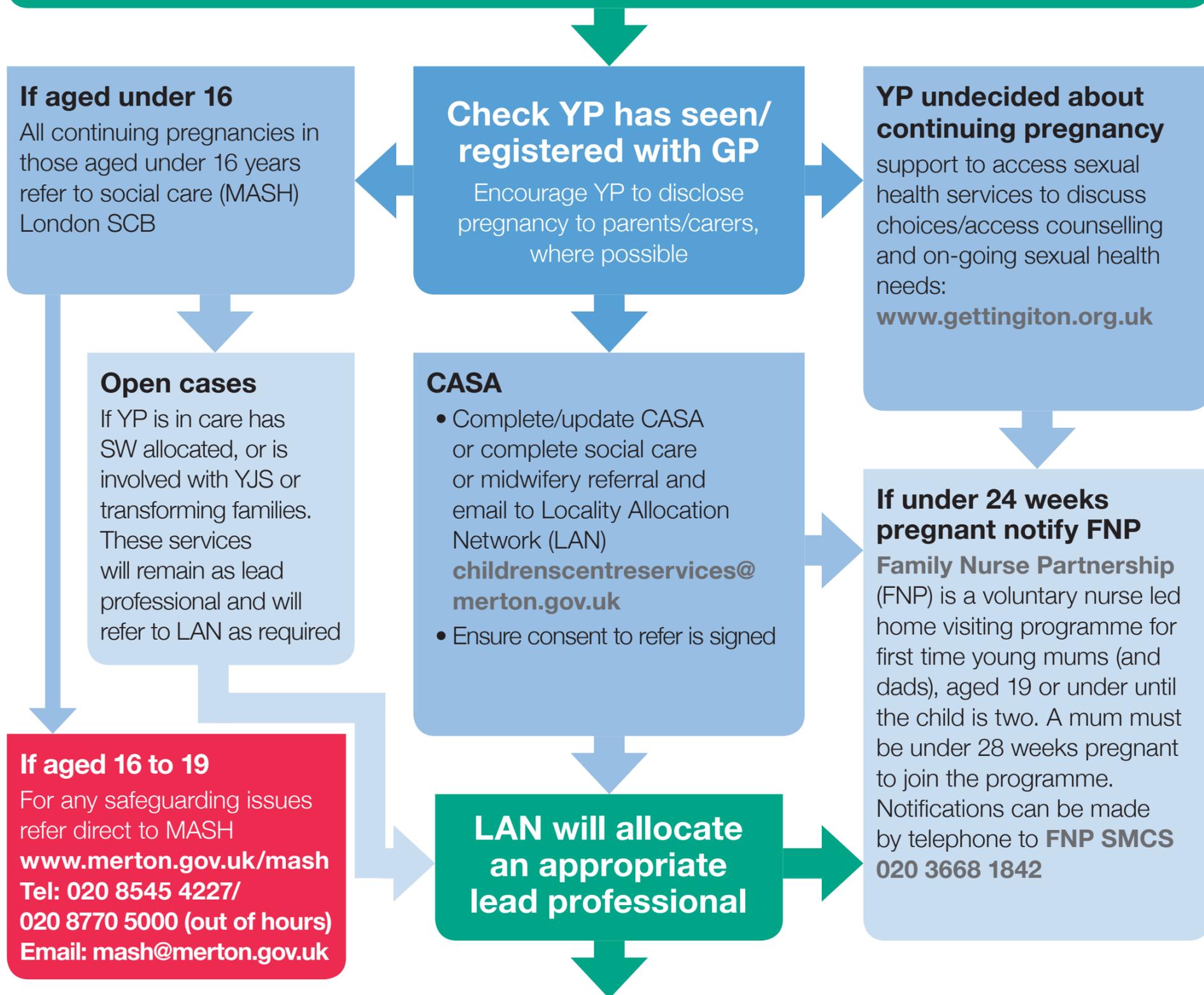


London Borough of Merton referral pathway for pregnant teenagers and teenage parents aged 19 and under



Professional made aware of Young Person's (YP) pregnancy or parenthood



Benefits and entitlements: Care to Learn, Sure Start Maternity Grant, Healthy Start packs, Job Centre Plus and Welfare and Advice Services

Children's centres: Teenage parents' groups, breast feeding, parenting programmes, play and stay, young mums' network

Community and voluntary sector: Commonsense Mums and Tums Group, Jigsaw4u

Education: Support education providers to implement borough guidance on education of pregnant teenagers and young parents. Liaise with designated school lead/designated teacher, school nurse or education welfare officer regarding the education plan and pregnancy risk assessment

Health: (FNP if first time pregnant under 28 weeks.) Antenatal/postnatal care, school health, health visiting services, sexual health services, substance use, emotional health and wellbeing

Housing: For urgent Grenfell Housing Support, please directly contact LAN Administrator on 020 8545 3744

NEET with employment and training: Link with My Futures team for NEET YP, support to attend Insight drop-in or the Go For It project

Youth services: Engage YP in positive activities, Young Advisor programmes, youth clubs

Locality Allocation Network (LAN) guidance for working with pregnant teenagers or young parents



Benefits and entitlements: Support access to a range of benefits including Care to Learn, Sure Start Maternity Grant, Healthy Start.

Children's centre services: e.g. child health clinics, breastfeeding, baby massage, ESOL, parenting programmes, young mums' network, outreach, stay and play or support to address needs of child, young dads' work, job clubs.

Community and voluntary sector: Commonside Community Development Trust Mums and Tums Group **020 8764 9582**, Jigsaw4u **020 8687 1384** (loss and trauma, young runaways, advocacy for looked after children/or those leaving care).

Education: Young parents are entitled to continue their education and cannot be excluded from the school role because of pregnancy. They are entitled to 18 weeks maternity leave if they so wish. Merton borough allows young fathers to take two weeks paternity leave. Schools are encouraged to have a named lead for the young person who will oversee the young person's education plan and risk assessment. See LB borough guidance on teenage parents. Care to Learn funding is available to enable young parents to remain in educational courses. Learner Support Helpline: **0800 121 8989**, www.gov.uk/care-to-learn

Employment or training: Local authorities have a duty to ensure all CYP aged 19 and under are engaged in education or training. My Futures team support YP to return to EET and run drop-ins at Insight **020 8274 5177**. Support workers can escort YP to access drop-ins. Young mums wishing to return to education, training or employment can be supported through the Go For It project **020 8315 1276**.

Family Nurse Partnership (FNP): FNP is a home visiting programme for first time young mums, aged 19 or under (and dads). A specially trained nurse visits the young mum regularly, from early in pregnancy until the child is two. They must be under 28 weeks pregnant to join the programme. Notifications can be made by telephone to FNP SMCS **020 3668 1842**.

Health: Teenage mothers are at greater risk of postnatal depression and poor mental health for three years after the birth, they are more likely to smoke and less likely to breastfeed. Health outcomes are also worse for their children. Their children are more likely to be born into poverty, are more likely to have accidents and behavioural problems and have higher infant mortality rates than older mothers. Access to a range of health services is important e.g. Catch 22 substance misuse. **020 3701 8641** GP, school health **020 8687 4611** and CAMHS **020 8254 8061**.

Health visiting: All parents regardless of age have access to health visiting services. Health visitors provide targeted health interventions for 0 to 5 year olds.

Housing: All young people are entitled to advice and assistance regarding their housing options from the council. If there is a threat of homelessness it is always important that they contact the council as soon as possible so as to avoid an emergency response to their needs, and the young person can make an informed choice regarding what options are available **020 8545 3636**.

Midwifery: If a young woman chooses to continue a pregnancy they should register with, or inform their GP. This will enable swift access to midwifery services. Local hospitals have specialist antenatal support groups for young parents.

Sexual health: All young people are entitled to information and advice on sexual health and is particularly important for the prevention of second pregnancies. Assist young parents to access local sexual health services. For service information see: www.gettingiton.org.uk Support workers can encourage young people to access services and may escort young people on first time visits. A young person does not need to inform their parents of the visit.

Youth services: Young parents are entitled to and should be encouraged to engage in positive activities: merton.gov.uk/youthcentres **020 8274 5801; 020 8274 5812**.

Young women have the right to choose whether they wish to continue with their pregnancy.



LAN will co-ordinate the above