

**Councillor Victoria Cusworth – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

Riverside House  
Main Street  
Rotherham  
S60 1AE

Email: [victoria.cusworth@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:victoria.cusworth@rotherham.gov.uk)

Email the Council for **free** @ your local library

Our ref

VC/LH

Please Contact

Councillor Victoria Cusworth

Direct Line

07824895314

20<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Councillor Adam Carter  
Elected Member

Via email: [adam.carter@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:adam.carter@rotherham.gov.uk)

Dear Cllr Carter

**Question to Council – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

Thank you for your supplementary question at Council on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March where you welcomed the prevention work and identification on the increased prevalence of incidents happening in the region, country and world. You asked about the process of how these children were going to be identified moving forward, for them not to be lost in the system in the first place and whether this was prevention during the antenatal period and then referral into service. You asked was this a specific service or what extra support could be given to that neonatal infant and onwards and whether this had improved to what had been available prior to this trial.

I can advise that children who live with issues arising from FASD without a specific diagnosis are still likely to receive support within the neurodevelopment pathways, where a need is identified through universal and targeted services, such as Family Help and 0-19s Public Health Nursing Service. Without a specific FASD pathway in place or without specific evidence of foetal alcohol exposure, it is likely that support will nevertheless be provided, albeit more often through an ASD/ADHD pathway, since they present in a similar way.

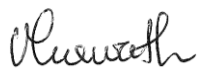
With this in mind all women now get asked at pregnancy booking about their alcohol intake and this is recorded. This would be a very important piece of information for a

future diagnosis of FASD, so the onward use of this information within the child health record is currently a matter of discussion.

The consumption of alcohol during pregnancy is clearly a sensitive matter, and the way in which such screening questions are framed, in order to adopt a compassionate approach is also currently being discussed within the Local Maternity and Neonatal System (LMNS) in South Yorkshire.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



**Cllr Victoria Cusworth**  
**Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services**  
**Labour and Co-op | Kilnhurst and Swinton East Ward**  
**Peer Mentor and Member Peer | Local Government Association Labour Group**