

Scoping review of the national guidelines, service provision, and models of care for pregnant mothers who are homeless

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BACKGROUND

- Over 120,000 children in England, including infants, are living in temporary accommodation, highlighting a severe housing crisis.
- The first 1,000 days of life are critical for child development and maternal health, but homelessness increases risks of developmental delays, poor health outcomes, and maternal stress.
- Despite national guidelines for supporting homeless pregnant women, inconsistent implementation and resource shortages lead to disparities in care. This policy brief aims to review and enhance support systems, improving outcomes for mothers and children during this crucial period.

AIM

To review national guidelines, service structures, and care models to inform policymakers on improving support systems, ensuring better maternal and child health outcomes during the crucial first 1,000 days.

METHODOLOGY

- Comprehensive analysis of existing guidelines from NICE, DHSC, MHCLG and RCGP, service provision models, and academic research to assess how they address the needs of homeless pregnant women
- Conducted statistical reviews using data from national homelessness and maternal health databases to assess trends and outcomes
- Thematic analysis of policy documents and interview transcripts to extract common themes, challenges, and insights.

KEY FINDINGS

Mothers are a Priority Group for Housing and Support

Homelessness Reduction Act (2017) prioritizes housing and support for pregnant women.

Collaboration across services is recommended

Bridging healthcare, social services, and housing through collaboration

Early Intervention Focus

Policies emphasize early intervention to prevent homelessness during pregnancy, which should take a holistic approach

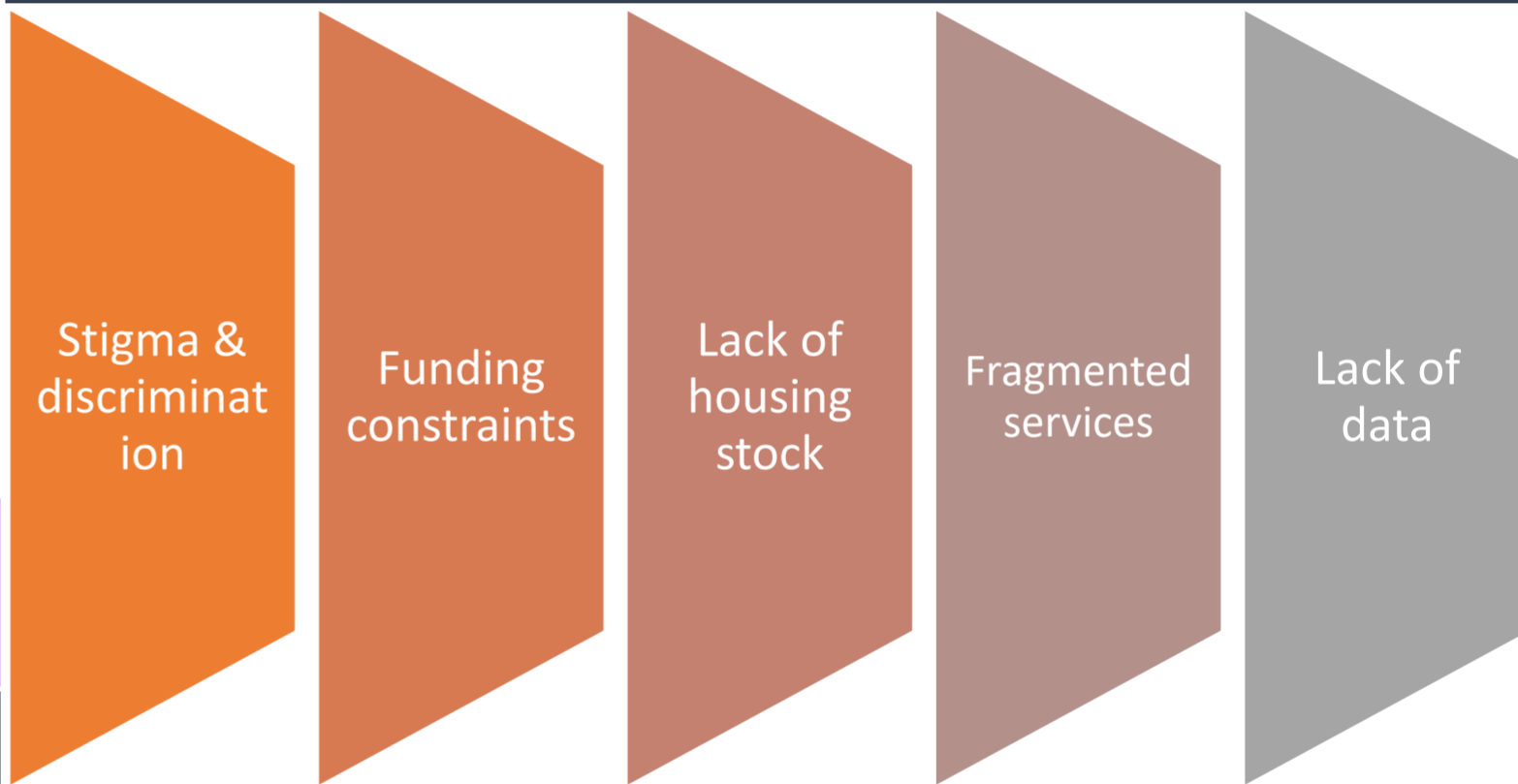
Variation in standardized protocols

Leading to unequal access to care and disparities in health outcomes

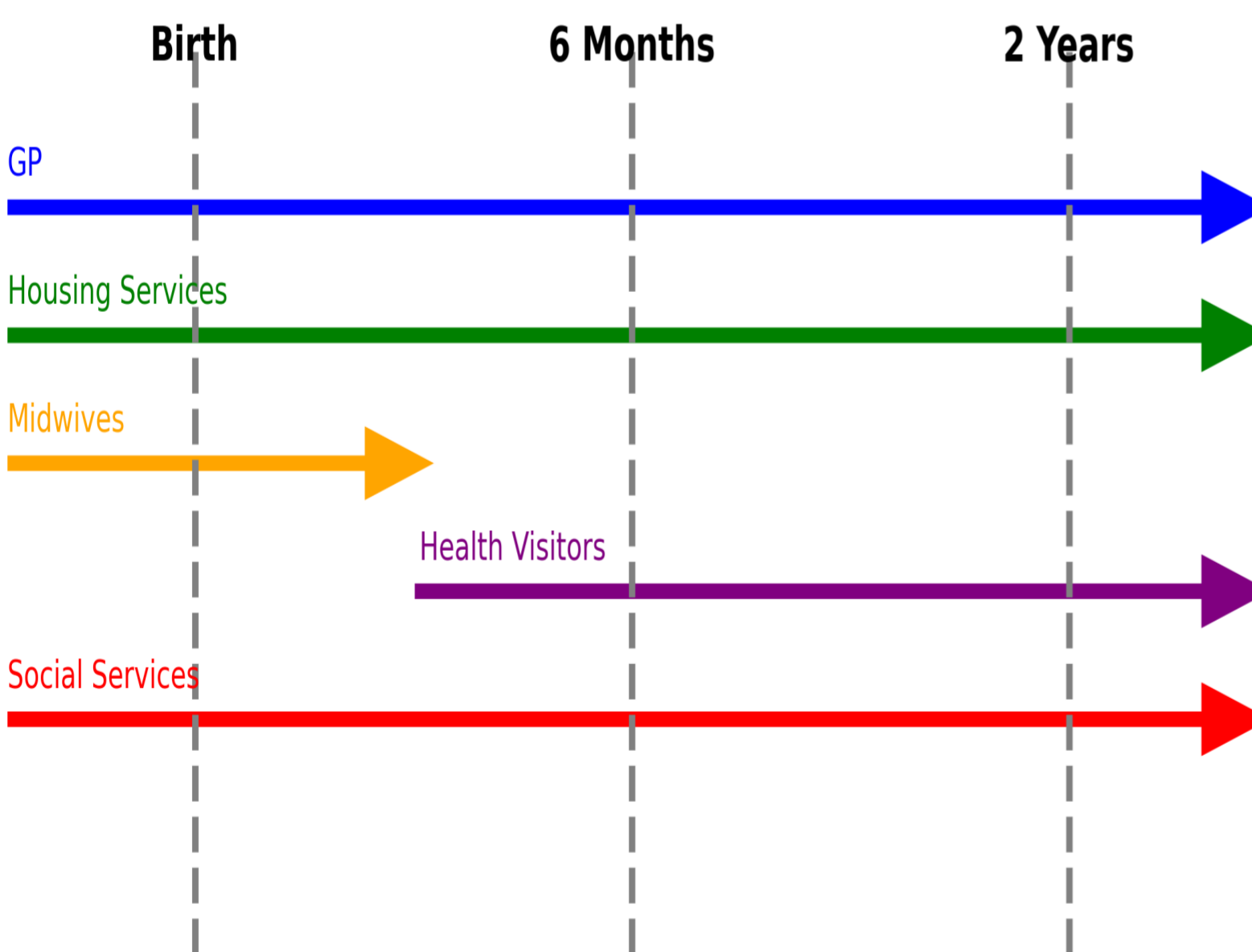
Pregnant mothers are Protection Under Equality Laws

Equality Acts (2010) prohibits discrimination based on pregnancy and maternity

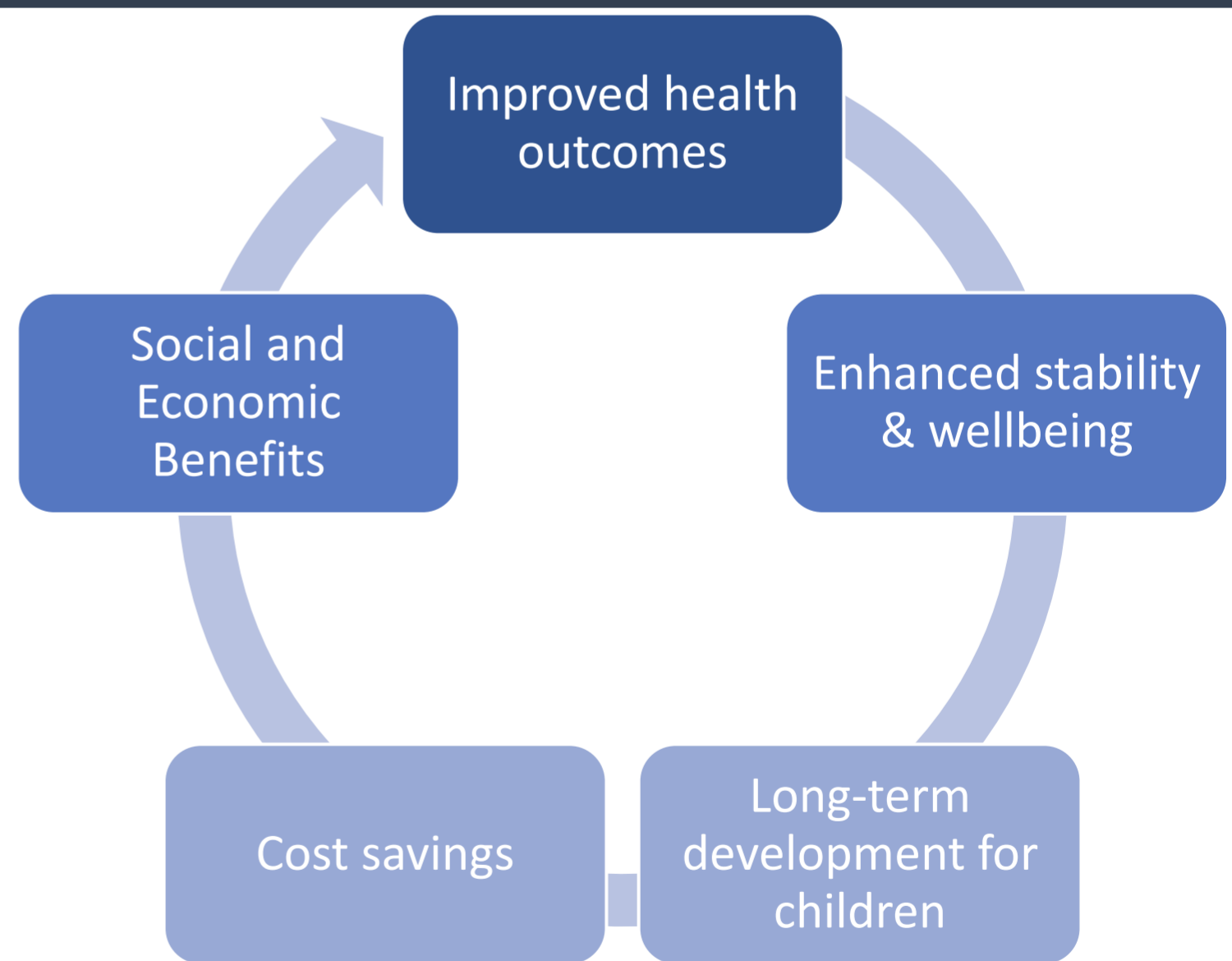
BARRIERS TO IMPLEMENTATION



POINTS OF CONTACT FOR HOMELESS PREGNANT MOTHERS



BENEFITS TO HEALTHCARE



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