



*Giving HOPE*

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# Acknowledgements

## **Giving HOPE**

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- Kate Chivers – Birth Companions
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- Dr Hannah Rayment-Jones – Kings College London
- Baby loss support charities
- Becs Reynolds –NHS England
- Julie Brooks – Greenwich Council

## **Funders**

ESRC

Sir Halley Stewart Foundation

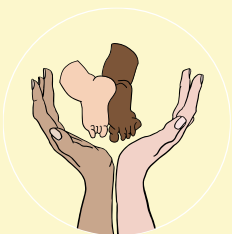
## **Born into Care Research Series**

Led by Prof. Karen Broadhurst

- Centre for Child and Family Justice Research
- Swansea University SAIL databank
- NFJO Data partnership Team
- Rees Centre, University of Oxford
- Our partner agency leads
- Professional and parent research participants
- Advisory Board and reviewers
- Prof Heather O’Mahen
- Dr Abby Easter
- Dr Rachael Grey
- Dr Hannah Rayment-Jones

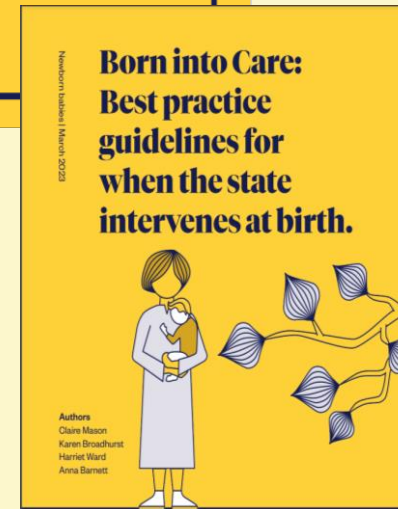
## **Funders**

- Nuffield Family Justice Observatory



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# Underpinning Research: The Born into Care series

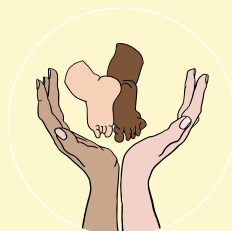
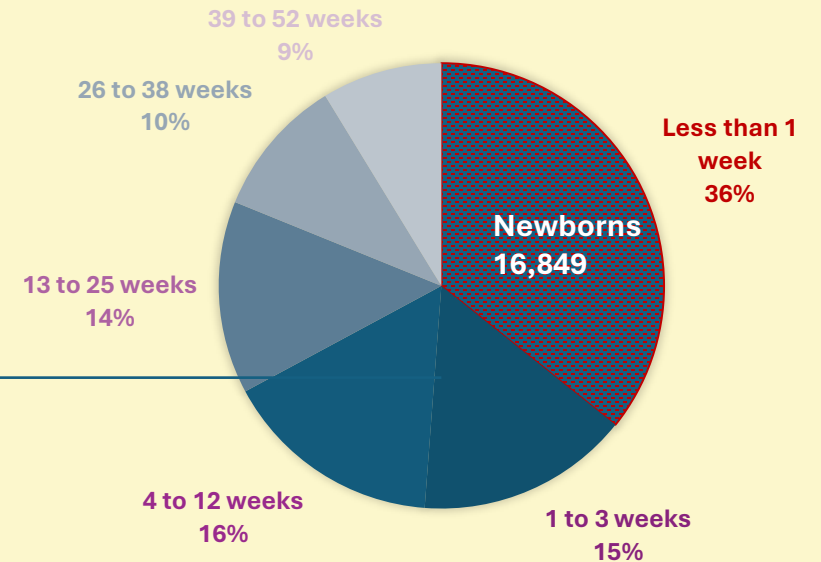
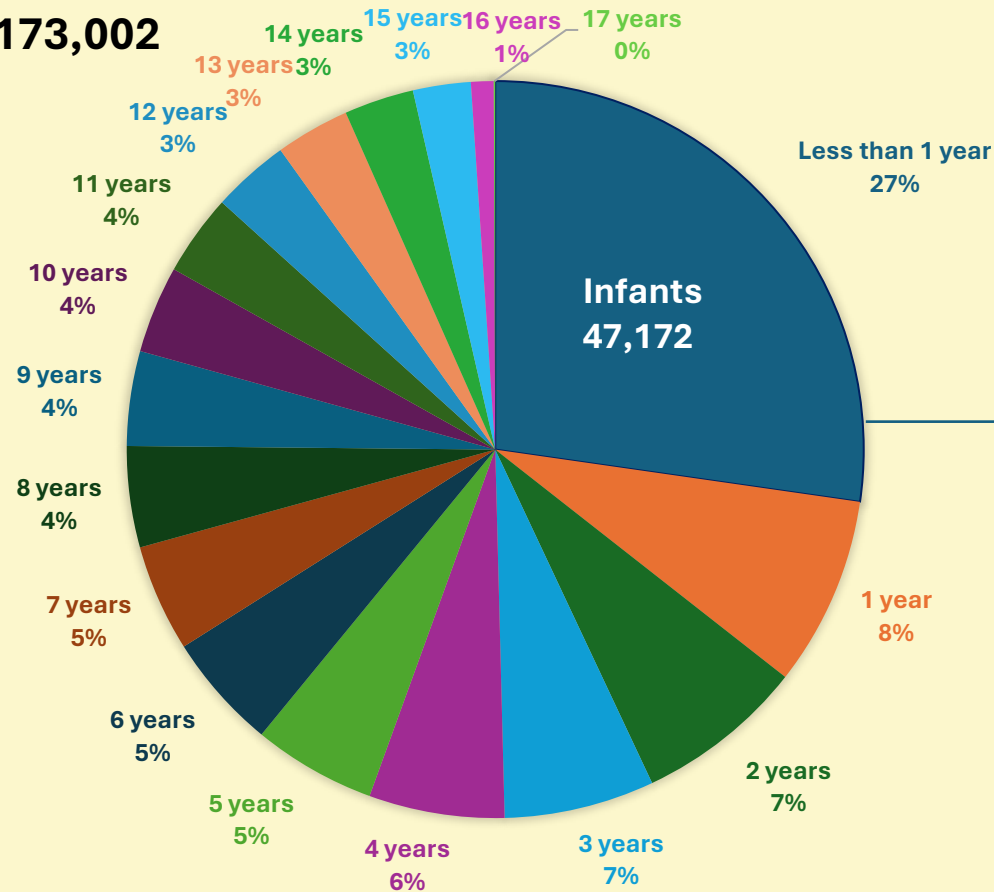


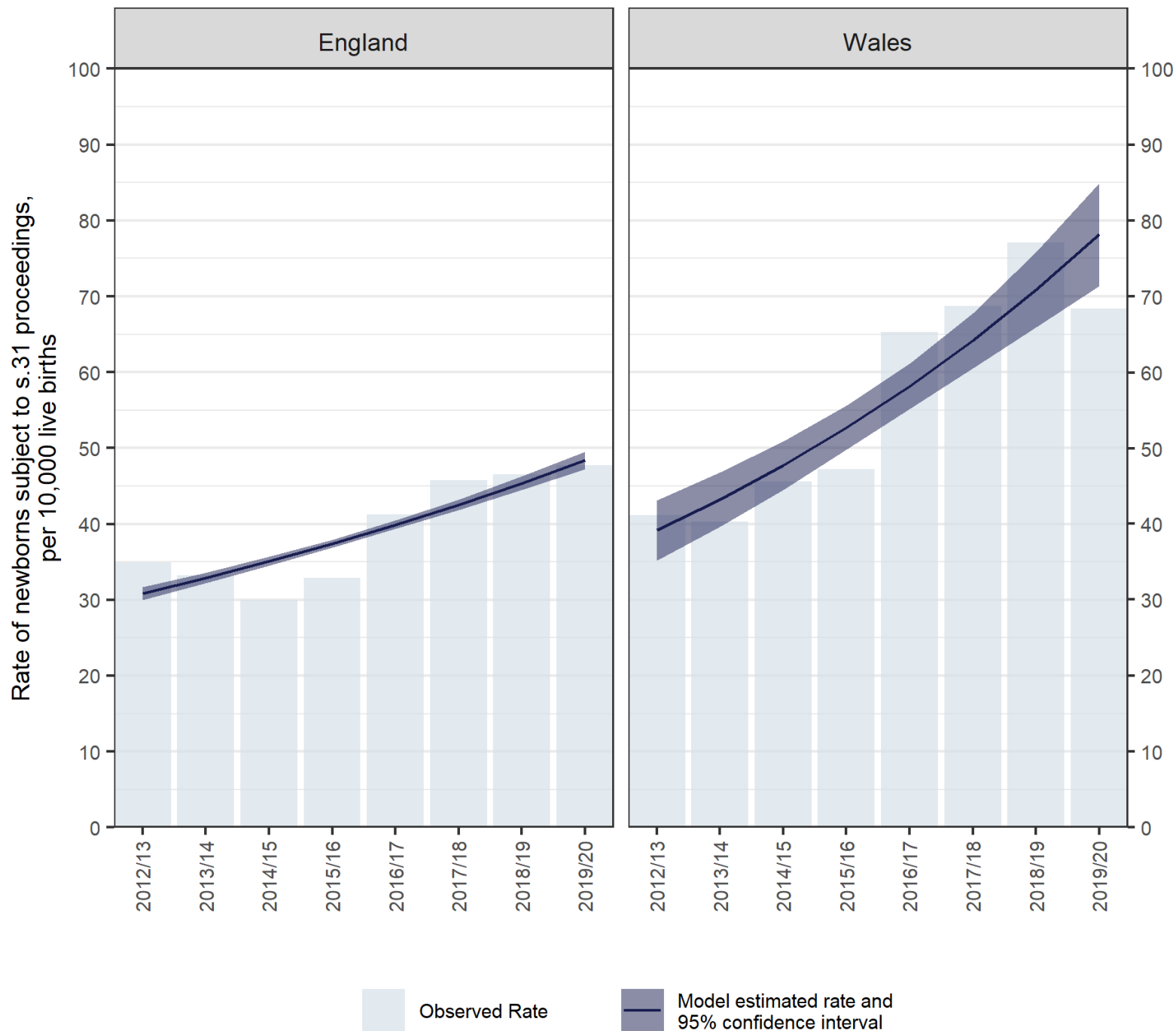
All these reports are freely available from CfJ [publications page](#) or the [NFJO website](#)



# Age of children in care proceedings Born into Care (Broadhurst et al 2018)

N=173,002





# What is the scope of the best practice guidelines?

**Pre-birth:** assessment, help, advocacy and planning

**In the hospital:** care, attending first hearing court & separation

**Post discharge support:** support following separation or placement & first contact

# Urgent hearings

Short-notice hearings for newborns have increased in England and Wales

In the majority of newborn cases, there are **1 or 2 days notice** between the issue of application and the first hearing

Higher rates of urgent hearings in the North of England and Wales, when compared to the South of England

## No-notice hearings

- **1 in every 6** newborn cases records a no-notice hearing
- In the North East - the rate of no-notice hearings has doubled and now stands at **40% of all newborn cases**



Pattinson, R. et al. (2021). *Born into care: Newborn babies in urgent care proceedings in England and Wales*. Summary. London: Nuffield Family Justice Observatory.

## Key Messages:

# Born into Care: Developing new best practice guidelines for when the state intervenes at birth (Mason et.al. 2023)

### Pre-birth work and ante-natal care

#### Trauma informed approach

- Early identification and help
- Continuity of relationships
- Planning and preparation
- Family inclusive practice
- Transparency and choice

### In the maternity setting

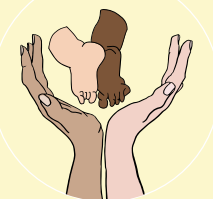
- Specialist trauma informed care
- Shame and stigma
- Impact of FJS
- Developing maternal identity
- Choice and control
- Family inclusive practice

### Post-natal care

- Psychological impact
- Poor post natal support
- Keeping connection
- Complicated and disenfranchised grief

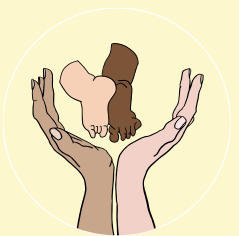
### Cross-cutting challenges

Trauma informed services  
Lack of professional support  
Timing  
Process alignment  
Inter-agency communication  
Specialist focus and resource  
Inclusion of fathers





# Insights from HOPE Mothers:



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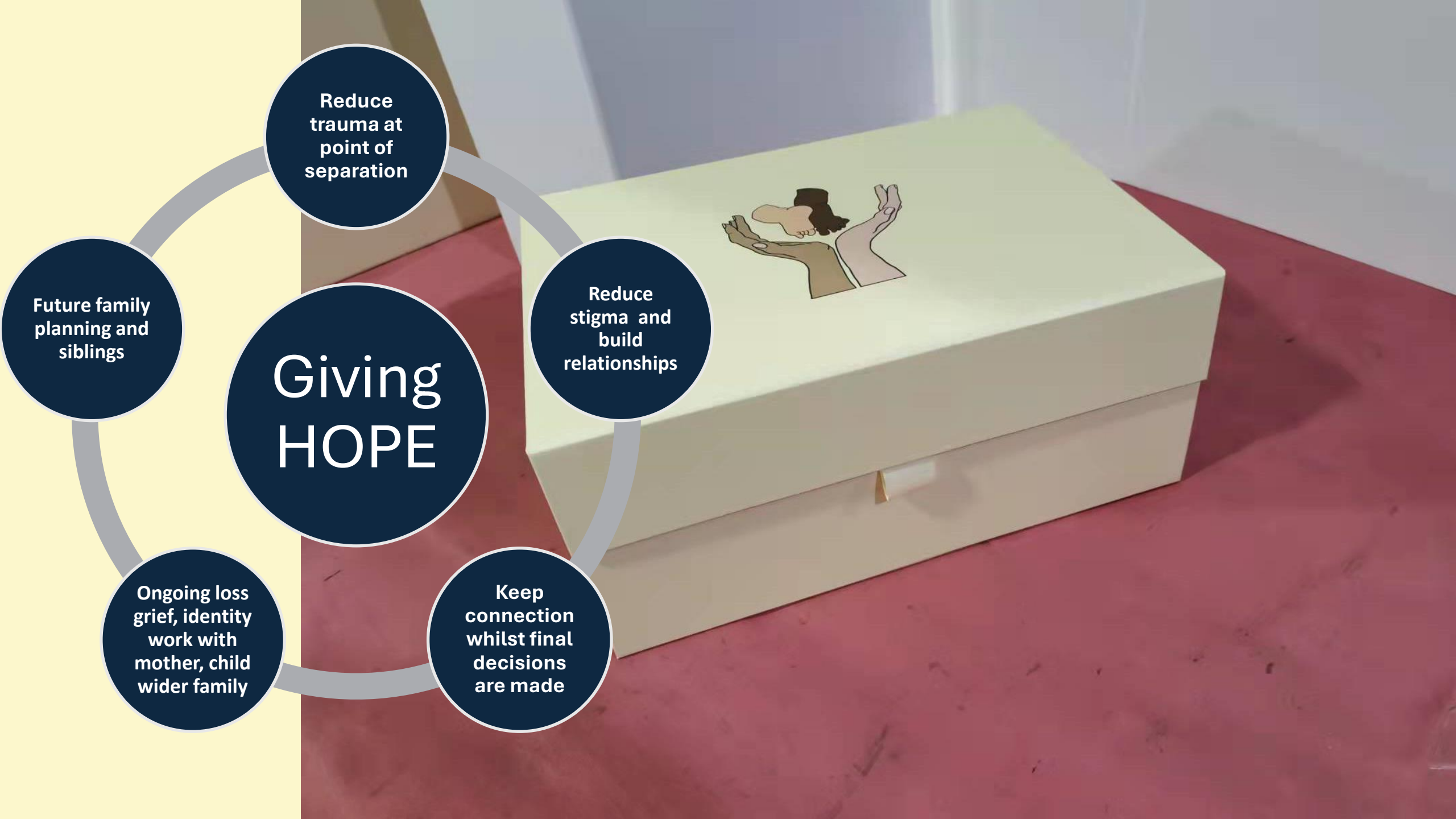


## **Giving HOPE**

*Our mission is to reduce the trauma experienced by mothers and babies separated due to safeguarding concerns.*

# The HOPE Boxes





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Reduce trauma at point of separation

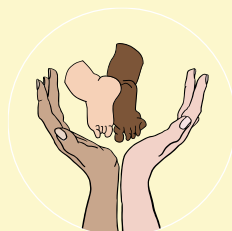
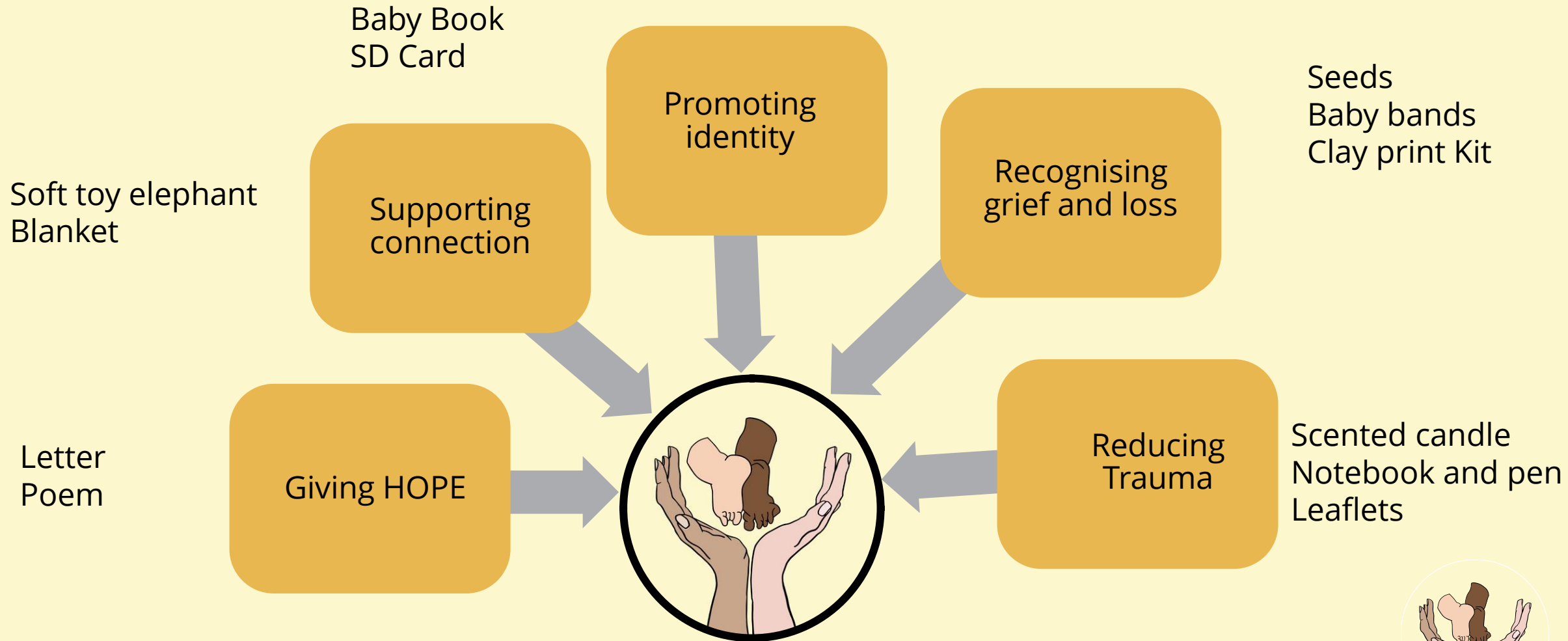
Reduce stigma and build relationships

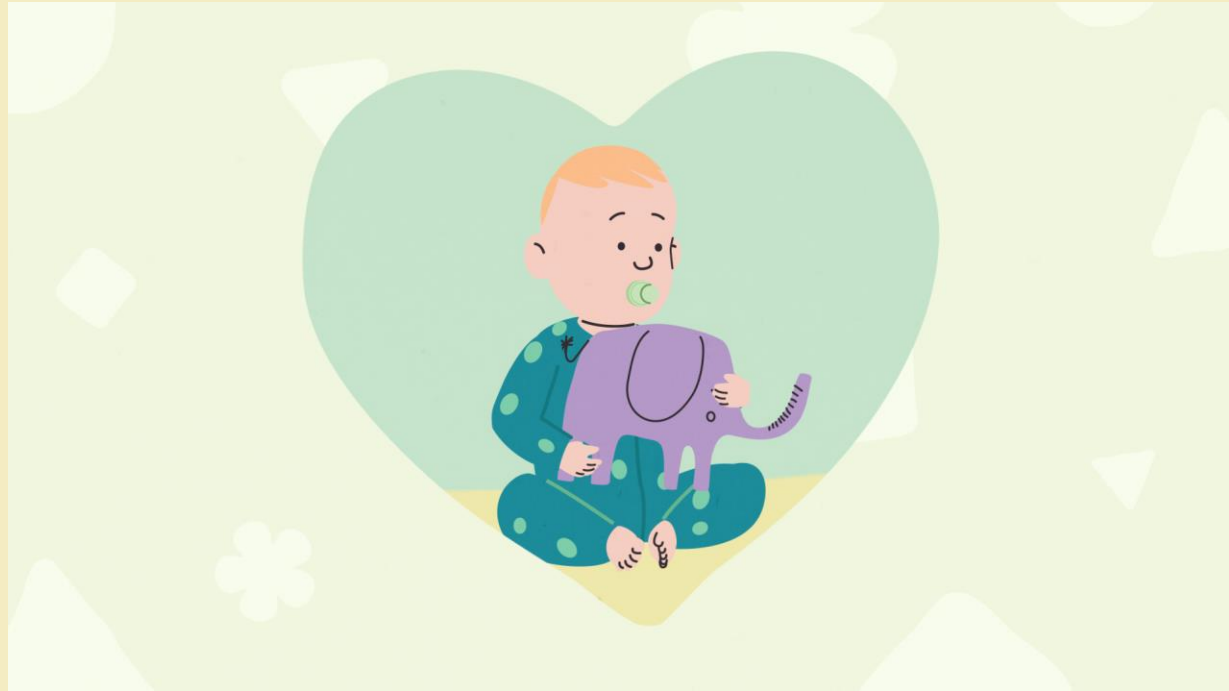
Keep connection whilst final decisions are made

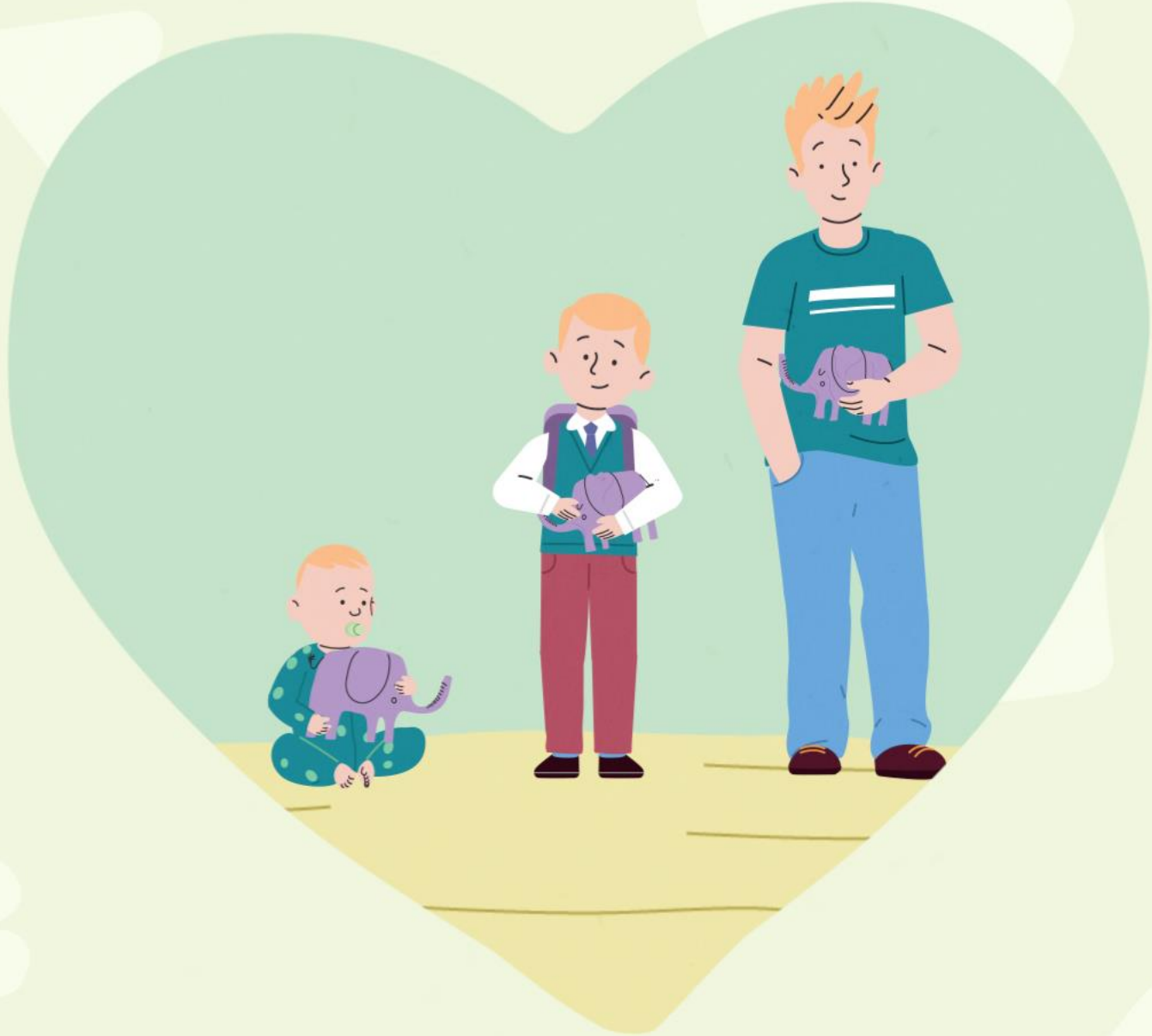
Ongoing loss grief, identity work with mother, child wider family

Future family planning and siblings

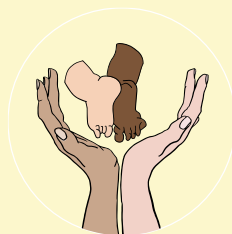
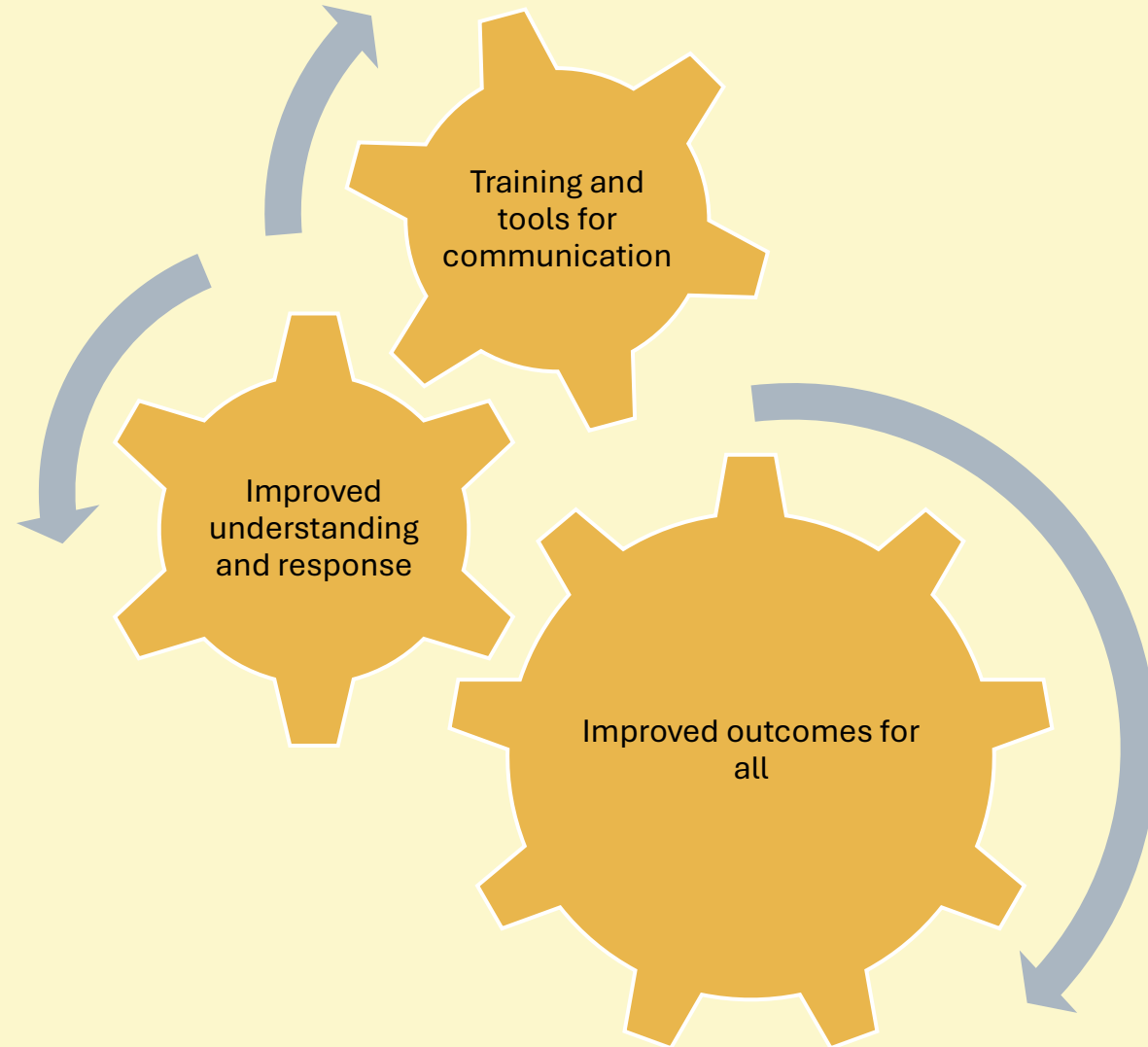
# What's in the Box?







# Thinking Outside the Box





# The Film: Giving HOPE

- Made with women and midwives to explain the purpose and promote the HOPE Boxes

Here's a short clip ...

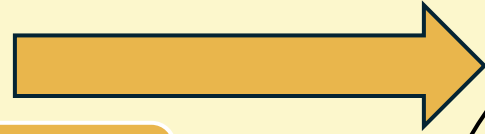
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Poem



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# Spreading HOPE



Health Trusts

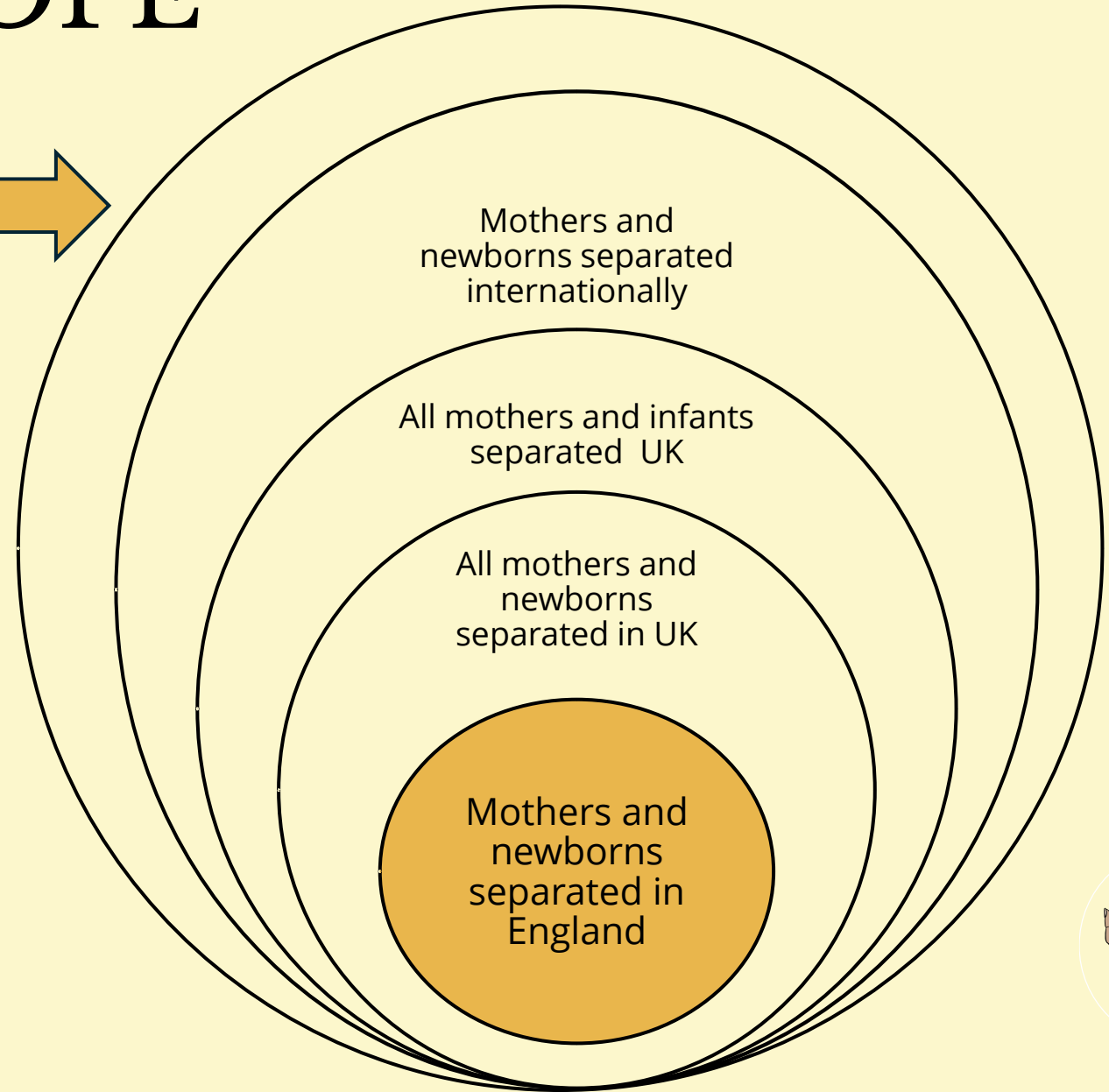
Local Authorities

Women's Prisons

Mother and Baby Units

Assessment Centres

Adoption Agencies



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