



A referral for Magu support was made by the midwifery service. Unborn is the mother's fourth child and the father's third; it is their third child together. All three previous children have been permanently removed from their care. There were long-standing concerns regarding parental substance use, poor mental health, domestic violence, and a historically chaotic lifestyle. Previously parents had not engaged with professionals and there were concerns about neglectful parenting.

MAGU supported parents with weekly visits from June 2025 to March 2026.

Both parents have consistently engaged with sessions and have used the space to explore their feelings about their current situation. They have spoken openly about their excitement for their new baby, their hopes for the future, and their desire to remain together as a family. They have also expressed feelings of grief and shame relating to their older children not being in their care. The father, in particular, shared worries about potential questions from older children if contact is re-established. This work included supporting the parents with maintaining letterbox contact, which they identified as important but historically had been inconsistent. Providing emotional support worked well for this family as it allowed them time and space to share and process their feelings and receive appropriate advice and guidance.

Both parents completed parenting sessions and GroBrain prior to the baby's arrival and engaged well throughout. Since the birth, they have demonstrated strong application of their learning, presenting as attentive and nurturing. Interactions observed during sessions have been positive and warm, with both parents speaking to and about the baby affectionately. They have taken advice on play, interaction, and developmental routines, and have been open to asking questions when uncertain about any aspects of care, such as safe sleeping arrangements or nail care. There have been no concerns regarding handling or safety.

This support from Magu worked well as it helped professionals to evidence parents' ability to have insight into their baby's needs and also helped equip parents with enhanced knowledge and understanding about their role as parents. Without this input there is a risk that parents would replicate poor parenting behaviours that previously resulted in their children not being in their care.

Both parents recognise that their relationship has improved since becoming substance-free. No concerning behaviours have been observed during sessions, and the father has appeared supportive and caring towards the mother. On one occasion, both parents acknowledged recent bickering and expressed a desire for support to prevent escalation. They were able to identify triggers and reflect on their communication. Work also focused on safety planning, managing expectations, and exploring the pressures associated with being new parents.

MAGU intervention contributed to baby remaining in parents care, and their name was removed from the Child Protection Register in January 2026. Following a short period of Care and Support Planning the family was closed to Children Services in March 2026 due to no further needs being identified.

MAGU has helped the family build trust, stability, and confidence in their parenting. With consistent, non-judgemental support, both parents became more open and willing to engage, allowing them to make meaningful progress in caring for their baby.

Their journey shows how important it is to build relationships early, especially with families who have previously felt anxious or judged by professionals.