

Parenthood for Young People In and Leaving State Care in Wales

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CASCADE

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Background to the research



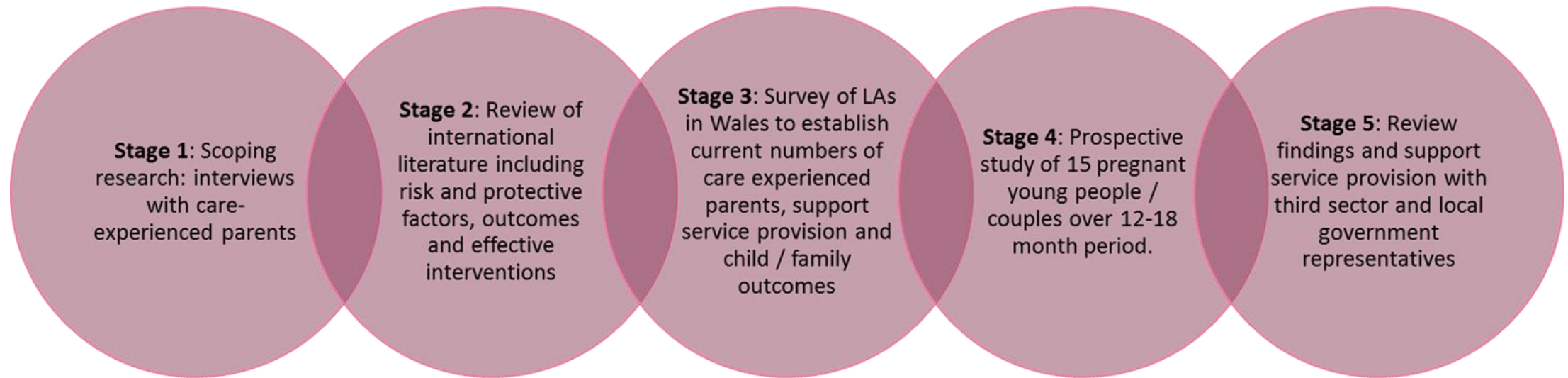
- **Idea for the research came from young people engaged with Voices from Care**
- **Widespread recognition from practice settings that this was a challenging area of practice.**

Background to the research

- **Young people who have lived in foster, residential or kinship care are more likely than the general population to become parents at a young age.**
- **Emerging international evidence suggests that young parents in or leaving state care are more likely to experience compulsory child welfare intervention and more likely to become separated from their children.**



The Research Plan



Alice's Story



Key issues ...



Stigma



Discrimination



Support

Key issues ...



Stigma

I was scared that it [care history] was a stigma that was in my mind that I was adamant that if you had been in care your child would be taken away from you, they would look at you and think you can't look after that baby and you didn't deserve that baby.

Key issues ...



Discrimination

Once they [Children's Services] found out I'd been in care that was it, they went back pulled up all the files, read them all seen what had happened ... they read those records some of which had been written ten years previously. They judged me and used it against me.



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Key issues ...

Support



My family were meant to have [child's name] every other weekend just to give me a break. But she didn't stick to that.

I went into a mother and baby placement. I didn't like it, it was like living in the Big Brother house ... they were over you 24/7. If I went anywhere in the house with the baby I had to take the baby monitor with me. The foster carer had to have the other one.

Finally ...

