

Report Title: **Report on the Scrutiny Review of Teenage Pregnancy**

Forward Plan reference number (if applicable):

Report of: **Overview and Scrutiny**

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Key Decision**

1. Purpose

- 1.1 Executive is asked to consider the key conclusions of the scrutiny review into Teenage Pregnancy and respond to each of the recommendations with an executive decision.
- 1.2 Executive is requested to agree, amend or reject each recommendation.

2. Introduction by Executive Member

- 2.1 Teenage pregnancy is a significant concern in Haringey. Although rates have fallen steadily since 2000 all Haringey wards have higher than the national rate of under-18 conceptions and 15 of the 19 Haringey wards have rates placing them in the top 20% nationally.
- 2.2 The Overview & Scrutiny report is timely. All 12 recommendations are accepted and will be implemented. They have been incorporated into the annual action plan of the multi-agency Teenage Pregnancy Strategic Partnership Board and the Children & Young People's Plan 'Changing Lives'.
- 2.3 The PCT intends to reduce the services from Family Planning clinics. This will affect provision for teenagers and we have concerns. We are seeking, through the Teenage Pregnancy Strategic Partnership Board, to agree adjustments that will ensure appropriate alternative provision is in place for teenagers. An update will be provided in the autumn.

3. Recommendations

That the Executive notes:

- the work being undertaken to implement the recommendations of the Scrutiny

Review

- our undertaking to report back on any implications of the PCT funding reductions.

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4. Director of Finance Comments

4.1 The Director of Finance has been consulted on this report and has no specific comments to make as any costs arising from acceptance of the recommendations will be met from existing resources. In addition, the Director of Finance notes the work in progress to appraise the effects of the PCGT reduction in services.

5. Head of Legal Services Comments

5.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of this report. The majority of recommendations require no specific legal comment. The comment that follows relates to Recommendation 3.1. Each school governing body is required to have a written statement of policy concerning sex and relationship education within the school. Each secondary school must provide sex education. Headteachers and school governors must have regard to the guidance on Sex and Relationship Education issued by the DfES. It is a matter for each school governing body as to whether a policy produced by the local authority should be incorporated within its own school policy.

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

7. Background

7.1 Teenage pregnancy is a significant concern in Haringey. The rate of teenage conception in Haringey was the 5th highest in London in 2003 and is consistently higher than the national average. Haringey's under-18 conception rates are the lowest they have been since 2000. They have continued to show a steady fall, although rates in Haringey are still high. All Haringey wards have higher than the national rate of under-18 conceptions and fifteen of the nineteen Haringey wards have rates placing them in the top 20% nationally.

- 7.2 Many of the family planning clinics around the borough offer special sessions exclusively for young people. This can make services more accessible to teenagers, who may find adult sexual health clinics intimidating. The review panel recommended that accessible family planning clinics are located in areas where young people need them.
- 7.3 Education about sex and relationships (SRE) is key to reducing risk-taking behaviour and teenage pregnancy and improving sexual health. The review panel recommended continued development of the SRE programme in schools as well as improved outreach to non-school settings.
- 7.4 The teenage pregnancy strategy is led by the Teenage Pregnancy Strategic Partnership Board. There is an annual Action Plan which incorporates targets from all Council strategic plans, including the Children and Young Persons' Plan – 'Changing Lives' and the Children and Young People's Participation Strategy (draft), the TPCT Sexual Health Strategy Action Plan and Connexions targets. The action plan is monitored quarterly and reported to the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board.
- 7.5 Key to monitoring impact is robust data collection and monitoring. National data is available but it reports data two years in arrears. This is a significant delay in measuring the impact of targeted initiatives and programmes. The review panel recommended the implementation of a data and information sharing protocol and the development of a single referral and data collection point.

8. Strategic Implications

- 8.1 Reducing the number of conceptions is a key community strategy floor target to reduce the under-18 conception rate by 50% by 2010 as part of a broader strategy to improve sexual health, jointly with the Department of Health. The Teenage Pregnancy Unit has also set targets for Haringey, namely: to reduce the rate of teenage conceptions among under-18 year olds by 55% by 2010; to set an established downward trends in conception rates for under-16 year olds by 2010; to increase the participation of teenage parents in education, training and employment to 60% by 2010.
- 8.2 The review came at the time when the co-ordination of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy was being transferred from Haringey Primary Care Trust to the Council and when there is a renewed impetus to improve the performance against challenging local and national targets.
- 8.3 The recommendations from the scrutiny review encompass recommendations for all parts of the Children's Service, the TPCT and other partnership members. Each partner has been fully consulted and involved in the scrutiny and fully supports the report of the review and the recommendations.

9. Equalities Implications

- 9.1 Equality implications and considerations were integral to the scrutiny review. Government-led targets for reducing the rate of under-18 conceptions apply equally to all ethnic groups. The recommendations address the differential in rates of teenage

pregnancy in different ethnic groups. The recommendations specifically state that support and or services should be targeted at identified vulnerable groups.

10. Consultation

10.1 The review panel considered evidence from a range of stakeholders as well as key documentary evidence. A full list of those consulted can be found in the Report to Overview and Scrutiny attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

11. Conclusion

11.1 The findings of the scrutiny review were presented in a report to Overview and Scrutiny in March 2006. The report gives an overview of what is currently in place as well as areas that the scrutiny panel would like to see enhanced to build upon the good work already being done. The report outlines the key conclusions of the review and makes twelve recommendations, which are accepted and will be implemented.

12. Use of Appendices / Tables / Photographs

12.1 The report of the Teenage Pregnancy Scrutiny Review Panel (sub committee), London Borough of Haringey Overview and Scrutiny Committee is attached as Appendix 1 of this report.