

NOTICE OF MEETING

Scrutiny Review - Teenage Pregnancy

MONDAY, 7TH NOVEMBER, 2005 at 18:30 HRS - CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH ROAD, WOOD GREEN, N22 8LE.

Councillors:

Councillor Judy Bax, Councillor Gideon Bull (Chair) and Councillor Melanie Simpson

Co-opted Members/Advisory Representatives:

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AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)

2. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair will consider the admission of any late items of urgent business. (Late items will be considered under the agenda item where they appear. New items will be dealt with at item 7 below. New items of exempt business will be dealt with at item 8 below).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A member with a personal interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent.

A member with a personal interest in a matter also has a prejudicial interest in that matter if the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member's judgement of the public interest.

4. MINUTES

Deferred to the next meeting.

5. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

To consider any requests received in accordance with Standing Orders.

6. STEPPING UP PROJECT EVALUATION (PAGES 1 - 8)

A presentation on the Stepping Up project evaluation carried out during 2005

7. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items admitted at item 2 above.

8. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any new items of exempt urgent business admitted at item 2 above.

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Evaluation of Stepping Up



Teenage Parents Support Project in Haringey

- **Evaluation Aims & Objectives**
 - Analyse the nature of support provided to teenage parents
 - Analyse the nature of partnership working in supporting teenage parents
 - Identify unmet needs /service gaps
 - Recommendations to guide and inform future development
- **Evaluation Methods**
 - Data monitoring
 - Interviews with project workers
 - Interviews with partner agencies
 - Focus group and interviews with teenage parents
 - Survey of all teenage parents on database

Teenage Parents Views

- **Experience of teenage mothers**
 - Discrimination
 - Isolation
 - Poor social circumstances
 - Poor emotional health
- **Contribution of Stepping Up**
 - Empathetic of needs
 - Advocacy
 - One-to-one support
 - One-stop-shop
- **Value of peer support group**
 - Space for teenage parents (as well as their children)
 - Develop social networks
 - Develops parenting knowledge & skills
 - Contributes to child development

Project workers & other services



Project workers

- **Capacity issues**
 - Case loads, Advocacy role, Complex needs of Teenage Parents, Lack of administrative support
- **Service development**
 - Post 20 support
 - Peer support group
 - Mental health provision (counselling)

Partner Agencies

- **Good working relationship with Stepping Up**
- **Geographical clarification of referrals**
 - Uncertainty of Sure Start eligibility,
 - Strong local boundaries for local youth culture
 - Blanket referrals / referrals based upon need
- **Key local developments**
 - Development of Children's Centres (with TP responsibilities)
 - Teenage Parents Nursery in Wood Green

Key findings

- **Needs of teenage mothers are complex and varied**
 - Isolation, prejudice, exclusion, limited social support
- **Stepping Up provides effective support to those teenage mothers in contact with the project**
 - Provides peer support; provides a convenient and accessible site for advice for welfare services
- **Concerns at the number of teenage parents not in contact with services**
 - Divergent opinions as to the number of teenage parents in Haringey
 - Significant numbers not in contact with services & not receiving support (ethnic groups and across Haringey)
- **Sound partnership working**
 - Collaborative working across statutory agencies
 - Further integration with voluntary sector needed
- **Significant barriers to reintegration remain**
 - Availability of childcare (overall capacity, under 12 months & educational Inst.)
 - Benefits trap for those in temporary accommodation



Strengths of local provision

- **Dedicated Provision**
 - Teenage parents more at ease and more likely to access services provided for them
- **Peer Support Group**
 - Vital role in lessening social isolation, contributing to the social development of parent and child
- **Advocacy**
 - Strong advocacy role in local provision is highly beneficial to teenage parents
- **One Stop Shop**
 - Help in negotiating a myriad of services
 - Accountability: prevents young parents being passed around the system
- **Local coordination**

Weaknesses of local provision

- **Capacity of Stepping Up**
 - Short term pressures through lack of maternity cover
- **Lack of definitive local database of TP**
 - Will help develop scale and nature of local need
 - Will need this for TP Strategy targets
 - Develop a coherent and systematic referral system (esp. from Midwifery services)
- **Undefined exit strategies for TP**
 - Complexities of age related services and benefits
 - Need to ensure smooth transition to other support services
- **Geographical service provision**
 - Need to develop services in other areas of the borough to facilitate greater access (especially peer support group)
- **Young fathers provision**
 - Remains undeveloped in Haringey
 - Need further work esp. in relation to issues with relationships and domestic violence



Key Development Priorities

- **Develop information sharing across the sector to facilitate creation of a definitive local database of teenage parents.**
- **Develop local strategy for targeting those young parents not in contact with services.**
- **Peer support group mechanism needs to be further developed to promote access to a broader spectrum of teenage parents in Haringey.**
- **Need to influence Children's Centre development to ensure that there is appropriate provision for teenage parents.**
- **Developing dedicated childcare provision for teenage parents in Haringey (in colleges that they attend)**

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