

**MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW - TEENAGE PREGNANCY
TUESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2005**

Councillors Bax and Bull (Chair)

Apologies Councillor Simpson

Also Present: Jan Doust – Head of Access and Pupil Support (The Children’s Service), Susan Shaw - Pupil Support Strategy Manager (The Children’s Service), Dibs Patel – Head of the Youth Service(The Children’s Service), Jean Croot - Head of Safer Communities Unit (The Chief Executives Service), Mostak Ahmed – Manager Asylum Service(The Children’s Service), Ann-Marie Connolly (Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust), Leo Atkins (Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust), Aysha Tegally (Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust), Telsa Walker (Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust), Delores Isaac – Families Matter, Hilda Djaba – Connexions Service. Natalie Misaljevitch – Education and Training Officer, Education for Choice.

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTON BY
SCTP17.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY) <i>None.</i>	
SCTP18.	URGENT BUSINESS <i>None.</i>	
SCTP19.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST <i>None received.</i>	
SCTP20.	MINUTES AGREED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Teenage Pregnancy Scrutiny Review Panel on 10th October 2005 and 31st October 2005 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.	
SCTP21.	DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS <i>None.</i>	

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SCTP22.	<p>TEENAGE PREGNANCY STRATEGY 2004-2006 REPORT FOUR / FIVE</p> <p>Members received a report of the Director of the Children’s Service to present the targeted strategies and programmes addressing neighbourhood “hot spots” and the needs of high-risk groups, including refugees and asylum seekers and children leaving care.</p> <p>The need to target the strategies towards some community groups requires better knowledge and understanding of how sex and relationships are discussed within those communities. Some examples from a national study were given. It was noted that abduction of teenage girls is a real fear within the Roma community.</p> <p>The Connexions Service also needs to target particular “high risk” groups of teenagers and a post has been funded by them within the 'Stepping Up' project. A report from Connexions on their targets was received.</p> <p>It was asked how teenagers are targeted and how they can access advice services. Targeting provides access to services around areas where young people congregate. Teenagers can also access services through a free telephone number and through the 4YP website. There is a link to the 4YP website on the Haringey Council website, through “Community and Leisure” and “Recreation” links.</p> <p>The implications of a high amount of asylum seekers in the borough were discussed. It was noted that other London boroughs and NASS (National Asylum Support Service) do not always notify Haringey Council of the number of asylum seekers they have placed in Haringey and better information sharing between boroughs would help to inform service needs for community services by this group. The Chair noted this point and said that he may take this issue up with the Leader of the Council.</p> <p>It was noted that this could be improved by applying the protocols we already have agreed with other boroughs on information sharing.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• That better data be collated and analysed to identify the nature and level of sexual and reproductive health needs of unaccompanied minors, teenage refugees/asylum-seekers and those leaving care.• That current sexual health, family planning and young people’s service provision be made more accessible and appropriate in light of the data analysis findings.	
SCTP23.	<p>ORAL EVIDENCE FROM NATALIE MISALJEVICH – EDUCATION & TRAINING OFFICER, EDUCATION FOR CHOICE</p> <p>A representative from Education for Choice gave a presentation to Members on sex education and choice in educational settings, with a particular focus upon pregnancy and abortion. She explained the role of</p>	

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Education for Choice and the kind of work it carries out. This includes:

- Direct work with young people
- Resources
- Training and consultancy
- Advocacy

Education for Choice (EFC) is currently working with 2 schools in Haringey. Nationally they work directly with approximately 6000 young people every year and their services are available to all "Inner London" schools. Currently EFC are working with Southwark and Lewisham. Both girls and boys tend to prefer to get advice from outside of the regular school staff and delivery by external agencies takes a lot of pressure off teachers. EFC receive funding from a range of agencies, including the Teenage Pregnancy Unit.

She discussed the reason why engaging young people on the subject of sexuality and abortion is important. Many teenagers think about the issue for the first time only when faced with this crisis in their lives. Often this is not a good time to be forced to make critical decisions. Effective sex education can enable young people to make better choices. It was pointed out that young people are in any case increasingly discussing the subject in non educational settings, such as on television, in newspapers and magazines, gossip, although these can be a less reliable source of information and allows misleading myths to prevail. It is also a part of the National School Curriculum.

It was asked at what age a teenager has the legal right to have an abortion in the UK. It is over 16 years of age. One quarter to one third of women aged under 45 has reported as having had an abortion at some point in their lives.

Engaging young men on the subject of sexuality and abortion young men about abortion was discussed. In some areas only a tiny proportion of sexual health clinic users are men.

The importance of engaging the local community on the subject of sexuality and abortion young men about abortion was discussed. Key points were:

- Women of every community have abortions
- Everyone is entitled to information
- Silence is bad for women's health

The issue of sex and contraception to young people under the age of 16 was discussed. Doctors can legally prescribe the contraceptive pill to girls under the age of 16. Sexual intercourse with someone under the age of 13 is classed as statutory rape.

The issue of confidentiality was discussed. Confidentiality is the biggest concern that young people have when making decisions about sex and

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	<p>abortion. Young people may be concerned about disclosure, including to their GP, their parents or their partner.</p> <p>Key issues that we need to be aware of are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •What different religious communities have to say about abortion •How culture affects people’s attitudes to abortion •How people’s feelings about abortion impact on their choices <p>Education for Choice lobby and assist educators to deliver good quality standards in sex and abortion education. Key points for effective sex education and discussion are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Creating a safe learning environment •An inclusive approach •Appropriate teaching materials and images •Discussing risk taking behaviour •Valuing all pregnancy choices equally •Give accurate, impartial information •Dispel fear, shame and guilt •Valuing diversity •Recognising spectrum of religious views •Exploring the ethical dilemmas •Considering external pressures •Signpost to impartial sources of advice and support •Emphasising young people’s right to informed choices <p>The view was expressed that the Council and the PCT need to lobby the Government for statutory compulsory sex education, although it was pointed out that nationally around 4% of children are withdrawn from the sex education element of PSHE in schools by their parents or guardians. It was suggested that the Council and the PCT need to ask schools and other educators to sign up to best practice for effective sex education.</p> <p>EFC’s goals for effective sex education were outlined: These include the ambition that all young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Have had a chance to think about the kinds of decisions and actions that might lead to and result from an unintended pregnancy. •Know how to use and access contraception. •Understand that they have the right to make decisions concerning their own bodies. •Are aware of the impact of alcohol and substance use on people’s ability to make choices and to use contraception. <p>AGREED: To note the presentation as evidence to the Review.</p>	
<p>SCTP24.</p>	<p>TEENAGE PREGNANCY STRATEGY 2004-2006 REPORT SIX</p> <p>Members received a report of Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust Director of Public Health to report on current and planned arrangements for multi-agency working, describe key agencies involved in the strategy,</p>	

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	<p>report on current and planned arrangements for central administration of the strategy, report on current and planned Information Sharing Mechanisms and report on joint Council and PCT Action plans and performance targets.</p> <p>AGREED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the proposed changes in arrangements for the coordination of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy • To note the joint action plan 2005/06 for progress towards meeting 2010 targets • To note the end of the ring fenced Local Implementation Grant and NRF funding in March 2006 • To note the fact that Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting projects need to be embedded in mainstream services by March 2006 	
<p>SCTP25.</p>	<p>ORAL EVIDENCE FROM TELSIA WALKER AND AYSHA TEGALLY – THE 4YP SERVICE (HARINGEY TEACHING PRIMARY CARE TRUST)</p> <p>Members received a presentation on the 4YP Service in Haringey, which provides outreach sex education targeted at young people, in particular neighbourhoods and in other community settings.</p> <p>It was noted that 4YP has contact with over 200 young people. The 4YP website www.4yp.co.uk has approximately 1500 hits a month. The service is also accessible via a free phone number, which puts people through to a recorded message to leave their contact details.</p> <p>4YP publicity material aimed at young people was distributed, it was noted that this is in the process of being updated. There is also some 4YP promotional publicity aimed at young people on some community radio stations.</p> <p>The 4YP Bus is a mobile unit that moves around to different locations at different times to target “high risk” groups of teenagers. Members of the Review have already visited the bus to see what it is like.</p> <p>It was asked if the Youth Service is able to access free condoms for distribution to teenagers. The feasibility of this is being discussed. It was noted that young men tend to prefer not to access condoms in clinical settings.</p> <p>AGREED: To note the presentation as evidence to the Review.</p>	
<p>SCTP26.</p>	<p>NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS</p>	
<p>SCTP27.</p>	<p>NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS</p>	

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GIDEON BULL

Chair