

NOTICE OF MEETING

Scrutiny Review - Teenage Pregnancy

TUESDAY, 15TH 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: Mary Rogers - Government Office for London

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 8 below. New items of exempt business will be dealt with at item 9 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 (PAGES 1 - 8)

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Teenage Pregnancy Scrutiny Review Panel on 10th October 2005 and 31st October 2005.

5. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

To consider any requests received in accordance with Standing Orders.

6. TEENAGE PREGNANCY STRATEGY 2004-2006 REPORT FOUR / FIVE

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.

7. TEENAGE PREGNANCY STRATEGY 2004-2006 REPORT SIX

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, 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.

8. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items admitted at item 2 above.

9. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS

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

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**MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY
10TH OCTOBER 2005**

MEMBERS: Cllr Gideon Bull* (Chairman), Cllr Judy Bax*, Cllr Melanie Simpson*.

(*Members present).

ALSO PRESENT:

Jan Doust - Head of Access and Pupil Support (The Children's Service), Susan Shaw - Pupil Support Strategy Mgr & Inclusion, Hamid Khan –Housing Needs Manager (Housing Services), Andrew Powells - Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Coordinator, Leo Atkins - Teenage Pregnancy Team Consultant, J. Ambler – Midwife (The Whittington NHS Trust), Mary Rogers – Expert Advisor to the Review.

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

13. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

14. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Deferred to the next meeting of the Review.

15. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS, IF ANY, IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None received.

16. MINUTES

AGREED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Teenage Pregnancy Scrutiny Review Panel held on 8th August 2005 and 5th September 2005 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of the proceedings.

17. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

None.

18. EXPERT ADVISOR TO THE REVIEW

The Chair introduced Mary Rogers from the Department for Education and Skills and explained that she has agreed to act in the capacity of Expert Advisor to the Scrutiny Review. Mary Rogers gave Members a brief summary of her vocational background and expertise and how she would be able to assist in the Review.

AGREED: to appoint Mary Rogers as an Expert Advisor to the Scrutiny Review Panel.

19. TEENAGE PREGNANCY STRATEGY 2004-2006 - Report One

Members considered a report of the Director of the Children's Service to provide an overview of the background to the national and local teenage pregnancy strategies and to inform Members of the local strategy and action plan.

It was explained that hitherto and up until the end of the week, responsibility for co-ordination of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy was with Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust.

Report One highlighted the significant challenges that Haringey faces in meeting government targets for reducing teenage conceptions. There has been some progress made in the last couple of years towards improvements but meeting the targets remains a very considerable challenge. Haringey's performance against teenage conception targets is very similar to other London boroughs with a similar demographic profile, e.g. Lewisham, Lambeth, Hackney and Southwark.

The statistics for teenage conceptions outlined in the report were discussed. Members requested a ward by ward breakdown of teenage pregnancies / conception rates for the borough.

The relationship between teenage pregnancy and housing was discussed. Housing for teenage parents is provided in partnership with Circle 33 and Supporting People. There is a phased withdrawal of using the homelessness designation as a route into housing for teenage parents. Referral systems are being developed through partner agencies and services, e.g. through Sure Start (although Sure Start has hitherto been limited to only certain parts of the borough).

Officers advised that there is a popular myth that housing is an incentive for young people to become pregnant, but that when young mothers are interviewed they give very different reasons.

The relationship between risky sexual behaviour (sexually transmitted diseases etc) and teenage pregnancy was discussed. The Expert Advisor said that there is a 90% chance of becoming pregnant if one has unsafe sex for a year.

20. TEENAGE PREGNANCY STRATEGY 2004-2006 - Report Two

Members considered a report of the Director of the Children's Service to provide an overview of preventative strategies, including educational initiatives and child protection and safeguarding.

The report focused on the preventative strategies that are in place within

universal services such as schools and other settings and outlined the arrangements for safeguarding and protecting the welfare of young people in relation to teenage pregnancy.

Annex One of the report included the local action plan 2004-2006 for the implementation of the teenage pregnancy strategy, which outlines work on prevention through sex and relationships education (SRE) and sets out the detail of the work that is planned to ensure that children and young people have access to high quality SRE within universal settings.

AGREED:

- To note that the statutory framework for teaching SRE.
- To note the importance of education initiatives in preventing teenage pregnancy
- To recommend that the officers accelerate work with secondary headteachers and governors to ensure that the importance of SRE is understood as a key lever to prevent the incidence of teenage pregnancy
- To recommend that officers work with headteachers and governors to ensure that there is increased take-up of training for PSHE coordinators, leading to improved quality and impact of teaching.
- To request that Members of the Review Panel receive a further report on SRE, including the engagement of secondary schools, in March 2006.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

COUNCILLOR GIDEON BULL

Chair – Scrutiny Review of Teenage Pregnancy

Date:

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**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY
31ST OCTOBER 2005**

MEMBERS: Cllr Gideon Bull* (Chairman), Cllr Judy Bax*, Cllr Melanie Simpson.

(*Members present).

ALSO PRESENT:

Jan Doust - Head of Access and Pupil Support (The Children's Service), Susan Shaw - Pupil Support Strategy Manager, Anne-Marie Connolly – Director of Public Health (Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust), Donna Martin – Stepping Up Programme Manager, J. Ambler – Midwife (The Whittington NHS Trust).

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

22. URGENT BUSINESS

Written evidence from Barnet, Enfield & Haringey Maternity Services Liaison Committee.

Written evidence was received and tabled from Barnet, Enfield & Haringey Maternity Services Liaison Committee. Barnet Enfield & Haringey Maternity Services Liaison Committee is a specialist user involvement forum, which brings together user representatives and health professionals in the area, to develop women-centred maternity services which are appropriate, acceptable and accessible to the local population. It is accountable jointly to the Boards of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Primary Care Trusts.

AGREED: To consider and comment on this evidence at a future meeting of the Review Panel.

23. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Deferred to the next meeting of the Review.

24. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS, IF ANY, IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None received.

25. MINUTES

Deferred until the next meeting.

26. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

None.

27. TEENAGE PREGNANCY STRATEGY 2004-2006 Report Three

Members considered a report of Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust Director of Public Health to provide an overview of the factors affecting teenage parents; to inform Members of the local strategy and action plan for supporting teenage parents; and to provide information on support for teenage parents in Haringey, including advice services, counselling services, maternity services, childcare availability.

The post of Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Coordinator at Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust is now vacant. It was explained that the Pupil Support Strategy Manager at Haringey Council Children's Service will now take on the responsibilities of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Coordinator, now that that post is vacant, until a new appointment is made.

This new role will not be appointed in the imminent future and will depend upon the imminent re-development of services. The new appointment, when it is made, will sit within the Children's Service, and will take the lead in pulling together all of the community services for teenage pregnancy together.

It was asked what proportion of teenage conceptions go through to childbirth. It was estimated that 30% of conceptions at age 14 go through to childbirth, rising to 50-70% towards age 18.

Officers were asked about the referral mechanisms for teenage parents from GPs to services they need. GPs in Haringey refer pregnancies to either the Whittington NHS Trust or the North Middlesex University Hospital. Both hospitals are aware of the Stepping Up programme and refer teenage parents.

It was asked if the Stepping Up programme is just for one area of Haringey – it was informed that the service is available to everyone across Haringey, although the service is based in Northumberland Park. It is intended to extend the links across other areas of the borough through the new Children's Centres.

Stepping Up currently supports 203 teenage parents. Stepping Up refers teenage parents to a range of other services according to their needs, e.g. welfare and benefits, housing services etc. Support services for teenage parents are now being re-organised and the lead will in future be from the Children's Service at Haringey Council. Members discussed the need to integrate the Stepping Up programme into other support and prevention services within the Children's Service.

Members enquired about referral for teenage parents in need of housing. The majority of teenage parents referred into social housing become "homeless", although they are encouraged to stay at home with their parents for as long as possible, if appropriate.

Members asked how close the council and the PCT are to meeting the key targets for teenage pregnancy. The rate of conception was seen to fall for the first time last year, but it is too early to see if a downward trend will emerge. Meeting targets towards getting more teenage parents into employment, education or training would be helped by an increase in support staff, should this be feasible and cost effective. There is a need to focus and target on identified high risk neighbourhoods and schools.

The links between teenage pregnancy prevention services and sex education and information services were explored. It was decided to invite an officer from St Ann's sexual health clinic to attend a meeting of the Scrutiny Panel.

AGREED:

- **To note the support for teenage parents in Haringey, including advice services, counselling services, maternity services, childcare availability;**
- **To note the National target for reducing long term Social Exclusion for Teenage Parents**
- **To consider the staffing requirements of the Stepping Up programme in the final recommendations of the Review.**
- **To invite an officer from St Ann's sexual health clinic to attend a meeting of the Scrutiny Panel.**

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

COUNCILLOR GIDEON BULL

Chair – Scrutiny Review of Teenage Pregnancy

Date:

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