

Teenage Pregnancy Scrutiny Review Panel On Date 31st October 2005

Teenage Pregnancy Strategy 2004-2006	
Report of: Haringey Director Public Health	
Ward(s) affected: All	Report for: Information
1. Purpose 1.1 To provide an overview of the factors affecting teenage parents; 1.2 To inform Members of the local strategy and action plan for supporting teenage parents; 1.3 To provide information on support for teenage parents in Haringey, including advice services, counselling services, maternity services, childcare availability;	
2. Recommendations 2.1 To provide an overview of the factors affecting teenage parents; 2.2 To note the support for teenage parents in Haringey, including advice services, counselling services, maternity services, childcare availability; 2.3 To note the National target for reducing long term Social Exclusion for Teenage Parents 2.4 To advise on possible future funding and management opportunities for Stepping Up	
Report authorised by: Dr Ann Marie Connolly; Director of Public Health, HTPCT	
Contact officer: Marcia Oughton, Teenage Pregnancy Team Administrator 020 8442 6749	
3. Executive Summary Teenage pregnancy has been associated with many factors including poor economic and social conditions, a lack of education or even low aspiration. Regardless of its cause, teenage pregnancy itself may contribute to poor health, education and social conditions of both parents and child. Interventions are therefore necessary to prevent teenage pregnancies from first occurring and to support those teenagers who become pregnant. The mains sources of support for teenage parents in Haringey are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teenage Parents Reintegration Officer – supporting teenage parents aged 16 and under to continue with their statutory education. • Stepping Up - a support service, providing advice, information and practical help and support for teenage parents aged 16-19 in Haringey. Families Matter – Advice, information and support to parents under the age of 24.	

4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development

No change of policy is indicated.

5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Social Exclusion Unit Report – Teenage Pregnancy June 1999

National Evaluation of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy June 2005

Teenage Pregnancy Unit – Targets and Indicators

Background

1. In 1999 the Social Exclusion Unit published its report on teenage pregnancy. This set out a national strategy for England. Within the national strategy were the 2010 targets:
 - to increase the participation of teenage parents in education, training and employment to 60% by 2010 so as to reduce their risk of long term social exclusion;
 - to reduce the rate of conceptions among under 18 year olds by 15% by 2004, and by 50% by 2010;
 - to set a firmly established downward trend in conception rates for under 16 year olds by 2010; and
2. A significant proportion of teenage mothers are lone parents, thus relatively little is known about teenage fathers. However, research among teenage parents has highlighted that there are a number of negative outcomes associated with being a teen parent which affect the health and welfare of parents and their children.
3. Poor health outcomes:
 - Teenage parents present later with health care officials and therefore may miss out on important aspects to antenatal care.
 - Teenage parents more likely to smoke than other parents.
 - Teenage parents are more likely to suffer poor nutrition.
 - Teenage parents also experience higher levels of mental health need. Almost two teenage mothers in every five experience post natal depression. This is three times higher than for other parents.
4. Poor education outcomes:
 - Teenage parents are more likely to have experienced disruption to their education and are less likely to complete educational studies than other young people of a similar age.
 - Longitudinal studies demonstrate that teenage parents were less likely to have any formal qualifications at age 33. They are more likely to be in receipt of benefits, less likely to be homeowners and if in employment, more likely to be in unskilled or manual work.
 - There is strong evidence that teenage parents are more reliant on welfare benefits for income and for longer periods of time than other lone parents.
5. Poor housing situations:
 - 40% of teenage parents under 20 will not live in their own home and 80% of under 18s will not live in their own home.

- Given the prevalence of family breakdown, a significant proportion of teenage parents may live in (semi) independent housing away from family or social networks.
 - Initial housing provision may involve substantive periods of time in temporary accommodation, such as Bed & Breakfast.
 - Many teenage parents will move home before and after the birth of their child.
6. Poor familial/ social support networks:
- Teenage parents are more likely to experience family conflict.
 - Teenage parents are more likely to experience relationship breakdown and therefore be lone parents.
 - Longer term, teenage parents are more likely to become divorced or separated at age 33.
7. Poor outcomes for children of teenage parents:
- Lower birth weights are reported to children of teenage parents.
 - Lower rates of breast-feeding are recorded among teenage mothers.
 - Children are more likely to be living in a lone parent family, in higher levels of socio-economic and health need.
 - Infant mortality and morbidity is higher for children of teenage parents.

Current performance in Haringey

8. Currently, because of the ways that information is collected, there is no definitive data available on the number of teenage parents living in Haringey but local estimates indicate this to be between 280 and 500.

Stepping Up

9. Stepping Up was formed in September 2003 to provide a range of advice and support services to assist teenage parents in Haringey. An independent evaluation of Stepping Up was completed in August 2005.
10. The project is aimed at 16-19 year olds in Haringey who are expecting or who have had their baby. The project is collaboratively funded through Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF), the Haringey PCT, Connexions and Sure Start.
11. Stepping Up is based at the Neighbourhood Resource Centre in Northumberland Park in Haringey (N17). The project is staffed by one full time manager/generic support worker from Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust (TPCT), a dedicated Sure Start worker and dedicated Connexions personal adviser.
12. The Project Objectives are to:
- set up a one stop shop of support services to meet the needs of teenage parents in Haringey;
 - provide peer support through a teenage parents support group;
 - empower teenage parents (self esteem building, developing confidence, developing life skills such as independent living, parenting);
 - remove barriers to preventing teenage parents continuing in education or training or employment;

- increase the numbers of teenage parents accessing education, training and employment;
 - reduce the numbers of teenage parents entering the criminal justice system;
 - assist in reducing the number of second pregnancies, unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections;
 - set up and maintain data on teenage parents in Haringey;
 - work with other providers to improve the way that they currently work with teenage parents.
13. In accordance with these aims the Stepping Up Project offers the following services to teenage parents:
- a one-stop-shop for advice on education, training, employment, housing and welfare benefits;
 - advocacy for teenage parents in supporting their health and welfare needs;
 - a weekly teenage parents support group with a programme of planned activities and contributions from in-house and external professionals, (e.g. play-workers, Health Visitors, EET advisers, midwives);
 - one-to-one support;
 - appropriate referral to other support services.
14. Haringey Young People's Counsellor and the HTPCT Young People's Contraceptive and Family Planning Nurse also support the project with regular sessions. The prescribing nurse provides a greater opportunity for young parents to access comprehensive family planning advice to prevent unintended further pregnancies.
15. In total, 174 referrals were made to the project between September 2003 and July 2005.
16. The annual number of referrals to Stepping Up has risen. In 2004, the project received 84 referrals. In the first six months of 2005, 60 referrals have already been received. The project currently receives approximately 30 referrals each quarter.
17. Anecdotal evidence from supporting parents' projects in Haringey and Enfield indicates that refugees and asylum seekers form one-third of the parents attending. A large-scale piece of work involving the Policy Studies Institute and independent consultants is currently underway to identify the sexual health needs of unaccompanied minors in Enfield and Haringey.
18. Peer researchers have been recruited and trained from 4YP staff to support this project, which will work in close partnership with the Refugee and Asylum Team.
19. Additional work is planned to determine whether conceptions amongst the population of refugee and asylum seekers occur before or after arrival in Haringey and the possible barriers to the take up of early antenatal care.

Supported Housing

20. Supported housing for teenage parents is included in the 5-year Supporting People Strategy, and the Homelessness Strategy. The Housing Strategy is currently being up-dated and will include links to the Homelessness Strategy in which Teenage Parents appear. There is a specific action in the homelessness strategy action plan on the provision of support to teenage parents.
21. In Haringey there are currently 11 units, of which five provide medium to high support and six low to medium independent units, provided by Patchwork Housing Association. Circle 33 now has 8-10 independent units with support provided through EPIC Trust.

Education, Employment and Training

22. School-age parents continue to be supported through the Teenage Pregnancy Reintegration Project. The aim of the project officer (TPRO) is to ensure that these school-age pregnant girls and parents - usually mothers – have access to appropriate educational opportunities.
23. The DfES has produced guidance on the education of school-age parents and this has been circulated by the TPRO to all secondary schools in Haringey. The TPRO and the school work together with the young person to encourage them to stay in school. Schools make work available for the young person to complete at home during maternity leave and the TPRO supports the development of and engagement in any individual programmes of provision.
24. However, many young girls have had a pattern of poor attendance at school or lack of engagement in education prior to conception or the birth of their baby. The aim of the reintegration project is to engage these young women in appropriate educational experiences.
25. Support is available through the Children's Service provision at the Tuition Service for those pregnant schoolgirls and school-age parents who have medical needs which prevent them from accessing mainstream, for those awaiting an appropriate school placement because they are newly arrived in the Borough or who have previously not been engaged in education.
26. The Reintegration Project and the Tuition Service work closely with Connexions. At the end of the academic year those teenage parents who are no longer school age will be referred to the Connexions PA for Teenage Parents 16-19.
27. There are close working relationships between the Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator (TPC), the Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board and Connexions. The TPC (both past and acting) is a member of the Connexion Local Management Committee and also of the Connexions NEET (Not in Education, Employment, Training) sub-group. The Connexions manager is a member of the partnership board.
28. In September 2003, Connexions recruited a dedicated Personal Adviser (PA) for Teenage Parents. This has led to better data being available on the engagement of teenage parents in education, employment and training. Work with the TPRO and schools for those of year 11 age also means that they are included in the work of Connexions and Prospects in respect of the 'September Offer'.

29. The PA has actively referred parents aged 16+ to Entry to Employment (E2E) training-providers such as Haringey Adult Learning Service (HALS), the Harrington scheme and JHP Training. Those with ESOL needs are referred to HALS. The PA has also developed good links with all local colleges, ARCO Plus, the housing department and the employment service.
30. A resource centre has been established at the Northumberland Road Centre, which for one day a week will be dedicated to teenage parents. They will be able to access careers guidance computer packages and support to develop their CVs.
31. JHP Training continues to run the Young Mums To Be (YMTB) Project, which all pregnant teenagers are made aware of.

Support for Teenage Parents

32. There are now five Area Sure Start Programmes in the Borough. The Park Lane (which encompasses Northumberland Park) Programme Manager has been designated the strategic lead for the work with teenage parents from across the Borough.
33. Three of the Sure Start Programmes (Park, Roundway and High Cross) have contributed funding towards a new Teenage Parents Support Worker to work across the three programmes. The worker is based with 'Stepping Up' and the Connexions PA and will have a responsibility for developing work around parenting and child development.
34. Discussions have taken place with the head of midwifery services at North Middlesex Hospital and senior midwifery managers at the Whittington Hospital. All are keen to develop dedicated services but currently the lack of resources and staff shortages at North Middlesex make this difficult. Nevertheless, there is a working group, which meets regularly to look at ways to develop a dedicated service. Expectant teenage mothers are invited monthly to the North Middlesex for parenting in education antenatal classes; a dedicated Community Midwife and the Co-ordinator of Families Matter facilitate this.

CHILDCARE AVAILABILITY

35. Dedicated childcare places for teenage parents have been and continue to be an issue. Currently there are no dedicated places within any of the Local Authority's day care services, although there are some places for babies.
36. The College of North East London has limited spaces for young parents who are studying at the college. Families Matter have recently developed a nursery specifically for young parents aged up to 19. The nursery cares for babies up to the age of 15 months. However, the service is quite a distance from the schools and colleges local to the majority need, which some of the parents see as an additional barrier.
37. The development of childcare placements either in nurseries or with child-minders, that are readily accessible to teenage parents, particularly those of school age, is

an area that needs to be developed to encourage teenage parents back into education or training.

38. All parents under the age of 19 and accessing education or training are entitled to the Care to Learn Grant, which assists with childcare fees. It is recognised that across London the grant does not cover the costs of child-minding or nursery places.

Annex A

Summary of Feedback received from TPU in June 2005 on Haringey's local teenage pregnancy annual report and updated action plan relating to support for teenage parents

Teenage parent support programmes – good, but there needs to be a clearer forward plan and milestones for the delivery of education support.

The TPU identified the following areas within our strategy as requiring further development. We set out in the table below the actions that are being taken locally to address these areas:

Areas for further development	Actions being taken to address these
Date should be set for delivering consistent midwifery and parenthood service	The heads of midwifery and the lead health visitors from the TPCT will be attending the Partnership Board from September. At present budget constraints are preventing the appointment of a lead midwife for teenage parents. This will be the subject of urgent discussion at the September partnership board meeting.
Gap in sexual health visitor in the 4YP clinic needs to be addressed;	The TPCT is completely reorganising sexual health and 4YP provision. There will be an integrated structure within the revised provision, with an increase in resources to support young people and the settings that support them. The development of the sexual health clinic will enhance these resources.
Formalise arrangements for a "virtual team" of key professionals supporting teenage parents to enable coordination of individual packages of care.	To be developed through the Teenage Parents Support Sub-group of the Partnership Board.
Forward Actions for Teenage Parents Support Plans are vague with few milestones, particularly on Education	Concrete plans are in the process of development following the evaluation of Stepping Up. The Teenage Parents Support Sub-group of the Partnership Board is developing these.
Concerns about the availability of childcare; has a needs assessment been carried out?	Beverly Johnson has been employed by Early Years with a remit to review all childcare provision in the Borough.