

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)**