

**MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY  
10<sup>TH</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> August 2005 and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 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

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**COUNCILLOR GIDEON BULL**

Chair – Scrutiny Review of Teenage Pregnancy

Date: