

**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: