

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee
Thursday 24th July 2008

TEENAGE PREGNANCY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. This report gives a brief update on progress on the Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan

Background

2. The Teenage Pregnancy Strategy in Wiltshire is overseen by the Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board, consisting of representatives of all the main agencies involved, particularly within children's services and health. There are two county councillor representatives. Teenage Sexual Health is a key target within the 2008/11 Wiltshire Children and Young People's Plan, and this is also overseen by the Board, reporting to the overall Children and Young People's Trust.
3. In March 2007 as part of the national Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, the Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board and relevant heads of service were required to complete a self-assessment set against 10 characteristics identified by research into areas where they had successfully reduced their teenage conception rate (Deep Dives). An action plan was then drawn up on the basis of this research. The action plan was subsequently updated and adopted by the Board in June 2008.
4. In March 2008 a further self-assessment was completed against recommendations on how to support young parents back into training, education and employment.

The Wiltshire Teenage Pregnancy Strategy

5. The two main targets of the Wiltshire Teenage Pregnancy Strategy are:
 - **To reduce teenage conceptions by 50% by 2010 from the baseline rate in 1998**
 - **To increase young mothers engagement in training, education and employment by 60% by 2010**
6. The current strategy is linked to the other four strands of the PSA target for youth (Positive Activities, NEET, First time offenders and substance misuse) through its new position within the Targeted Support area of the integrated Services for Young People.
7. Historically, Wiltshire has had a relatively low rate of under 18 conceptions compared to the national, regional and statistical neighbour rates. In 2006 Wiltshire had 30.7 conceptions per 1000 girls aged under 18, compared to 40.4 per 1000 in the U.K and 32.9 per 1000 in the South West .Wiltshire also has a low under 16 conception rate (per 1000 girls), 5.5 compared to the national rate of 7.9

8. However the rate of reduction in Wiltshire has decreased since 2004 when Wiltshire was on target, to a reduction of 4.3% (2006). This will mean a rapid acceleration of the strategy in order to meet the 50% target. Wiltshire has several “hotspots” (wards where the rate of teenage conception is above 60 per 1000 girls), principally Bemerton Health in Salisbury and several wards in Trowbridge and Westbury. Smaller hotspots exist in Calne, Warminster, Chippenham, Devizes Melksham, and the Amesbury/Tidworth area. Work has been concentrated in these hotspots since 2007 in order to address the setback. Recent figures for the six highest hotspot wards indicate that the strategy appears to be having an effect, with an overall reduction in numbers of teenage pregnancies in those areas between 2003/05 and 2005/07.

The Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Action Plan

9. Significant progress has been made over the past year in the following areas identified in the action plan

a) Communication with partner organisations, young people, parents and communities.

The Teenage Pregnancy Team informs partners, young people and parents in a variety of ways:

- by producing a range of materials such as: leaflets, posters and toilet door stickers to inform young people about the No worries scheme(specific young persons sexual health services)
- by putting local information on national and local websites

www.ruthinking.co.uk,
www.sparksite.co.uk,(YDS)

www.wiltshirepathways.co.uk,
www.slipperyfish.org.uk

- by developing resources for young parents such as a directory with local services and a Young Parents Learning Pathway Leaflet.
- by producing pregnancy and postnatal packs for young parents for midwives and health visitors which contain a Connexions referral card as well as information on Care to Learn(funding for childcare and travel) and contraception
- by producing a Sexual Health pack for foster carers and residential care workers to discuss with Looked after Children
- by producing Sexual Health packs for Looked After Children who attend our self-esteem groups

All these are produced in consultation with young people themselves

b) Provision of young people focused contraception and sexual health services which are trusted by teenagers and well known by professionals working with them.

The Teenage Pregnancy Team have set-up “No Worries”, a scheme which offers sexual health services for young people in a variety of settings:

- 29 GP Practices (out of 63) offering full contraception and advice service on a daily emergency basis
- 18 Pharmacies offering Emergency Hormonal Contraception, condoms and pregnancy testing in targeted areas
- All 3 Wiltshire Colleges offer condom distribution, Chlamydia screening and pregnancy testing and a full Sexual Health service in Salisbury College
- All 24 Youth Centres (100%) offer a condom introduction scheme and will offer full condom distribution from June 2008
- 5 young peoples housing schemes offer condom distribution
- 4 multi agency drop-ins in schools offering condom distribution with another 5 starting in September. The vision is for every Extended School to offer a drop-in by April 09
- The Aftercare team, Children’s Rights Officer, Looked After Children’s Nurse and some voluntary agencies offer condom distribution to vulnerable young people

The scheme is evaluated annually and in 2007, 2,096 young people used the scheme, 578 more than the previous year.

In a questionnaire to young people using No Worries in February 2007, 97% said they would use the service again.

72% of 14-18 year olds said they knew about No Worries in a questionnaire to Tomorrow’s Voice, a survey to 11-18 year olds across Wiltshire in winter 2007.

Trowbridge College was shortlisted for a Brook award for innovative partnership working, for their condom distribution and Chlamydia screening drop-ins.

A Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) pathway for use with Primary Care and Contraception and sexual health services has been developed by the Wiltshire Sexual Health Strategy and Implementation groups to improve uptake of LARC by young women.

c) Working with the Youth Service.

The Youth Development Service of Wiltshire Services to Young People is very committed to working with young people on sexual health issues. There is an annual agreement between the Service and the Teenage Pregnancy Partnership that:

- Teenage Pregnancy and the PCT Health Promotion team deliver training on sexual health and the “Delay” message to youth workers
- The YDS promote and signpost to the No Worries service through posters and leaflets, Sparksite and The Line - confidential advice and information

available via text, email and telephone

- YDS delivers Relationships and Sexual Health Education guided by a policy and supported by training (this work includes residential experiences with the computer babies)
- Youth Workers will offer condom introduction to young people and give out the No Worries condom card so that young people can access condoms. They will offer full condom distribution by June 08
- In 2007 the YDS – Youth Arts Partnership ran a project in 8 areas to focus on the Delay message called Drama Express, with vulnerable young people who usually do not have the opportunity to be involved in Arts projects.
- Young Assessors, developed and trained through YDS/S for YP - have undertaken Mystery Shopping of the No Worries service

d) Targeted work with at risk groups in particular Looked After Children (LAC) and care leavers

In 2007 the key focus of the Teenage Pregnancy Team was on targeting Looked After Children and the 9 hotspot areas (areas with high teenage conception rates).

Looked After Children:

In 2007 there were only 3 teenage mothers Looked After in Wiltshire, and in 2008 only 1. All of these are now over 16 and are no longer looked after within the formal care system, although they continue to be offered support through the after care service.

- The Children's Rights Officer, the Looked After Children's Nurse and youth workers set- up two single sex groups of Looked After young people to address self-esteem and sexual health. The girls group have developed a film to show to County Councillors and to be used for training.
- Sexual health packs have been developed for young people and their carers
- The Sexual Health in Care Policy has been updated
- Training was developed and delivered to foster carers, social workers and residential care workers

Hotspots (wards with a teenage conception rate of over 60 per 1000 girls under 18) working with Extended schools co-ordinators:

- Plan drawn up on how to tackle teenage pregnancies on Bemerton Heath (highest rate area) with all local agencies, sexual health and Delay training delivered and consultation completed to set-up multi-agency drop-in
- Multi-agency drop-ins set-up in 2 secondary schools in Trowbridge, and sexual health and Delay training delivered
- Multi-agency drop-ins being developed in Melksham, Calne, Devizes, Westbury, Malmesbury and sexual health and Delay training delivered to 2 more areas

e) Workforce Training on sex and relationship issues within mainstream partner agencies;

- In Wiltshire we have developed Sexual Health training (Locality Training) which has been delivered to all those working with young people in all the hotspot areas; Bemerton Heath, Trowbridge, Calne, Devizes, Warminster/ Westbury and Durrington. All Connexions area teams have also received training on sexual health in 2007.
- Six professionals in Wiltshire have now been trained to deliver Delay training to those working with young people. This is training to support young people to make choices that feel right for them. Teenage Pregnancy and Health Promotion have tailored the Delay training to suit Wiltshire and delivered it in Melksham, Trowbridge and Bemerton Heath.

f) Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) in schools:

The engagement of schools has been enhanced by the Healthy Schools Programme requiring every school to have an effective SRE policy and programme. Wiltshire is on target for 75% of schools achieving HSS by 2009.

The PSHE Certification programme is continuing to help to improve the delivery by teachers in schools. An extensive programme of central and school-based training has raised the profile and quality of SRE, particularly in primary schools

The Extended Schools agenda has also helped address SRE in schools in hotspot areas as the PSHE Adviser to schools has been working with the PSHE Co-ordinators to link SRE with the multi-agency drop-ins.

Work is being developed specifically with the Young People's Support Service to improve their SRE and to ensure they signpost to local services.

A Youth Charter for SRE has been developed with the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth and a self-assessment tool will be developed to monitor and improve the delivery of SRE in secondary schools.

A protocol for school nurses has been drawn up so that school nurses:

- Promote No Worries
- Offer condom introduction in their drop-ins
- Are standardised in their SRE contribution
- All attend Sexual Health and Delay Training

g) Raising aspirations;

The basis for all targeted Teenage Pregnancy work is to raise the aspirations of young people. The work in the LAC groups and with Learning Support Units and youth workers in hotspots has been based on Jo Adams self-esteem work Go Girls and Delay.

Now that the Teenage Pregnancy Team is situated in Services for Young People there is good link to other targeted work to raise aspirations in young people such as SPLASH (holiday programmes) and other NEET (Not in Education, Employment and Training) programmes. A review of targeted intervention across Services for Young People has been commissioned for September 2008 of which will include teenage pregnancy and teenage parents.

h) Work with parents of teenagers:

The Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator is part of the Parenting Strategy Group to ensure that materials to help parents talk to their children about sex are given to parents attending parenting courses for teenagers. Sexual health training is offered to facilitators of parenting courses. In hotspot areas the PSHE advisor to schools is working with schools to offer sexual health advice at transitions parent's evenings.

i) Work with Teenage Parents:

In March 2008 31% of young mothers were in Education, Training and Employment in Wiltshire, compared to 28% regionally and 27% nationally.

The Teenage Pregnancy Team has worked with other agencies to address the barriers for young parents to return to Education, Training and Employment, by:

- Developing the young parents directory of Wiltshire services
- Developing the Young Parents Learning Pathway, leaflets for young parents and professionals on learning provision in Wiltshire
- Working with Connexions, LSC, Colleges and learning providers to offer flexible provision for young parents
- Developing the Connexions referral card
- Developing Pregnancy and Postnatal packs
- Training midwives, health visitors and children centres on working with young parents
- Working with the Children's Information Service (Ask) to develop a data base of childminders who want to work with young parents
- Developing a Maternity Protocol to ensure that midwives address issues such as nutrition, smoking and contraception. Refer to Connexions and Children's Centres and offer specific young parents clinics and antenatal classes
- Working with young fathers to develop a film to be shown in training on working with young parents and support and a blog for young fathers
- Working with housing schemes to consult with young mothers to find out why they became pregnant and what the barriers are to them returning to work, education and employment
 - Working with Children Centres to ensure they offer support to young parents by ensuring teenage parents are an agenda item at every Strategic Children Centre Forum

The Current Position

10. Under 18 conception data appears to show that the rate of teenage conceptions in Wiltshire has increased from 288 in the financial year 2006/07 to 311 in 2007/08. However, there is a need for some caution in interpreting statistics which are based on relatively small numbers from such a vulnerable group. The 2006/07 figure is distorted by a significant rise in the second quarter (July to September) 2007, where year on year numbers of conceptions rose from 70 to 94, an increase of 34%, giving an annual increase of 7.4%. A year on year comparison of the last two quarters, by contrast, indicates a reduction from 157 to 139, a fall of 11.3%. Similarly the overall figures for the six highest hotspot areas, published in July 2008, indicate a fall of 18.57% over the past four years.

Under 18 conceptions - Wiltshire

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
2006/07	61	70	79	78	288
2007/08	78	94	67	72	311

Conceptions in hotspot wards 2003/05 and 2005/07

Ward	2003-2005 number of conceptions	2005-2007 number of conceptions
Bemerton Heath	39	42
Chippenham Avon	12	12
Amesbury East	22	19
Trowbridge Adcroft	21	11
Westbury Ham	30	21
Westbury Laverton	16	9
Totals	140	114
reduction		18.57%

Key Priorities for 2008/9 (see Action Plan 2008/2009)

11. A) Collect and analyse data from Wiltshire Primary Care Trust, Wiltshire County Council and Children Centres on a quarterly basis to develop a predictive modelling approach
- B) Improve targeting of vulnerable young people through:
- Early identification of young people at risk of negative outcomes including teenage pregnancy as part of Targeted Youth Support
 - Referral of young people at risk of teenage pregnancy to appropriate programmes and mentors

- Targeted provision of contraception to vulnerable young people at risk of teenage pregnancy
- C) Roll out hotspot work to all areas with high teenage conceptions and develop an audit tool to ensure minimum standards of provision are met
- D) Reduce the number of young parents who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) by working with Children's centres and Connexions.

Financial Implications

12. The annual implementation grant for 2008/9 was £132,000 plus £4,000 carried over from last year. Although the grant is no longer ring-fenced it has been agreed within the County Council that this will all be spent on teenage pregnancy.

Risk Assessment

13. Assessment of potential risks to the health and welfare of children and young people from any work undertaken under the Strategy is undertaken by the Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board. This is often complex in the matter of sexual health and early parenthood and the multi-agency partnership assists in providing a range of expertise and experience to support that assessment.

Recommendation

14. This report is presented for information.

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