

Teenage Pregnancy

Overview and Scrutiny Committee
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Why scrutinise teenage pregnancy?

- Cross cutting area of concern for health, local authority and other stakeholders
- One of the shared challenging targets set by Government within the ECM agenda
- Teenage pregnancy is the result of multiple factors which affect C & YP and families
- Useful topic of enquiry to support and review partnership working

Buckinghamshire Teenage Pregnancy Partnership - Membership

- Education Services
- Health Services
- Social Care
- Youth & Community Services
- Connexions
- Youth Offending Service (YOS)
- Drug & Alcohol Action Team (DAAT)
- Voluntary Services
- Early Years

*Shared Targets

- Reduce the conception rate of under 18 year olds by 45% by 2010 (from 1998 baseline)
- Reduce the incidence of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) in young people
- Ensure 60% of young mothers are receiving Education, Employment and Training (EET) by 2010

* Local Authority / PCT / Connexions / Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP) / Local Area Agreement(LAA)

Who gets pregnant?

Factors associated with high teenage pregnancy rates:

- Leaving school with low education attainment.
- Dislike of school & poor attendance.
- School exclusion.

What can we do?

- 14-19 education agenda.
- Targeted prevention programmes.
- Targeted Youth Support.
- Personal teaching & support in schools.
- Fewer exclusions.
- Better support for excluded pupils.

Who gets pregnant?

Factors associated with high teenage pregnancy rates:

- Poor self-esteem & mental health problems.
- Conduct disorders.

What can we do?

- Work on self-esteem in schools
- Train all practitioners in Emotional Health & Well Being /mental health issues to T1/T2
- Support practitioners with advice.
- Have clear pathways to access T2/T3 services with clear thresholds.

Who gets pregnant?

Factors associated with high teenage pregnancy rates:

- Poor contraceptive use.
- Poor knowledge of contraception.
- Second pregnancies to Under-18 mothers & repeat abortions.
- Some ethnic groups in some areas

What can we do?

- Improved SRE & CASH in & out of school.
- Joining up information on CASH services.
- Review care pathways for abortion & maternity to include contraception effectively.
- Good information & access to Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) – targeted fast-track.

Who gets pregnant?

Factors associated with high teenage pregnancy rates:

- Children in Care & Care-Leavers.
- Daughters of teenage mothers.

• What extra can we do?

- Improve SRE & access to contraception.
- TPU training programme for Leaving Care Teams – to be published soon
- Targeted Youth Support.
- 14-19 education agenda –support for young mothers.

Who gets pregnant?

Factors associated with high teenage pregnancy rates:

- Living in deprivation.
- Low parental aspirations for their daughters.
- BME communities: Mixed White and Black Caribbean, Other Black and Black Caribbean groups. White British are also over-represented while Asian groups are under-represented.

What can we do?

- Parenting support.
- Capitalise on local area initiatives Extended Services, Children's Centres, GC2C,
- Children's Centres to work on aspirations.
- Work with communities who have culture of teenage pregnancy.

Who gets pregnant?

Factors associated with high teenage pregnancy rates:

- Youth offending.
- Alcohol & substance misuse.

What can we do?

- Crime diversion programmes.
- Cross-referral between Services.
- YOS staff trained in SRE & condom schemes.
- Improved alcohol & substance misuse education linked with sexual health awareness
- Tighter control on access to alcohol by under-18s.
- Parent education on alcohol issues.

Who gets pregnant?

Factors associated with high teenage pregnancy rates:

- Early sexual activity.
- Some ethnic groups in some areas.

What can we do?

- Ensure *Delay* training incorporated into SRE work by all practitioners working with Under-16s.
- Involve young people in developing & promoting *Delay* message.
- Identify particular trends & patterns locally among those Under-18s who become pregnant.
- Adapt SRE & services for BME issues where appropriate.

Research indicates that:

Where young people experience multiple risk factors, their likelihood of teenage pregnancy / parenthood increases significantly

Activities in Buckinghamshire

- Sex and Relationships Education
- Sexual Health Awareness training for staff
- Access to Services
- Support for Teenage Parents

Sex and Relationships Education (SRE)

Healthy Schools SRE consultant:

- Schools have a named person for SRE issues
- SRE / Confidentiality embedded in Healthy Schools

Teachers & Nurses PSHE Certificate training:

- Cohort of qualified practitioners to deliver SRE in schools and beyond

Promotion of healthy, safer sexual relationships (e.g. Sex , Drugs & Alcohol campaign and Sex & Relationships Your Choice credit card):

- Cross agency working enhances understanding 'many hands make light work'
- Young people involved in development of materials

Sexual Health Awareness training for staff

Sex Matters training course for staff who work with children & young people:

- Training co-facilitated by Brook and Terrence Trust - only in Bucks
- 120+ staff trained annually (positive evaluations)
- Multi-agency training encourages networking and building alliances across service boundaries

Access to Contraceptive and Sexual Health Services (CASH)

Young People's Health Drop-Ins and Check-out services in schools, clinics and other settings:

- Young people receive Information, Advice & Guidance (IAG) in YP friendly environments
- Multi-agency working enables swift & appropriate referral

Pharmacy Emergency Hormonal Contraceptive Scheme:

- Free EHC available to <19yrs from 30+ local pharmacies across Bucks
- Enhanced community involvement and partnership working

Support for Young Parents

Development of Midwifery and Connexions TP Team :

- Comprehensive assessment process based on ECM outcomes
- Improved tracking of young parents
- Increase in number of young parents accessing Care to Learn childcare grant which enables them to continue in education / training
- Young parents participating in projects / workshops
- User satisfaction positive

References

- *Teenage Pregnancy Next Steps: Guidance for Local Authorities and Primary Care trusts on Effective Delivery of Local Strategies* (July 2006)
- *Teenage Pregnancy: Accelerating the Strategy to 2010* (September 2006)

Both available from:

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/health/teenagepregnancy/>
