



## Report of the Locality Commissioner: Teenage Pregnancy & Parenthood

### Inner East Area Committee

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009

### Subject: Teenage Pregnancy

**Electoral Wards Affected:**

**Burmantofts & Richmond Hill,  
Killingbeck & Seacroft,  
Gipton & Harehills,  
Temple Newsam (Halton Moor)**

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

**Specific Implications For:**

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council Function

Delegated Executive Function available for Call In

Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report

## Executive Summary

This report provides details of the Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Partnership's current focus on reducing teenage conceptions in 3 hotspot wards in the East of the city. It provides a progress report following the report made to members at the 18<sup>th</sup> June Area Committee meeting.

### 1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on developments in the targeted "hotspot" wards in the East of the city, and to identify progress since the report made to the Area Committee on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2009.
- 1.2 Hotspot wards are in the top 20% of wards nationally for teenage conceptions.
- 1.3 The 3 targeted hotspot wards in the East are Burmantofts, Richmond Hill, Seacroft\* (*\*teenage conception data is provided in relation to old ward boundaries*)
- 1.4 This translates as; Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, Killingbeck & Seacroft, half of Gipton & Harehills (with the other half also above the Leeds average for teenage conceptions), and the Halton Moor area of Temple Newsam ward.
- 1.5 The old Harehills ward also qualifies as a hotspot ward, though its teenage conception rates are not as high as in the other 3 (old) hotspot wards in the East.

## 2.0 Background Information

2.1 According to the Government's Teenage Pregnancy Unit, effective local strategies to reduce teenage conceptions have all 10 of the following key characteristics. We are using this framework to develop our programme in Inner East Leeds.

- a. **Strategic leadership;** an effective champion, strong local leadership, senior buy in from all key partners, & support from Elected Lead Member
- b. **Strong use of local data;** local data to inform targeted services & action
- c. **Strong messages to young people & partner agencies;** clear message to senior & frontline partners on their contribution to reducing teenage conceptions, clear messages to the community & young people
- d. **Comprehensive sex & relationships education in schools;** prioritise schools serving high rate wards for SRE improvement, governors to improve SRE as part of their new duty to promote pupil well being
- e. **Trusted & accessible contraceptive & sexual health services;** easy access to full range of contraception, including long acting methods, on-site services in schools & colleges, action to prevent repeat unplanned conceptions
- f. **Workforce training on sex & relationships;** all frontline workers have basic training, with key workers having more advanced training
- g. **Targeted SRE & contraception outreach with at risk groups of young people as part of Targeted Youth Support;** LAC/care leavers, young offenders, teenage parents, poor attenders, etc.
- h. **A well resourced Youth Service, tackling the big issues like teenage pregnancy & sexual health;** "things to do, places to go", SRE & contraception/sexual health services integrated into IYSS
- i. **Supporting parents to discuss sex & relationships;** intensive SRE programmes for parents of young people most at risk, integrate SRE into other parent support & community work
- j. **Raising aspirations of young people most at risk;** schools, Parent Support Advisers & TYS work to raise aspirations of those most at risk. Raising aspirations is a cross-cutting issue which needs to be addressed by a wide range of organisations working with children, young people and families. The Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Partnership Board is currently working to strengthen the profile of this work within its city-wide delivery plan.

### 3.0 Progress in East Leeds.

3.1 The Area Committee Children's Champion Cllr Morgan has supported partners to come together to develop a local response to the issues faced. She has also spoken to young parents to get a better understanding of the challenges they face. Neil Bowden the Senior Youth Worker for East Leeds has agreed to provide a leadership role for the Children Leeds Partnership locally to ensure that teenage conceptions remains a high priority with all relevant partners.

3.2 A large scale and well attended event in June '09 identified many areas of improvement for collective action, which have been grouped under 3 themes; SRE provision, access to contraceptive services and raising aspirations, with additional cross-cutting themes like working with boys & young men. Three Task and Finish Groups have been instigated in East themed around the above areas. These local task & finish groups are proving useful in supporting better translation of city-wide initiatives into local engagement/impact, as well as generating valuable additional information about local issues & possible solutions.

3.3 The combined input of the city-wide Task and Finish groups of the Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Programme Board with the local event and their task and finish groups is yielding positive results. Ensuring local coherence is critical and the links made by the Locality Commissioner between the above and Children Leeds Local Leadership teams is now effective in shaping progress.

- The East is leading on the development of a robust teenage pregnancy strand to the workforce development framework for the city. Five new modules will be targeted at key sections of the children's workforce within the East, with a focus on the Inner East. These will be piloted between November 2009 & June 2010
- Two additional young people's CASH clinics are being opened in key parts of hotspot wards in the Inner East identified as lacking local provision.
- A strong theme has emerged around the need for improved work with boys and young men around sex and relationships. A significant piece of local work is being planned to meet this need linking to workforce training and an Education Leeds conference on this issue.
- Our capacity to deliver 'Speakeasy', a course for parents on how to talk to your children about sex & relationships, is being increased in the Inner East.
- The above initiatives are being supported by £143K of commissioned spend by Children's Services in East and South localities on teenage pregnancy. Additional funding is supporting the strand of Improving Access to Contraception. This is separately supported via the PCT. Significant time being has been forthcoming from managers & frontline workers wanting to take the work forward. This will enable the above initiatives to progress rapidly with start dates for the work within this financial year.

## **4.0 City wide developments.**

### **4.1 Senior Local Sponsorship and Engagement of all Key Partners**

- A new Priority Outcome Commissioner, Paul Bollom has been appointed to secure and speed strategic commissioning across children's services and more widely across services in the council which impact on teenage parents (eg Housing and Neighbourhoods).
- The Health Scrutiny Board<sup>1</sup> is now monitoring performance of our services against its report with performance updates expected for board meetings in October and December. Health Scrutiny is also initiating a fresh review of public health in Leeds and considering Teenage Pregnancy in the light of this program.
- Two elected member workshops on teenage pregnancy and parenthood have taken place with a third planned for October.

### **4.2 Information Sharing Between Partners and Local Data**

- Improvements are underway to ensure information on teenage conceptions is shared effectively between partners and that we improve the time taken to understand trends in both conceptions and parenthood by looking at local data rather than only rely on awaiting a national data return.
- Improved translation of data has allowed for the precise targeting of 'hotpockets' within priority wards where young people are at a significantly higher risk of teenage conception.

### **4.3 Communication**

- Communication with young people and professionals has improved by identifying a lead within the Education Leeds communication team to manage outward facing communications.
- Internal communications is being improved through a new newsletter and website. A communications impact assessment will be built into the communications plan.

### **4.4 Contraception and Sexual Health Services**

- A city-wide review of existing services is underway and is making recommendations for redesigned contraception and sexual health services to commissioners.
- Updates on our teenage pregnancy and sexual health work will be available on a new section of the Children Leeds website<sup>2</sup>.

### **4.5 Targeted Work – Looked After Children and Care Leavers**

- The NHS have mainstreamed the Sexual Health Nurse for looked after children and the Looked After Children's Health Team has seen an increase in capacity enabling increased targeted work with young people with learning disabilities and asylum seekers.
- The improved partnership between statutory agencies and voluntary agencies is increasing the effective use of local data which is increasing the impact on the targeting of and access to services of young people in the care system.

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<sup>1</sup> Improving Sexual Health and Young People – Scrutiny Inquiry Report (April 2009)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.leedsinitiative.org/children/page.aspx?id=13288&ekmense=cdb9b7c3\\_62\\_592\\_13288\\_3](http://www.leedsinitiative.org/children/page.aspx?id=13288&ekmense=cdb9b7c3_62_592_13288_3)

#### **4.6 Supporting Teenage Parents**

Leeds now has a robust care pathway for all young parents to ensure referral to relevant services and actions within the communications plan will ensure that this is promoted amongst and available to practitioners.

#### **4.7 A Well Resourced Youth Service**

- Youth Service has adopted and is working to National Youth Agency (NYA) guidelines for Health Youth Work.
- Multi-agency training is under development in order to standardise the professional development of staff and ensure that consistent, accurate messages are delivered to young people both in and out of school.

#### **5.0 Risks and challenges.**

- There are real risks that not all relevant services and strategies perceive that teenage pregnancy and parenthood is a priority for them, or that their services have a minimal impact on teenage pregnancy and parenthood.
- There are many interventions which are not fully operational and their impact is yet to be realised.
- Services need to be further challenged to be young people friendly. All services, including primary care and non-health settings, need to comply with the Department of Health 'You're Welcome' standards which enable providers to meet the needs and requirements of young people.
- There is no central point which professionals can refer to in order to ensure young parents to be and teenage parents are accessing the relevant services as early as possible.
- We are challenging ourselves to better understand early indicators of risk. The earlier a young person at risk of becoming a teenage parent is identified the more likely there will be success keeping them engaged and less involved in other risk taking behaviour.
- There is little support across the city for young fathers beyond the support offered to continue in education.

#### **6.0 Recommendations**

Evidence from other authorities indicates that elected member knowledge and challenge is important in achieving improvements in performance.

The Committee is requested to:

6.1 Continue its support for this priority by:

- Continuing to challenge and support partners and partnerships about their support for this agenda
- Clarifying whether appropriate support is available to maximise the potential from the many roles elected members undertake e.g. as school governors, as ALMO Board members

- Supporting aspects of the workforce development programme – demonstrating the importance we are placing on developing the skills and competencies of staff.
- Receive a further report in which promotes action to address risks and challenges identified in 5.00.

Documents used in preparation of this report are: Improving Sexual Health and Young People – Scrutiny Inquiry Report (April 2009)

