

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Reducing Teenage Conception

Draft Terms of reference

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In December 2010, both the Children's Services and Health Scrutiny Boards agreed that reducing teenage conception should be a priority area of future work for scrutiny. This was triggered by members' concern that, despite all of the hard work and resource that has been directed at this area in recent years, the long-term performance trend showed little movement.
- 1.2 In light of the existing work programmes of both Scrutiny Boards it was acknowledged that this work would not take place until 2011/12. A joint working group met with officers and young people in April 2011 to scope terms of reference for an inquiry, in order that work could start as early as possible in the new municipal year.
- 1.3 The working group agreed that young people should continue to have a significant ongoing input to this inquiry.
- 1.4 The most recent annual figures made available to the working group give some cause for optimism that a refocused approach is bearing fruit, but it still remains to be seen whether this improvement can be sustained and further reductions achieved. As a result, reducing teenage pregnancy continues to be a key indicator in the new Children and Young People's Plan.
- 1.5 The Scrutiny Board will focus its work on looking at the range and quality of information, advice and support that is available to children and young people in Leeds to inform their choices regarding conception and sexual health, as well as the other influences that determine the choices that they make.
- 1.5 This work will be led by the Children's Services Scrutiny Board, with representation invited from the Health Scrutiny Board.

2.0 Scope of the inquiry

- 2.1 The purpose of the Inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on:
 - Young people's access to advice and support to inform their choices regarding sexual health and conception
 - The dissemination of local and national examples of good practice in relation to successfully reducing teenage conception ratesThe need for more focussed joint working in this area has been highlighted as a prerequisite for improvement and so the Board will give specific consideration to this aspect during its inquiry.

2.2 The Board hopes that its findings will provide a timely and positive contribution to reducing the number of unplanned and unwanted teenage conceptions in the city.

3.0 Comments of the relevant director and executive member

3.1 To be added.

4.0 Timetable for the inquiry

4.1 The inquiry will take place in the summer and autumn of 2011.

4.2 The inquiry will conclude with the publication of a formal report setting out the board's conclusions and recommendations.

5.0 Collection of evidence

5.1 The Board will receive evidence through a combination of formal Board meetings and smaller working group meetings or visits with stakeholders and relevant service providers.

5.2 Scrutiny Board meetings (dates to be confirmed)

The following evidence will be required for the Board meetings:

- Background data on teenage pregnancy rates at a national and local authority level, including any more localised data that is available
- General information on the range of advice and support services available to children and young people in Leeds to inform their choices regarding conception and sexual health, for example sex and relationship education in schools, health care services, youth services and voluntary, community and faith sector services
- Information on specific initiatives and plans to reduce teenage conception rates in Leeds, including the actions being taken in local 'hotspot' areas and work with vulnerable target groups
- Information about the changes in public health services and GP provision relevant to teenage conception
- Information regarding any relevant national or local research with young people

5.3 Working Group meetings and visits

Members will visit relevant services and meet with representatives of providers, such as GPs, sexual health services, youth services, schools, colleges and voluntary, community and faith sector organisations. They will also meet with young people.

- 5.4 The board will consider the findings from working group meetings and visits in order to inform its emerging conclusions and recommendations prior to the production of a final inquiry report

7.0 Equality, Diversity and Cohesion and Integration Issues

- 7.1 Where appropriate, all terms of reference for work undertaken by the Scrutiny Boards will include
To review how and to what effect consideration has been given to the impact of a service or policy on all equality areas, as set out in the council's Equality and Diversity scheme, and on the council's Cohesion and Integration Priorities and Delivery Plan.

- 7.2 The objectives of this inquiry particularly reflect the following theme from the council's Equality and Diversity scheme:
Service Delivery – Leeds City Council provides fair access to services which meet the needs of our diverse communities and individuals.

8.0 Monitoring Arrangements

- 8.1 Following the completion of the scrutiny inquiry and the publication of the final inquiry report and recommendations, the implementation of the agreed recommendations will be monitored.
- 8.2 The final inquiry report will include information on the detailed arrangements for monitoring the implementation of recommendations.

9.0 Measures of success

- 9.1 It is important to consider how the Board will deem whether its inquiry has been successful in making a difference to local people. Some measures of success may be obvious at the initial stages of an inquiry and can be included in these terms of reference. Other measures of success may become apparent as the inquiry progresses and discussions take place.
- 9.2 The Board will look to publish practical recommendations.