

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	Date: 22 September 2010	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Draft Teenage Pregnancy Strategy	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Assistant Director Children's Specialist Services	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1.
 - (a) To note progress of Southwark's teenage pregnancy strategy and action plan for children in care.
 - (b) The draft strategy is informed by, and incorporated in the work of the new Teenage Pregnancy Commission.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. A single service for children in care was established in April 2007 to work with key strategic partners to deliver the five every child matters outcomes.
3. The Adolescent and Aftercare Service (A & AC) is one of the three services which constitute the service to children in care and care leavers, these being:
 - Adolescent and Aftercare Service
 - Services for children in care aged 0-12
 - Adoption & Fostering Services

The Adolescent and Aftercare Service is responsible for all care planning and services for looked after children 13-18 and for care leavers aged 18-21. The Adolescent and Aftercare Service is therefore the lead service within children looked after services for matters relating to teenage pregnancy.
4. In partnership with Southwark PCT and SLAM, Southwark has a long standing strategic group (CLA Health Steering Group) responsible for delivering strategies to promote the full range of healthy outcomes for children in care namely:
 - Substance misuse
 - Teenage pregnancy
 - Physical health including activities, diet and self care
 - Child adolescent and mental health

See Appendix One for Steering Group Terms of Reference

5. The children looked after health steering group has developed a draft teenage pregnancy strategy and action plan for children in care 2010 – 2012.

6. The draft strategy also compliments other key Southwark strategic initiatives namely:
 - Provision of dedicated CAHMS team for children in care (Carelink)
 - Southwark's Health & Inequality Strategy 2009
 - Southwark's response to DOH requirements "promoting health and welfare of children looked after" statutory for Primary Care Trusts 2009 (Designated CLA Doctors Annual report)
 - Southwark's teenage pregnancy strategy
 - Southwark's family nurse partnership (FNP) early intervention programme
 - Southwark's commissioning of Blenheim services to deliver D.T.A. agenda.
7. The draft strategy will also be shaped by the development and subsequent work of the Teenage Pregnancy Commission.
8. Southwark's electronic social care recording system (Carefirst) has been modified to record teenage pregnancy screening activity and incidences of pregnancies for looked after children and care leavers.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

9. Appendix 2 outlines the CLA Services 2010-12 draft strategy and action plan for Southwark's children in care. Young people in care are disproportionately affected by teenage pregnancy, and the draft strategy aims to reduce the number of conceptions, and break the cycle of young people in care and care leavers having their children removed because of concerns about parenting.

The key components are:

- Recruit replacement specialist teenage pregnancy nurse following retirement of current post holder
 - Development of integrated screening tool in partnership with drug treatment agency, teenage pregnancy strategy and child and adolescent mental health services.
 - Delivering of SRE and "choices and challenges" training for designated staff in the A & AC Service
 - Targeted audit activity (also part of children looked after services equality impact assessment and action plan 2010-12) reviewing outcomes which result in care proceedings.
 - Development of drop in service by A&AC Service to target most isolated and vulnerable looked after children and care leavers
 - Promoting a positive and aspirational environment for children in care
 - Effective links with F.N.P.
 - Continued strong links with Southwark's condom distribution scheme
 - Ongoing partnerships with local Brook Advisory Service and "C" card system.
10. Appendix 3 outlines Family Nurse Partnership services and evaluation for children in care.
 11. The performance and targets relating to teenage pregnancy and care leavers are outlined in Section A of the teenage pregnancy strategy (Appendix 1)

Policy implications

11. There are no new policy implications relating to this report.

Resource implications

12. The teenage pregnancy nurse post is joint funded by CLA Services and Southwark's TP Strategy.
13. SRE and specialist training (choices and challenges) are funded by Southwark's organisational development services and the CLA Service.
14. Resources allocated to meet this need will be dependent upon the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Community impact statement

15. It should be noted that there are direct links between children and care and care leavers having children and incidents of isolation and mental health alongside reduced economic capacity and family stability (Appendices 2&3 refer)
16. In certain cases, there are examples where Southwark safeguarding services have had to intervene and seek the removal of children and infants born to children in care and care leavers. It is recognised that this has a significant impact upon the future aspirations and life chances of care leavers.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Southwark's Health Inequality Strategy	Children's Services	Helen Mills 020 7525 3846
Department of Health – promoting the health and well being of children looked after statutory guidance	CLA Services	Chris Saunders 020 7525 1039

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	CLA Health Steering Group Terms of Reference
Appendix 2	Southwark Children in Care Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and Action Plan
Appendix 3	FNP partnership report, including audit revaluation of impact with children in care and care leavers who have become young mothers
Appendix 4	Teenage Screening process

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Assistant Director Children's Specialist Services & Safeguarding	
Report Author	Chris Saunders Head of Services for Children in Care and Barbara Hills "Associate Director for Universal Children's and Sexual Health Services"	
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Dated	14 September 2010	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law and Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
Cabinet Member	Yes	
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