

SOUTHWARK TEENAGE PREGNANCY AND PARENTHOOD STRATEGY

SUMMARY FEEDBACK FROM THE TEENAGE PREGNANCY UNIT ON THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 02/03 AND ACTION PLAN FOR 03/04

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS - LOCAL CONTEXT:

- This section focused on the conception and abortion rates by age groups and local wards. The TPU welcomed the proposal to support earlier referrals to abortions and clear targeting to high-risk groups and high rate wards. This section was rated good.

LOCAL CO-ORDINATION ARRANGMENTS

- This section focused on the reporting structure for the Strategy as well as the structure to support the implementation of the strategy locally. It identified the various partnership arrangements (including strengths and weaknesses), which exist locally to support the Strategy. The TPU felt there was strong evidence of partnership working locally and good representation on the Teenage Pregnancy Steering group from key agencies. Representation from the voluntary sector and lead senior education officer on the TP Steering Group was identified as a priority for 03/04. This section was rated good.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

- This section summarised all media activities undertaken during the year. There were no identified barriers to media work locally. The TPU acknowledged the impact of the "*Choose Your Life*" campaign and welcomed the pan Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham collaboration to develop and implement this campaign. The evaluation of the campaign in 03/04 was welcomed and plans to mainstream the campaign was identified as a priority for 03/04. This section was rated very good.

BETTER PREVENTION: SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION

- This section summaries progress with work on sex and relationship education in schools and in community settings. The TPU acknowledge progress in schools SRE policies through Healthy School Partnerships. Work with faith groups, focus on marginalized groups, developments within Southwark FE College, youth and social workers/foster carers was acknowledged. The TPU recommended development of further work with Connexions, inclusion of SRE in the Education Development Plan, and clearer milestones to achieve target of achieving 100% SRE policies in all secondary schools. This section was rated good.

BETTER PREVENTION: BETTER CONTRACEPTION, ADVICE AND INFORMATION SERVICES

- This section focused on development of sexual health services. The TPU acknowledged progress with activities focused on the broader sexual health agenda, as well as the targeted work with BME, LAC and Boys and Young men. The development of the Sure Start Plus pregnancy-testing scheme via youth clubs was welcomed. The TPU recommended further work to evidence improving General Practice provision for young people and development of Joint work with Connexions Service. This section was rated good.

BETTER SUPPORT FOR TEENAGE PARENTS - SUPPORTED HOUSING

- This section focused on progress with work to improve access to housing and provision of supported housing for young parents. The TPU acknowledge progress with work in this section. However, recommended clearer strategic focus on needs analysis and mapping, which needs to link in with the development of IRT with Connexions playing a key role. Achievement of the Supported Housing Target for 2003 to build additional 9-bed unit needs to be clarified. This section was rated good.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT FOR TEENAGE PARENTS

- This section focused on work to improve access to education and training for teenage parents. The TPU acknowledged good work, which has progressed through the Education Inclusion and Sure Start Plus services to develop holistic packages of support for young parents. The TPU welcomed publicity given to the EMA scheme among young parents and the development of the Access to Learning Course for young parents at Southwark College. The TPU recommended better data monitoring for 03/04 in collaboration with Connexions Service to assess level of coverage among young parents, as well as the development of alternative educational provision to meet the needs of teenage parents. This section was rated good.

CHILDCARE

- This section focused on childcare developments for young parents. The TPU welcomed the work with Sure Start to prioritise work with teenage parents and the EYDCP plans to increase NNI places and childminding services. The TPU recommended more support through NRF to enhance childminding services for young parents to enable them continue with education and training. This section was rated good.

SUPPORT FOR PREGNANT TEENAGERS AND TEENAGE PARENTS

- This section focused on progress on work to improve co-ordination of support to young parents. The TPU acknowledged the role of Sure Start Plus and initiatives which have been set up e.g. the tracking system via midwives and health visitors and plans to co-ordinate data for young parents with IRT, Connexions and Sure Start Plus. The evaluation of the Sure Start Plus

services and development of work with Sure Starts was welcomed. The TPU supported the focus on work with young fathers as a priority for 03/04. This section was rated good.

COMMENTS FORM REGIONAL ASSESSMENT PANEL ON FINANCE

- The panel queried authorisation to carry over agreed under spend from 02/03. The panel acknowledged high expenditure on media and communications. Other proposals seemed to be in line with priorities highlighted in the report and the lower amount of grant used on the support to young parents was clearly explained.

FEEDBACK ON THE ACTION PLAN FOR 03/04

- The action plan contains actions for 03/04 and to April 2005 with final outcome for 2010. The TPU recommended the inclusion of in-year milestones e.g. months of expected outputs and Lead agencies for actions to ensure accountability. The TPU acknowledged the detailed quarterly monitoring report produced on teenage pregnancy activities as a good system to ensure progress on actions. Funding sources are clearly identified in the report and outputs seem measurable. The local research and evaluations being undertaken was welcomed as a means of measuring outcomes for young people.

Summary by
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