

## **Review of the Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy**

### ***Background Information***

1. Southwark's Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Strategy 2001-2010 includes an Action Plan for the years 2001-04. The Action Plan has been updated (2003-04), and progress measured for 2002-03.
2. The Action Plans are divided into four sections (or themes):
  - Local media and campaigning
  - Sex and Relationship Education
  - Sexual Health Services
  - Support to teenage parents
3. The sub-committee intends to focus on the *prevention* of teenage pregnancy. Therefore the fourth theme of 'support to teenage parents' will not be reviewed.

### ***Summary of the situation in Southwark***

4. The Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Strategy aims to reduce the number of unplanned conceptions among young women 18 years and under – see *Appendix B 'Summary Report July 2003'* for further details.
5. Specific targets are to achieve a 15% reduction in conceptions to young women 18 and under by 2004, and a 60% reduction by 2010. The aim is to close the gap in conception rates between the average for Southwark and that for 'at risk' groups and for wards which are conception 'hot spots'.
6. The Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Strategy has been well received and rated highly by the Government's Teenage Pregnancy Unit – see *Appendix C 'Summary feedback from the Teenage Pregnancy Unit on the Annual Report for 02/03 and Action Plan for 03/04'*.
7. But the teenage pregnancy rates in Southwark are rising. The rate of conceptions for young women under 18 has increased by 3.4% and by 13% for young women under 16, since 1998.
8. In order to make operational improvements and to further facilitate joint working, sub-groups have been formed around the four themes. Each sub-group, which contains people from the organisations providing the services, will produce an action plan by the end of September.

### ***Supporting documents***

9. A list of supporting documents can be found in Appendix A.

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10. The attached documents (Appendix B and C), produced by the Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator, provide a very useful summary of current activity on teenage pregnancy.

### ***The National Context***

11. The Government's Green Paper for children '*Every Child Matters*' was published in early September. It sets out proposals for reforming the delivery of services for children, young people and families. It aims to do several things, including reducing the numbers of young people who become teenage parents.

The website address for the Green paper is:

**<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/everychildmatters/>**

12. Teenage pregnancy rates across England and Wales have decreased by 9% since 1998.

### ***Joint Working Arrangements***

13. The second theme of Southwark's Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Strategy, Sex and Relationship Education, is the most appropriate area for joint working with the Education, Youth and Leisure scrutiny sub-committee.
14. The research project into sexual health funded by the Guy's and St. Thomas' Charitable Foundation (as discussed by Dr. Alan Maryon-Davis at the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> July) provides a useful context for the work of this committee into the prevention of teenage pregnancy.
15. The activities within the research project will help ensure a consistent, coherent and cross-organisational approach to the modernisation of sexual health services locally (within Southwark and Lambeth PCTs). The term sexual health is broad, and includes the prevention of unplanned pregnancy.
16. The sub-committee can contribute to this work by ensuring its review is focused, by learning from the project's co-ordinators and by disseminating its findings to these co-ordinators.

### ***The Review***

17. Please see *Appendix D 'Scrutiny Project Brief'* for a summary of the review's scope.
18. Please see *Appendix E 'Project Plan for the Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy'* for more detail about the suggested structure of future meetings.