

**SOUTHWARK TEENAGE PREGNANCY AND  
PARENTHOOD STRATEGY**

**SUMMARY REPORT  
JULY 2003**

**AIM**

- The strategy aims to reduce the number of unplanned conceptions among young women 18 years and under, and support young parents to return to education and training to ensure improved life outcomes for them and their children.

**GOALS**

- (i) Achieve 15% reduction in conceptions by 2004 and 60% reduction in conceptions by 2010 to young women 18 and under.
- (ii) Close the gap in conception rates between the average for Southwark and that for "at risk" groups of young people, including children looked after.
- (iii) Close the gap in conception rates between the average for Southwark and that for wards which are conception 'hot spots'
- (iv) Have evidence of improved quality of life for teenage parents under 18 as measured through educational attainment, entry and retention in employment, child and parental health, and personal satisfaction as expressed by young parents themselves.
- (v) Increase the participation of teenage mothers aged 16 - 19 in employment, education or training by 60% in 2010.
- (vi) The target to reduce under 18 conception rates by 50% by 2010 is a National Public Service Agreement for Local Government, coming under the first PSA target for Neighbourhood Renewal.

**ISSUES FOR SOUTHWARK**

- Southwark has the second highest rate of teenage conceptions in the country with 335 conceptions a year to women under 18 at the rate of 85.9 per 1000 (2001 figures)
- There were 68 conceptions to girls age 13 - 15 in 2001. This is at the rate of 16.8%.

- 60% of conceptions to girls under 18 end in terminations.
- Rates of sexually transmitted infections are high among young people.
- The wards in the middle band of the borough have the highest rates of teenage conceptions. Brunswick, Rotherhithe and Browning ranked highest in 1998, while Lyndhurst, Liddle and Newington ranked highest in 1999. No information on new ward boundaries.
- **There has been a steady increase in teenage conceptions and sexually transmitted infections among young people. The rate of conceptions for girls under 18 has increased by 3.4% and by 13% for girls' under 16 since 1998.**
- **Southwark is currently falling below the expected targets set by the DOH. A target of reduction of 1% by 2004 has been set locally. This is a shortfall of 14% reduction set by the DOH.**
- The under 18 conception rate is one of 2 cross cutting indicators in the Local Government Best Value Performance Indicator, set for 03/04. This means it will be included as part of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment which determines the performance rating of Local Government giving a score of excellent, good, fair, weak, or poor.
- The risk categories of young people who are likely to become young parents include, young people who are in or leaving local authority care, homeless and runaway teenagers, school non-attendees due to truancy and exclusion, young carers, with learning difficulties, Young men known to the youth offending team.
- There is no statistical evidence of ethnic origin of young parents. However there is a correlation between sexually transmitted infections and teenage pregnancies and young people from black and ethnic minority groups are disproportionately affected by sexually transmitted infections.

### THE STRATEGY

- (i) **Joined Up Approach** - Multi agency steering group, links to other initiatives and programmes, joint commissioning and multi-agency working.
- (ii) **Media and Campaigning** - to raise awareness of sexual health issues among young people, parents, professionals and community groups.
- (iii) **Sex and Relationship Education** - to improve the quality of sex and relationship education being delivered to young people in schools and community settings.
- (iv) **Sexual Health Services** - to improve information about and access to sexual health services for young people.

- (v) **Support to Young Parents** - to improve co-ordination of support to young parents to ensure holistic package of support to young parents.
- (vi) **Evidence Based** - to ensure that the strategy is grounded in the real experiences of young people and their families and on evidence of what works.
- (vii) **Sustainable Outcomes** - through commitment from all agencies to embed the strategy action plan in mainstream services.

### **Developments to Date**

#### **Media and Campaigning: Key developments include**

- Developed Pan Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham media Campaign *Choose Your Life* targeting young people.
- Implemented Video and Drama road show to promote the *choose your life* campaign locally in schools, youth clubs and residential units for children looked after.
- Developed and distributed over 50,000 post cards, posters and resources to agencies and at events through out Southwark.
- Established a Health Information project at Waverley Girls School.
- Engaged Black and Ethnic minority groups through events funded during Black History Month and other community events.
- Organised Sexual Health Bus Road show in collaboration with Brook.
- Supported the development of peer education programmes through local community groups and the youth service.
- Created a health page within the Youth Service young people's magazine.
- Implemented peer education sexual health outreach work to barber shops, hairdresser saloons, churches and youth clubs.
- Undertaken baseline research to evaluate the impact of the strategy.
- Young people recruited as community researchers to evaluate media events organised for young people.
- Media resources for faith groups developed by local church. Currently being focus tested with young people.

#### **Sex and Relationship Education - Key developments include:**

- Action research undertaken in Southwark Schools to improve SRE sessions in school. Evaluation report available.
- SRE workshops organised for parents in schools.
- Local parents recruited to consult with other parents regarding support to talk with their children about sex. Parents Health forum set up following the consultation. Sexual health workshop organised for parents in April 03. 3 more to follow.
- 40 schools engaged with the Healthy School Partnership programme to develop SRE policies.
- School Health Team set up through Bodypower to coordinate and support external agencies working in schools.
- SRE sessions organised with 10 churches. 5 SRE sessions organised through Southwark Muslim Women's Group.
- Community Based SRE curriculum being produced to be launched this year October.

- Teens and Toddlers project run twice in Geoffrey Chaucer and Warwick Park schools successfully.
- SRE training for foster carers organised through Family Planning Association (fpa). SRE training for youth workers, foster carers and social workers now mainstreamed through Health First.
- Health CD rom produced for Children looked after
- SRE training organised for school governors.

### **Sexual Health Services**

- Development of 4 level 2 services to meet increasing service demand.
- Research regarding sexual health needs of young people with disabilities undertaken.
- Sexual health outreach workers commissioned through Brook, Kings College Hospital and PCT to provide outreach service to schools, Residential unit for Children in care, pupil referral units, youth offending team and youth clubs.
- Training undertaken with GPs regarding confidentiality procedures for young people.
- 2 sexual health conferences organised to review service development.
- 2 dedicated sexual health services set up for young people at Peckham Pulse and Caldecott.
- Condom distribution scheme organised to community groups.
- Emergency Contraception Project implemented through pharmacies.
- 4 PMS services for sexual health developed through GP practices.
- Quality Protects Health Nurse in post for children looked after.
- Chlamydia testing through GP's underway. Pilot project undertaken.
- £5 million over next 3 years secured through Guys and St. Thomas's Trust Fund to undertake innovative sexual health programmes.

### **Support to Young Parents**

- Sure start plus service in operation to support young parents and provide early pregnancy counselling for pregnant young women.
- Pregnancy Testing service being developed through Youth clubs through Sure start Plus.
- Directory of services for young parents developed.
- Checklist for professionals working with young parents developed.
- Database set up to track young parents in the borough. Database currently holds information of 72 young parents.
- Floating support service set up to support young parents in lone tenancy.
- Additional 9 bed supported housing unit being developed.
- Education Reintegration worker in post to support school age mothers back into education and training.
- Access to Learning course set up at Southwark College for young parents. Successfully run for 2 years.
- PA to support teenage parents being recruited through the Connexions Service.
- Care to Learn fund (£5,000 per annum) available to provide payments towards childcare and travel cost for young parents.
- 620 Neighbourhood nurseries being developed with childcare places for children under 2.
- Childcare places for under fives included in delivery plan for all Sure Start areas.

- Undertaken research with young fathers in Southwark and produced leaflets to improve work with young fathers for professionals and leaflets to increase access to services for young fathers.

### **KEY TASKS FOR 03 -04**

- 1) In collaboration with young people, to proactively market the media campaign activities and resources to all young people, especially those in the "risk" categories.
- 2) To proactively engage parents, carers and community groups through the Parents SRE Forum, community events and through schools.
- 3) To embed Sex and Relationship Education projects which have been developed by schools through the Standard Fund
- 4) To increase numbers of schools participating in Healthy School Partnership Programmes.
- 5) To embed quality standards for the delivery of Sex and Relationship Education in schools developed through Healthy School Partnership.
- 6) To Improve strategic co-ordination of SRE delivery in schools through the Education Provider and by establishing strong links with school heads.
- 7) To embed the delivery of sexual health outreach services and increase access to sexual health services for young people, especially those in the "risk" categories.
- 8) To continue to explore opportunities to reconfigure services in order to maximise capacity of sexual health services to respond to needs.
- 9) To develop SRE policies for Social Service and Youth Service.
- 10) To increase opportunities for training for practitioners around sexual health and relationship issues.
- 11) To embed co-ordination of support to young parents to ensure delivery of a holistic package of support to young parents.
- 12) To identify Pathways for post 16 educational options for young parents.
- 13) To establish sub groups for key areas within the Teenage Pregnancy Steering group, to facilitate the process of identifying local performance indicators and improve co-ordination and implementation of the Strategy.
- 14) To continue to implement programmes which are relevant to the variety of needs of young people in the borough.
- 15) Implement plans to mainstream the Sure Start Plus service.

### **CHALLENGES**

## **APPENDIX B**

- 1) Need for additional proactive measures and commitment on previous action plan from all partners to address increasing rates of teenage conceptions.
- 2) Need for consistent data sets and electronic data information across agencies to support the monitoring, evaluation and tracking process.
- 3) Need for capacity development within agencies to enable and sustain change in service delivery for young people.
- 4) Need for funding to embed sex and relationship education programmes which have been developed in schools.
- 5) Need to engage more schools in the Healthy Schools Partnership programme to develop SRE policies and procedures.
- 6) Need for funding to mainstream the sexual health outreach services to young people.
- 7) Need to increase capacity within sexual health services to cope with demand.
- 8) Need for funding to establish a post to co-ordinate childcare arrangements for young parents through childminding service.
- 9) Need for strategic lead from education to support SRE programmes in schools.
- 10) Need to ensure SRE is included in the Education Development Plan to ensure schools prioritise and support the teenage pregnancy programme.
- 11) Need for more school nurses to ensure SRE is delivered through the school nurse service.
- 12) Need to engage with school head body to prioritise SRE delivery in schools.
- 13) Need for clear policies and procedures within Youth Service and social services to support the delivery of SRE sessions as well as condom distribution schemes.
- 14) Need to develop more father friendly services in the borough.

### **RESEARCH AND EVALUATION**

- Evaluation of the Emergency Contraceptive Pharmacy Scheme across LSL.
- Action Research Project in Southwark Schools. (Evaluation Report)
- Southwark Young Parents Conference. (Evaluation Report)
- Working with Boys and Young Men in Southwark (Family Planning Association Research)

## **APPENDIX B**

- Sexual Health Needs of Young People with Disabilities in Southwark (Family Planning Association Research)
- Young People, Sex Education and Contraception Services. A needs assessments study for North Southwark Primary Care Group.
- HAZ Bridging the Gap SRE project in Schools (Baseline Research)
- Southwark Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Strategy (Baseline Research)
- Sex and Relationship Education consultation with Parents in Southwark (Family Planning Association Research)
- Southwark Black History Month Youth Events (Evaluation Report)
- Young People's Walk-in Health Service in Peckham Pulse (Consultation Report)
- Working with Young Fathers in Southwark. (Fathers Direct and One for One Research Report).

All reports are available on request.

### **FINANCE**

<b>A. Area of spend</b>	<b>B. Actual Spend for 2002/3</b>	<b>C. Budget for 03/04</b>	<b>D: Variance</b>
<b>Local Implementation &amp; Co-ordination Funding</b>			
1. Media & communications	107,196	127,000	19,804
2. Prevention: SRE	38,124	48,700	10,576
3. Prevention: Contraception, Advice, information	79,010	79,350	340
4. Support to Teenage Parents	13,000	17,000	4000
4. Other			
6. Local Coordination Funding	75,242	77,412	2,170
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>312,572</b>	<b>349,462</b>	<b>36,890</b>

**Table 2**

<b>TABLE 2: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT TEENAGE PREGNANCY STRATEGY</b>		
<b>A. Source of additional mainstream funding to support strategy</b>	<b>B. 2001/02 (Year 2)</b>	<b>C. 2002/03 (Year 3)</b>
1. Health	Core Budget	
2. Local authority	Core budget	
3. Voluntary sector	Core Budget	
4. Other Govt. funding streams (e.g. HAZ, SRB)		
HAZ Bridging the Gap	76,000	
Sure Start Plus	83,000	83,000
Elephant Links SRB		22,500
National Youth Agency		
<b>TOTALS</b>	159,000	105,500

**RELEVANT DOCUMENTS**

- Teenage Pregnancy Social Exclusion Unit Report (1999)
- Southwark Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Strategy Report (2001)
- Southwark Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Annual Report (2002)
- Southwark Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Action Plan 2002/03 - 04.
- Sex and Relationships Education (OFSTED - 2002)
- Sex and Relationship Education Guidance - Curriculum and Standards (DFES 2000)
- Teenage Pregnancy and Neighbourhood Renewal: Learning from New Deal for Communities. (Teenage Pregnancy Unit/ Neighbourhood Renewal Unit (2002)
- Teenage Pregnancy and Neighbourhood Renewal: Learning from New Deal for Communities (Teenage Pregnancy Unit - 2002)

**Summary Report by  
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