

NORTH YORKSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

20th July 2009

North Yorkshire Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Update

1.0 Key points

- 1.1 Teenage pregnancy rates in North Yorkshire have recently increased
- 1.2 National funding has been made available to improve access to contraceptive services, however this was not ring fenced therefore has not been allocated to sexual health services
- 1.3 A workshop was recently held to review progress and identify priorities for the next 2 years
- 1.4 A policy has been developed to support all staff working with young people around sexual health issues

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That members of the board note the content of the report and support the priorities identified
- 2.2 That members of the board approve the sexual health policy for staff working with young people

3.0 Summary of the latest teenage pregnancy data

- 3.1 There has been an overall reduction in under 18 conception rates between 1998 and 2007 (-21.9%)
- 3.2 However teenage pregnancy rates increased between 2006 and 2007 in all parts of the county except Craven. The biggest increase was in Richmondshire
- 3.3 Data released for the 1st quarter of 2008 (released June 09) shows a further increase in under 18 conception rates in North Yorkshire. Nationally teenage pregnancy rates went down in this period
- 3.4 The percentages leading to abortion have increased in all areas except Ryedale which indicates that the increase is in unplanned pregnancies
- 3.5 There are 12 wards in North Yorkshire that are amongst the highest 20% for England

4.0 Funding issues

- 4.1 The strategy was successful in applying for funding from the regional access to contraception funding to establish sexual health services in FE settings

- 4.2 In February 2008, the Public Health Minister announced £12.8 million new funding for 08/09 to improve access to contraception. NHS North Yorkshire and York's allocation was £172,362. However this was not ring fenced therefore has not been allocated to improvements in sexual health services
- 4.3 Teenage pregnancy funding through the area based grant is being used to establish sexual health services in Integrated Youth Support hubs
- 4.4 A paper is being presented to the new commissioning executive at NHS North Yorkshire and York recommending that teenage pregnancy under spend is used to pump prime new services during this financial year. However this would be on the understanding that the £172,362 allocated to NHS North Yorkshire and York is secured from 2010/11 and beyond. New services would include school based sexual health services where there is an identified need

5.0 Feedback from teenage pregnancy priorities workshop

- 5.1 Following a recent letter from Government Ministers expressing concern about the increase in teenage pregnancy rates locally, the North Yorkshire Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Group identified a need for further support to review progress. An external facilitator was used to plan and deliver a one day workshop to agree priorities for the next few years.
- 5.2 The workshop brought out a number of priorities including:
- There is an urgent need to review sexual health services in North Yorkshire. Many young people, particularly in rural areas do not have easy access to advice or contraception at times or locations suitable to them. The sexual health lead in the PCT is leaving and there are concerns about how services will be taken forward in North Yorkshire in partnership with the local authority.
 - Promoting guidance for schools on good quality sex and relationships education (SRE) and marketing the support available to schools. Working with schools as partners to improve SRE in order to prepare young people from post 16
 - Gathering insight on what young people want from services and improving data collection. Data collection is still an issue in North Yorkshire with some maternity services using paper based systems. Where in place, IT systems currently do not allow data on age of conception to be gathered easily.
 - Improving the information available to young people and utilising young people's media
- 5.3 The workshop highlighted that there is good practice in parts of North Yorkshire however this is not consistent in all areas. E.g. In Selby there are excellent services in schools and colleges where young people can access contraception and advice. In Harrogate there is good support

from school health for schools in delivering sex and relationships education. In the coast there is targeted work with at risk groups of young people by the sexual health outreach team, e.g. looked after children, E2E, the PRU and the Youth Justice Service.

- 5.4 Priorities from the workshop will be developed by the county teenage pregnancy strategy group and the findings also need to be presented to the children and young people's commissioning group.

6.0 North Yorkshire Sexual Health Policy

- 6.1 A policy has been developed to support staff in working with young people around sexual health. This policy is based on national guidance and supports staff and young people with legal issues. (Appendix one)
- 6.2 The policy has been developed in partnership with a number of agencies and can be used to ensure that staff are working safely and that young people are protected and feel confident about seeking advice from services

Carly Walker
Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator
July 2009