

## NORTH YORKSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010

### **National consultation on the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy**

#### **1.0 Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To make members of the board aware of the national consultation around the teenage pregnancy strategy and how they can contribute to the consultation.

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Board notes the report.

#### **3.0 Teenage Pregnancy Rates**

- 3.1 The latest teenage pregnancy data was released on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2010. The data shows that in North Yorkshire teenage pregnancy rates have reduced by 19.4% between 1998 and 2008. However in 2007 and 2008 rates increased which goes against the national trend.

#### **4.0 Consultation of next phase of the national teenage pregnancy strategy**

- 4.1 Despite a national and local reduction in teenage pregnancy rates there is still a lot to be done in order to bring the figures in line with other Western European countries. The Teenage Pregnancy Strategy: Beyond 2010 document sets out how the Government want to build on the existing Teenage Pregnancy Strategy to strengthen its delivery in all local areas and make further progress towards halving the under 18 conception rate and improving outcomes for teenage parents and their children. The Strategy aims to give young people the knowledge and skills they need to delay early sex until they are ready, to ensure they are able and confident to access and use effective contraception when they do become sexually active, and to provide effective support for teenage parents. Success depends on the contribution from a range of agencies.

#### 4.2 The document:

- takes stock of what has been achieved so far and sets out the results of work we have undertaken to review the evidence base for the Strategy and to assess its cost-effectiveness;
- sets out our vision of what we want to be provided for young people, so that they have the knowledge and skills to make safe and healthy choices, and accessible, young people-friendly services they need when they become sexually active;

- describes how all universal and targeted services for young people have a role to play in helping to prevent teenage pregnancies and provide support for teenage parents;
- looks at how we can best support and challenge local areas to drive down rates further, based on the lessons learnt from the areas where teenage pregnancy rates have fallen fastest; and
- asks for thoughts on what more we can do to accelerate progress.

## **5.0 Local consultation**

- 5.1 Members of the Children's Trust Board are invited to contribute to the consultation either directly to the DCSF or through the Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator. Local views will be gathered through discussions with partner agencies and via the North Yorkshire County Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Group and the sexual health network.
- 5.2 Findings of the current review of contraceptive services for young people in North Yorkshire and the accompanying consultation with young people will be used to inform a local response.

### **For more information**

Responses can be completed online at [www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations) by emailing [TeenagePregnancy.STRATEGY@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:TeenagePregnancy.STRATEGY@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk) or by downloading a response form which should be completed and sent to: Consultation Unit, Area 1A, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2GJ.

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