
SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

SUMMARY REPORT**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Scrutiny Committee members of the recommendations included in the Sex and Relationship Education Policy.

Summary

2. Good sex and relationship education is essential in order to provide children and young people with the skills, knowledge and confidence to make informed choices and decisions. Sex and relationship education must be consistent and factually correct. If children and young people are not taught about sex and relationship issues in this way, they will begin to learn from other areas and this may prove harmful. Deliverers of sex and relationship education must be well trained, happy and confident with what they are delivering, covering a broad range of topics in an interesting way, ensuring the information is relevant to age and stage development and practical, refraining from using shock tactics and covering a range of learning styles. Sex and relationship education needs to be a continuous programme and should be developed accordingly using external professionals and partnership work to ensure the best way of working for the children and young people we work with. Having a strong Sex and Relationship Education Policy will support the improvement of the long term health of children and young people in Darlington while also supporting other local and national strategies and reports including Every Child Matters, The Children's Plan, National Healthy Schools Programme, Darlington's Children and Young People's Plan, the NHS 2009 – 2010 Delivery Plan and the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that the report be noted.

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Background Papers

Every Child Matters – Change for Children

Darlington Children and Young People's Plan 2008 – 2011

Beyond Biology – Call for PSHE, which includes sex and relationships education, to be made statutory. Written by Anna Martinez, published by the National Children's Bureau for the Sex Education Forum.

Department for Education and Employment (2000) Sex and relationship education guidance. London DFEE.

Sex Education Forum (2005) Sex and Relationship Education Framework. London : NCB.

S17 Crime and Disorder	This policy has no obvious implications for crime and disorder although it may have an effect on young peoples decisions to have underage sex
Health and Well Being	This policy will have a direct effect on the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Darlington
Sustainability	This report has no effect on sustainability
Diversity	All groups of young people are effected
Wards Affected	All Wards
Groups Affected	All children and young people
Budget and Policy Framework	The content of this report does not change Budget or Policy Framework.
Efficiency	The content of this report does not effect efficiency
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	One of the core health outcomes in Healthy Darlington is to improve the life chances of young people though good health choices. This policy will help them to make informed choices.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

4. Information to support this policy includes the Locality Profiles 2008 – 2009. Within this document, statistics can be found which identify locality B and D as teenage pregnancy ‘hotspots’ with 75 conceptions in young people under 18 between 2003 and 2005. Other localities also have high levels of teenage conceptions. The teenage conception data runs two years behind the current date, however the latest data also shown that teenage conception rates in the area are very high and the Government strategy to make a 55% reduction in these rates by 2010 is very challenging.

Information on repeat terminations also recently published shows that Darlington has a large repeat termination rate in under 19 year olds. The national average is 10.4 per 1000, however Darlington has a rate of 12.3.

Outcome of Consultation

5. The consultation process began in 2006 through the Local Area Agreement where this was identified as a priority. The Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board members were consulted and asked to take a draft of the policy forward to their organisations and groups which they worked with. These groups included young people.

The Teenage Pregnancy Stakeholders event also provided the opportunity for consultation with stakeholders and young people between 2006 and 2008. Following this, the draft policy was re-drafted.