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**TEENAGE PREGNANCY STRATEGY ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK FOR 2003/04**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) – Councillor Lister, Social Services Portfolio**

**Responsible Director(s) - Margaret Asquith, Director of Social Services**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To provide Members with a summary of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Assessment Feedback for 2003 – 2004. The feedback document is attached as **Appendix A**.

**Information and Analysis**

2. Background

Since April 2001, every top-tier local (Social Services / Education) authority in England has been required to produce a local teenage pregnancy strategy, which has to be agreed with the Teenage Pregnancy Unit (TPU) in the Department of Health. These agreed strategies and their action plans, set out how local agencies will work together to deliver the key aims of the National Strategy: i.e. better prevention of under 18 conceptions and better support for teenage parents.

3. The national strategy aims to halve the under 18 conception rate by 2010 from baseline year 1998 with an interim target of 15% by 2004 and by 2010 to increase to 60% the participation of teenage mothers in education, training or work in order to reduce their risk of long term social exclusion.
4. However, in 1998, as an area with a relatively high rate of teenage pregnancies, Darlington's target for 2010 was set by the TPU at a 55% reduction in the under 18's conception by 2010 with an interim target of 10% by 2004.
5. Darlington's Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Co-ordinator, has been employed by Darlington Primary Care Trust (PCT) since 2001. The national Teenage Pregnancy Local Implementation Grant funding (LIF) was re-routed to local Authorities in 2003 (from the Health Authority), but with the recommendation that it was transferred to the Co-ordinators employer. A Service Level Agreement therefore exists with the PCT to ensure that the grant is used to support the local Strategy and deliver the local action plan. However, the local multi-agency Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board recommends the detail of the expenditure and oversees the implementation.

6. An annual report is required to describe progress and set out the next years action plan. A regional panel assess the report and a summary of their assessment is included below:-

7. Summary of feedback on annual report re April 2003 – March 2004

Overall the report was satisfactory, noting Darlington's good progress towards the national target with our achieving currently a 26% decrease in under 18 conceptions compared to the 1998 baseline. Nationally, the 2004 target is 15% but due to our original high rate, a 10% target was accepted. This exceeds the 10% target we were set.

8. Key points from Summary are as follows:

a) The relationship with key strategic partners has this year been greatly strengthened.

b) Work in schools, especially that undertaken by school nurses is to be commended.

c) Good progress has been made in primary care settings, pharmacies and community venues with regard to accessibility of contraception and sexual health information for young people.

d) School nurses are again commended for their work in establishing advisory services in schools and developing a new substantial teenage health clinic.

e) Multi-agency approaches to housing needs of young parents, is very good and excellent progress has been made in the new supported housing project at Grace Court.

f) Support has been improved and offered to young parents, especially with the development of a joint post in partnership with Sure Start to also cover non-Sure Start areas.

g) Child care issues and the progress around education, employment and training is slow and needs prioritising.

h) The work around development of parenting skills provided by the school nurse team and health visitors is commended.

i) Financial contributions made by multi-agency partners, especially from supporting people to support strategy implementation is good.

j) 2004/05 actions addressing the needs of boys and young men, ethnic minority groups and links with the secure unit are good.

k) It is anticipated that in 2006, the ring fencing of the current £102,000 LIF grant will be removed. The expectation is that Teenage Pregnancy Programmes and Services will then be jointly commissioned, with mainstream funding, by Children's Services Authorities including the PCT.

l) The Regional Assessment Panel felt that there is disproportionate expenditure on co-ordination relative to the 04/05 allocation and would expect that having made the Co-ordinator post permanent and extended the responsibilities to cover 2 days per week on

sexual health and HIV work, consideration should be given to ensure that extra support is directed towards the effective delivery of the action plan.

## **Outcome of Consultation**

9. The preparation of the annual report was based on multi-agency work, stakeholder events and the involvement and participation of young parents, for example, the involvement of young parents in developing the procedures, protocols and house rules for Grace Court or young people involved in development of a teen health clinic outside of Primary Care.

## **Legal Implications**

10. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report

## **Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

11. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

## **Council Policy Framework**

12. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework

## **Decision Deadline**

13. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter

## **Recommendations**

14. It is recommended that Members:-
  - (a) Note the contents of the report, and
  - (b) Support the continuation of the current arrangements and the multi-agency implementation of Darlington's Teenage Pregnancy Strategy.

## **Reasons**

15. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-
  - (a) The 2003-2004 report refers to the current (2002) statistical achievements of a 26% reduction in under 18 conceptions relative to the 1998 baseline; and
  - (b) The feedback from the Teenage Pregnancy unit is positive and Darlington is making good progress towards the aims of the National Strategy.

**Margaret Asquith  
Director of Social Services**

**Background papers**

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report except for those appended to this report.

**Appendix A**

From the Department for Education and Skills:

Teenage Pregnancy: Feedback on the annual report and updated action plan for Darlington

Helen Armstrong: Extension 3805

Department for  
Education and skills  
Creating opportunity, releasing potential, achieving excellence

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**To: Chair of Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board  
Chief Executive of Darlington  
Chief Executive of Darlington Primary Care Trust**

30 June 2004

Dear Chief Executive/ Chair

**Teenage Pregnancy: Feedback on the annual report and updated action plan for Darlington**

Thank you very much for your annual report, which describes progress with your local teenage pregnancy strategy during 2003/04 and sets out the action plan for 2004/05. Assessment of the annual reports has been led by the Regional Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator with support from a regional assessment panel with representation from other key programmes such as Healthy Schools, Connexions, and Sure Start, and input from those with performance management responsibilities in Strategic Health Authorities, Housing, and Social Services.

**Summary of feedback on the strategy for Darlington**

Satisfactory progress has been made overall during 2003-04, with good progress made in the following areas:

- Relationships with key strategic partners have been greatly strengthened.
- Work in schools, especially that undertaken by school nurses is to be commended.
- Multi-agency approaches to housing needs of young parents is very good. The new supported (24 hours) accommodation unit is now open and fully occupied.
- Support is being improved and offered to young parents, especially in Partnership with Sure Start.

However, childcare issues and the progress made around education, employment and training is slow and needs prioritising. Good progress is being made towards the national target of reducing teenage conceptions with a 26% decrease being shown, against the baseline and evidence of a long term downward trend emerging.

### **Detailed feedback on the strategy**

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of your annual report with detailed comments on each section added by the Regional Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator, based upon the views of the regional assessment panel. Progress with issues raised in the feedback will form the basis of the six monthly review with the local Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board, which the Regional Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator will be undertaking in the autumn.

We also enclose a brief summary of projects that the Teenage Pregnancy Unit (TPU) has developed over the last year to support implementation of the Strategy (Annex A). You may wish to consider including some of these in your 2004-5 action plan. Further information, including any costs involved, will be sent to your local Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator.

You will be aware that provisional data for 2002 indicates an increase of 0.7% in the national under 18 conception rate and for 55% of Local Authorities the 2002 data marked a reversal in their previous downward trend. Although 56% of Local Authorities remain on track to meet their 2004 15% interim target, 20% have static or increasing rates since the baseline year of 1998. A considerable amount of work has been undertaken in the last eighteen months which is not yet reflected in the data. However, the reversal of the national trend underlines the challenge of the ten year Strategy and the importance of reviewing and strengthening its implementation. To help gain a better understanding of the reasons behind the variation in trends across the country, the Teenage Pregnancy Unit has commissioned some in-depth research by the National Evaluation Team in four increasing and four decreasing rate areas which will be published in September. We are also working with the nine regional Public Health Observatories to look at trends in conception rates in relation to other indicators of inequalities. We will of course keep you informed of findings as they emerge.

In addition to this national work, it is essential that each strategy continues to review action plans against local data and evaluate interventions to identify effective practice. This is particularly important as we move to 2006 when it is anticipated that ring fencing of the Teenage Pregnancy Implementation Grant will be removed and programmes and services jointly commissioned with mainstream funding by Children's Services Authorities, including PCTs. The Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Boards provide a clear framework and process to enable joint commissioning for the continuation of the ten year strategy. As identified in the National Evaluation Team's annual reports, a senior local coordinator is key to effective implementation of local strategies.

You will note that this letter is co-signed by Cathy Hamlyn, Head of Sexual Health and Substance Misuse in the Department of Health. The joint appointment of Marcus Bell as Head of the Teenage Pregnancy Unit also signals our continued joint working since the move of the Teenage Pregnancy Unit to DfES and the priority teenage pregnancy retains in the DH Health Inequalities and Sexual Health and HIV Strategies. We expect the forthcoming Children and Young People's National Service Framework and the Public Health White Paper to further strengthen implementation of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy.

Finally, we would like to thank all those involved in your strategy and particularly the Local Teenage Pregnancy Coordinator for preparing the Annual Report. The Teenage Pregnancy Strategy is viewed by many as a catalyst for the partnership working and integrated planning and service delivery that the Green Paper *Every Child Matters* is working towards. We look forward to working with you over the next year to consolidate this work and strengthen the links with other relevant programmes aimed at addressing inequalities and improving the lives of children and young people.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Weinstock  
Director, Supporting Children and Young People  
Department for Education and Skills

Cathy Hamlyn  
Head of Sexual Health and Substance Misuse  
Department of Health

Anne Graney  
Regional Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator

Cc: Regional Director of Public Health  
Local Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator



**Projects funded by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit to support local strategy implementation.**

**Teenage pregnancy: an overview of the research evidence**

TPU and the Health Development Agency have published a comprehensive update on research evidence on teenage pregnancy. The briefing is available on [www.teenagepregnancyunit.gov.uk](http://www.teenagepregnancyunit.gov.uk)

**Media training**

A basic and advanced media training course has been developed to support local strategies in the development of local campaigns, media protocols and PR work. During 2004-5, TPU has funded one free course for each Government Office region. Further courses or extra places are available but will require local funding. Details and costs of the media training are available from your Regional Teenage Pregnancy Coordinator.

New *Time to Talk* posters and cards

New posters and cards encouraging parents to talk to their children about relationships and sex have been produced by Parentline Plus as part of the Time to Talk initiative. The resources have been mailed to all general practices in England for display in waiting areas but are suitable for use in any community setting used by parents. Free copies of the posters and cards can be ordered by the Teenage Pregnancy Coordinator through the order form on the TPU website.

*Professional Development and Certification of the Teaching of PSHE*

During 2003-4, 625 teachers completed the PSHE certification programme. For 2004-5, funding has been made available through the Local Implementation Grant for 3000 further teachers to join the programme. All areas have received some extra funding with the allocation weighted to the number of schools in the Local Authority. Funding arrangements for 2005-6 will be confirmed later this year.

*Professional Development and Certification of Community Nurses to support PSHE*

The PSHE certification programme for community nurses completed a successful pilot in March 2004. From September 2004, over four hundred nurses will be involved in Phase Two of the programme. The phased roll out is being targeted at LEAs involved in Phase One of the teachers programme, in order to develop a package of PSHE specialism for schools and other community settings. Funding for 2004-5 is being delivered through the Standards Fund. Funding arrangements for 2005-6 will be confirmed later in the year. Information on both programmes can be found on [www.wiredforhealth.gov.uk](http://www.wiredforhealth.gov.uk)

*Building Bridges* – integrating school sex and relationships education and contraceptive services for boys and young men

***Building Bridges*** is an SRE resource for 14-16 year old boys (KS4), aimed at improving their engagement with SRE and developing their confidence and skills in accessing local advice services. Developed by Working with Men, ***Building Bridges*** is supported by a training course on effective use of the resource. The training is designed for collaborative work between PSHE teachers, LEA advisers, school nurses, youth workers, service providers and others working with boys and young men, and has been successfully piloted in two areas during 2003-4. All participants receive a free copy of the resource. Details and costs of training courses are available from Working with Men on [ndavidson@workingwithmen.org](mailto:ndavidson@workingwithmen.org) (01453 767984)

*Let's Make it Happen* – improving sex and relationships and support for looked after children and young people

***Let's Make it Happen*** is a joint project between fpa and the National Children's Bureau to enable trainers to support the skill development of those working with looked after children and young people on sex and relationships issues. The ***Let's Make it Happen*** resource is being disseminated through courses, aimed at trainers from social services, health, education, youth services and the voluntary sector. Courses in 2004-5 are in Bristol (15/16 September), Newcastle (27/28 October) and Manchester (29/30 November) and will include the revised TPU guidance for social care professionals on enabling young people to access contraception and sexual health advice. Courses for 2005-6 will be confirmed later in the year. Details of costings are available from Suzy Mackie at fpa at [trainingengland@fpa.org.uk](mailto:trainingengland@fpa.org.uk)

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*Sexual Health Skills: an RCN distance learning programme for nurses*  
Developed and accredited by the Royal College of Nursing, this distance learning programme provides a sound holistic foundation course on contraceptive and sexual health learning. The programme is aimed at nurses who have the potential to play a more proactive role in providing contraceptive and sexual health advice, but who are unable to take extended study leave or secure funding for full family planning courses. The programme enables nurses to communicate sensitively and effectively on sexual health issues, make an appropriate sexual health assessment, provide condoms and pregnancy testing and issue emergency contraception under Patient Group Directions. The programme costs £150 per nurse. Details and application forms are available from [sexualhealthlearning@rcn.org.uk](mailto:sexualhealthlearning@rcn.org.uk) or [www.rcn.org.uk/sexualhealthlearning](http://www.rcn.org.uk/sexualhealthlearning)

*Getting it right for teenagers in your practice*

This initiative led by the Royal College of General Practitioners in collaboration with the RCN aims to help increase young people's uptake of advice within general practice. The ***Getting it Right*** pamphlet provides a checklist of questions for practices to self assess how accessible they are to young people, and suggestions on making improvements. The initiative is

supported by twice yearly conferences for primary care and PCT staff, offering further advice, opportunities to share practice and a range of training materials. Copies of the *Getting it Right* pamphlet are available free from [doh@prolog.uk.com](mailto:doh@prolog.uk.com) (reference 31536) A *Getting it Right* publication giving examples of general practice initiatives is being published this autumn.

*The Confidentiality Toolkit*

This training resource aims to help general practices raise awareness of the importance of confidentiality for young people, sets out the legal and professional frameworks and provides model confidentiality policies and posters. The resource has been well tested in practice training sessions and PCT protected learning time programmes. Copies of the *Confidentiality Toolkit* are available free from [doh@prolog.uk.com](mailto:doh@prolog.uk.com) (reference 31451 – Confidentiality and Young People)

*You're Welcome*: a guidance pack for developing quality standards for young people friendly services

TPU has supported the development of a resource to enable commissioners and services to develop quality standards for young people friendly services. Based on the generic access criteria set out in the TPU Best Practice Guidance, the standards will be suitable for health and other services and be compatible with the standards expected from the forthcoming Children and Young People's National Service Framework. The resource will be disseminated through a series of regional seminars from January to March 2005. Details will be confirmed later in the year.

School based services email network

TPU has supported the Sex Education Forum to develop an email network for school based services. This e-mail based network is aimed at professionals who are either currently managing or in the process of developing links between schools and services. It aims to help them share information and good practice, and to provide mutual support. The network will build on the publication *Secondary schools and sexual health services: forging the links*, which has been widely used within local teenage pregnancy strategies.

Further information about joining the email network is available from [amartinez@ncb.org.uk](mailto:amartinez@ncb.org.uk)

Pregnant teenagers and young parents – a resource pack for advisers

This ring binder resource provides essential information on benefits, childcare, housing and other support issues relevant to young parents. Developed by the Maternity Alliance, the resource addresses all the complex information issues commonly faced by support workers. Sections are updated to incorporate new information as necessary. Suitable for Sure Start Plus and Connexions Personal Advisers, Health Visitors, Midwives, and Supported Housing workers. the resource costs £20 + p&p. Details are available from Maternity Alliance at [mfoxwell@maternityalliance.org.uk](mailto:mfoxwell@maternityalliance.org.uk)

Teenage Parents Midwifery Network

**TPU is continuing to support the Teenage Parents Midwifery Network to help develop improved maternity care for young parents. The network aims to support midwives providing specialist care and identify effective interventions for mainstream provision. The network will also be encouraging implementation of the commissioning guidance Teenage Parents: Who Cares? – published in February by TPU, Department of Health and the Royal College of Midwives. Information about the Network is available from the Coordinator, Sara Kirk, at [SKirk.GO-East@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:SKirk.GO-East@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk)**

30 June 2004