

Annual report 2008 from Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group

Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group is a non departmental public body which monitors the implementation of the government's Teenage Pregnancy Strategy.

Progress

The teenage conception rate is down by nearly 13% since 1998 and 89% of local authorities are on track to meet the 50% reduction target by 2010. Some areas have 25% reductions but 11% have rising rates or stubbornly high rates. There has also been a reduction of 23% in teenage conceptions leading to births.

Some facts

- UK rates are twice as high as Germany, three times as high as France and five times as high as the Netherlands
- Daughters of teenage mothers are twice as likely to become teenage parents
- 75% of teenage conceptions are unplanned and about half result in abortion
- 20% of teenage births to under 18s are second pregnancies
- 50% of teenage conceptions happen in 20% of wards with the highest rates

More facts

Teenage mothers are

- three times more likely to have post natal depression and to experience poor mental health for the next three years
- more likely to smoke

And

- 40% have no qualifications and 70% are not in education, training or work
- Babies of teenage mothers have a 60% higher mortality rate
- Their children achieve less at school
- They are twice as likely to be living in poverty

Who is at risk of being a teenage parent ?

- Young people in care – 25% of young women are mothers by the time they are 16 and 50% within 12/18 months of leaving care
- 39% of young women in custody and 25% of young men
- Daughters of teenage mothers

Cost of Teenage Pregnancy

- Limited health and wealth.....to themselves and their families
- Estimated to cost £69 million to NHS alone
- £1 spent on Teenage Pregnancy Strategy saves £4

Factors for Success

- Leadership
- Joined up working
- Contraception and sexual health services for young people
- PSHE/SRE in all schools
- Targeted outreach work
- Multi-agency training
- A Youth Service

What do young people tell us ?

They want

- more sex and relationship education in school
- And they want their parents to talk to them about relationships and sex
- 4 in 10 of 13-17 years olds report receiving no information from parents

Remember that most young people don't have sex before they are 16 and most parents want their children to know about sex and relationships

TPIAG recommendations for 2008

Strategic Direction and Leadership

- Teenage pregnancy needs to be mainstreamed as part of all inclusion and inequality work
- National Support team work needs to be expanded with effective follow up
- PCTs as well Local Authorities need to prioritise Teenage Pregnancy and work together in partnership with all children services

TPIAG recommendations for 2008 Data

- Local areas to use TPU local monitoring data set and provide analyst support to improve targeting and commissioning
- Combine ante natal data with abortion data to provide timelier monitoring
- Use the data for better commissioning
- Improve ethnic monitoring and repeat birth data collection by using Hospital Episodic statistics

TPIAG recommendations for 2008

Communication

- Improve messages to young people and parents as well as staff at a local level
- Nationally remove 9pm watershed restriction on condom advertising
- And develop a *safe* SRE portal for young people, parents teachers and staff

TPIAG recommendations for 2008 CASH services

- DH and PCTs to work together to use contraception funding (around £80K for each PCT) allocation for young people CASH services 2008/9, 2009/10 and 2011/12
- Young people to have access to all contraception methods including LARC
- AL CASH services should have IT and be *You're Welcome* approved

TPIAG recommendations for 2008 Sex and Relationships Education

- PSHE which includes SRE should be statutory
- SRE review recommendations should be implemented from October 2008 and include ensuring SRE is part of the Well-Being indicators
- All schools should have at least one PSHE specialist
- SRE Audit tool should be used by all schools as part of Healthy School development
- Rose Primary School review should emphasise PSHE

TPIAG recommendations for 2008 Confident and competent children's workforce

CWDC should

- Expand the *common core* to ensure all staff can identify risk, support the young person and refer as appropriate
- Set standards for a multi agency SRE training
- Develop a new SRE qualification for volunteers
- And work with CWN to develop a multi agency work based SRE training package

TPIAG recommendations for 2008

Parents

- To roll out a national training programme on talking about sex and relationships for parents e.g. *Speakeasy*
- Include SRE in local parenting strategies
- Develop and disseminate a pack for parents which complements SRE in school

TPIAG recommendations for 2008

- Teenage parents receive excellent support and advice re their parenting, benefits and housing and support to re-engage into education and training
- Pregnant teenagers are referred by the Midwife antenatally to the lead professional in Connexions or Targeted Youth Support
- Develop a financial awareness and capability resource for young parents that helps them to budget, save and spend
- Care2Learn is increased
- Young mothers who need it are accommodated with an effective support package
- Young mothers are placed in affordable housing
- Data on homelessness and housing of young mothers is collected and used to plan.
- A project is undertaken which evaluates the effectiveness of different types of housing and support and guidance is developed

Summary

We need to continue to learn from the excellent practice across England and dedicated effective action of many colleagues, disseminate this knowledge to ensure that all areas are able to accelerate the progress of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy

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