

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Children & Families Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 22 March 2010

Report of: John Weeks Strategic Director of People

Subject/Title: Reducing Teenage Pregnancy

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Paul Findlow

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a progress update on the previous report provided to the Scrutiny Committee on 14 September 2009. It outlines the current position of Cheshire East in relation to the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and national targets and support received from Government Office North West and the National Support Team.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the recommendations contained in the report by the National Support Team on Contraceptive and Sexual Health Services (appendix 1), and endorse steps being taken to formulate a more targeted programme of action to address this issue.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The reasons for tackling teenage pregnancy and supporting teenage mothers and young fathers are well documented and include health and wider inequalities issues. Babies born to teenage mothers have a 60% higher infant mortality rate and a 63% increased risk of being born into poverty compared to babies born to older mothers. Daughters of teenage mothers are twice as likely as daughters born to older mothers to become teenage mothers themselves. Similar disadvantage affects young fathers. Measures to reduce teenage conceptions will help to reduce the health inequalities and social exclusion impact of teenage parenthood.
- 3.2 There is considerable evidence that where these recommendations are fully implemented there is a reduction in the number of Under 18 conceptions and resulting improved outcomes for young people. There is a detailed action plan agreed with key partners being developed to address the issues raised.

4.0 Wards Affected

There are wards where the under 18 conceptions are particularly concerning. The rates in these wards have remained consistently high during the life time of this strategy for example some wards in Crewe.

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 These where under 18 conception rates are high or rising

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health

6.1 Policies need to be further developed to cover aspects of the delivery of services in Children and Families and with Partner organisations. For example an updated policy for schools on the provision of health services including sexual health services on school and college sites.

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

7.1 N/A

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

8.1 The Local Authority receives funding via Area Based Grant to address teenage pregnancy. Additionally partner agencies are expected to deploy their resources appropriately to address this matter i.e. PCT funding for Contraceptive and Sexual Health Services (CASH)

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

9.1 N/A

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 The key risk is that we will not be able to meet the targets in reducing the Under 18 conception rate. This means that the significant cost in financial terms to the LA and PCT continue and that the cycle of poor outcomes for teenage parents and their children remain. To minimise the risk and reduce Under 18 conceptions requires effective partnership working and a structured plan in line with our identified priorities.

11.0 Background and Options

11.1 The Governments Teenage Pregnancy Strategy first launched in 1999 set out to halve the under 18 conception rate by 2010, compared to the 1998 baseline rate. This target is reflected in NHS Vital Signs Indicator VSBO8 and in the Cheshire East Local Area Agreements, National Indicator 112.

- 11.2 Conception statistics are produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and are presented on a local authority, regional and national footprint. Data is presented at around 14 months after the period to which they relate and is released annually in February. Data for 2008 was released in February 2010.
- 11.3 In 2007, Cheshire East Unitary Authority had an Under-18 conception rate of 34.9 per 1000 females aged 15-17. This represented an overall reduction of 8% since the 1998 baseline rate of 37.9 per 1000 for Cheshire East and was 16% lower than the England average of 41.7 per 1000. The most recent performance information published on 24 February 2010 for 2008 indicates that the overall national reduction was 13.3% and the Cheshire East reduction was 9.1%.
- 11.4 Cheshire East rates vary considerably between areas. For example the rates in the Congleton area are relatively low but have seen a rise over the 10 year period, whereas for Macclesfield, Crewe and Nantwich the under 18 conceptions are much higher, but have shown a small decrease in rate.
- 11.5 The 'hotspot wards' where the rates of under 18 conceptions are high, are those that have the highest index of multiple deprivation. The largest number being in Crewe.
- 11.6 The termination rates are a concern for Cheshire East, and again they vary with Congleton having a termination rate of 59%, Macclesfield 61% and Crewe and Nantwich 43%.
- 11.7 In June 2009, the Teenage Pregnancy National Support Team (NST) visited Cheshire East and made a series of recommendations (See Board Paper "NST Report on Teenage Pregnancy" 28 July 2009). Actions taken as a result include:
- The establishment of an Executive Board in October 2009, chaired by the PCT, including the Director of Public Health and Head of Children's Services
 - The establishment of an Operational Group across Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester, chaired by an Associate Director of Public Health from the PCT. This group has agreed collaborative action on communications including campaigns; condom distribution and workforce development
 - The appointment of an AD in Public Health from the PCT to be the PCT strategic lead along with a regional advisor from Government Office North West working with Cheshire East for two days per week to May 2010
 - The completion of a Sexual Health Needs Assessment – available to view on the JSNA website: http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/community_and_living/local_strategic_partnership/jsna/strategic_needs_assessment.aspx
 - A Data group has been established across Cheshire. Hot spots are identified and actions targeted in those areas.

- Young Advisors from Knowsley have undertaken a “mystery shopping” exercise and identified areas for improvement in access to young people friendly sexual health services which the PCT’s Sexual Health Programme Board is incorporating as part of its redesign of sexual health services; work is in progress to establish a condom distribution scheme across Cheshire by 31 March 2010
- Connexions have completed a consultation survey with over 300 young people in Cheshire East on their views about sex and relationship information and advice
- The Radical Review of Sexual Health Services Planning event offered by a GONW team took place in January 2010.

11.8 Attached at Appendix 1 is the report of the National Support Team for Teenage Pregnancy that has been working with the Local Authority, Primary Care Trust and partner agencies, to further investigate underlying issues relating to teenage pregnancy in Cheshire East. The attached report particularly focuses upon the commissioning and delivery of contraceptive and sexual health services (Appendix 2). Additionally attached at Appendix 3 is the report by Knowsley Young Advisors “Sexual Health Services, Mystery Shopping Report”.

11.9 Both reports focus upon:

- current performance in reducing teenage pregnancy
- the commissioning and delivery of appropriate sexual health services for young people

11.10 Both reports provide challenges to the Local Authority and PCT and require that current arrangements for delivery of services is reviewed.

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

12.1 A quarterly review of action planning against the recommendations given by NST.

Analysis of the quarterly rolling ONS data and more timely and localised under 18 conception data and termination data provided by Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT.

An annual review using the Teenage Pregnancy Self Assessment toolkit.

13.0 Access to Information

The background information relating to our teenage pregnancy strategy report is as follows;

NST scrutiny report (Appendix 1)

Contraceptive and sexual health services review findings and recommendations (Appendix 2)

Knowsley Young Advisors “Sexual Health Services, Mystery Shopping Report”. (Appendix 3)

The 2008 ONS data (Feb 2010) and the 2005/7 Ward data

The Teenage Pregnancy Strategy 2010 and beyond consultation document (Feb 2010)

The Teenage Pregnancy Prevention National Support Team recommendations
for Cheshire East (June 2009)
The Teenage Pregnancy/Be Healthy strategic board TOR

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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