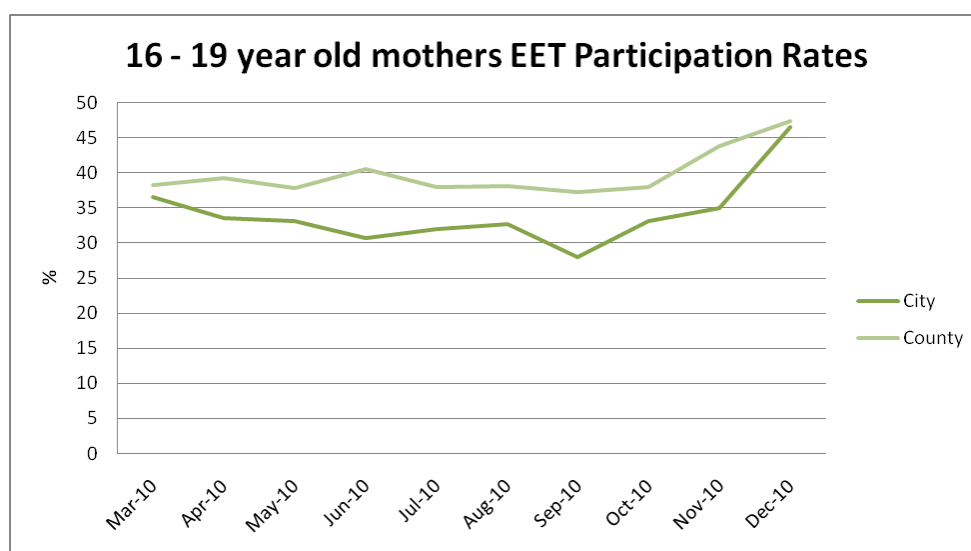


Supporting Pregnant Teenagers and Young Parents in Leicester and Leicestershire Delivery Plan 2011/12

Often teenagers find that pregnancy is the catalyst for positive change in their lives ¹.

In Leicester and Leicestershire we aim to support this statement through working together to generate informed, healthy and socially mobile pregnant teenagers and young parents, able to follow a clearly defined support pathway, with positive aspirations for themselves and their children.

We know that early parenthood brings with it increased risks of poverty ²; poor health outcomes ³; poor housing ⁴; and lower levels of attainment or employment ⁵. We also know that these risks can be managed ^{6,7}; that we have made significant progress locally in increasing the number of appropriate Education, Employment or Training (EET) opportunities and their uptake (Fig 1, below), and that early intervention has a significant impact providing considerable returns on investment ^{8,9,10}.



Strategic Context

Work to support teenage parents will contribute to the following strategy areas:

- Child Poverty
- Raising Aspirations
- Social Mobility
- Early Intervention
- Reducing Infant Mortality
- Raising Participation

The delivery plan will complement or work alongside existing strategies.

Measures of Success

- I. Partnership working will enable resources to be shared, avoid duplication and maximise the opportunities for meaningful impact measurement.
- II. Stakeholder involvement will ensure the needs of the cohort are identified and met; that targets are appropriate and realistic, and that locality partners are actively engaged.
- III. Engagement and participation targets will be set for each locality
- IV. Positive role modelling and peer support
- V. Identification of sustainable models of working

Overview of progress to date

We currently know about the highest percentage of young parents against Department of Health estimates in the East Midlands and are exceeding the performance of regional and statistical neighbours in EET participation rates.

This high level of performance is the result of a cross-sector partnership approach that we must work to sustain and develop, to ensure the best possible outcomes for local young parents, parents-to-be and their children.

There are 5 key stages of support:

1. Identification and assessment of need
2. Engagement to support and remove barriers
3. Learning at level 1
4. Progression into levels 2, 3 and beyond
5. 19 – 24 year olds support needs - *experience shows that young people are ready and able to move on once they reach 20 but the support is no longer there. This is something it would be useful for us to explore further.*

The theme of information, tracking and assessment cuts across each stage – the independent external evaluation of the TP EET Strategy 2009 – 2010 highlighted the need for partners to work together to establish common measures so that we are better able to measure the impact of interventions in the short, medium and long term.

The below matrix provides an outline delivery plan to support each stage of support, as well as the cross-cutting theme of information, tracking and assessment.

The matrix is designed to respond to local need and will change to accordingly.

The end of the National Teenage Pregnancy strategy, together with the cuts in available funding, has given us the opportunity to review our practice and have a clear focus on those areas where we will be able to make the most impact on our young parents and their families. Success will depend on partner agencies working together to pool resources and to develop and share best practice.

Targets

2 targets are proposed for 2011/12:

1. 80 % Engagement with services in the City and County and
2. 50 % Participation in Education Employment or Training in the City
& 60% Participation in Education Employment or Training in the County

Delivery Stage – Description of Key Areas of Support	Accountability – Actions, Outcomes, Responsibilities	RAG Rating, Risks & Potential Impact
1. Identification & Assessment of Need		
<i>Our % of TP known to us against DOH estimates is high. We need to maintain this and develop a co-ordinated approach to holistically assess need.</i>		
1.1 Midwifery Team carry out assessment of all teenagers 18 & under to determine whether they need specialist support during pregnancy	<i>Outcome:</i> Identification of most vulnerable young people to ensure they get appropriate support <i>Lead:</i> Trish Ryan, UHL	Green LR/ HI
1.2 Referral form completed for all pregnant teenagers at booking and sent to Connexions for recording	<i>Outcome:</i> Identification of pregnant teenagers <i>Leads:</i> Trish Ryan, UHL / Vicki Smith, Connexions	Green LR / HI
1.3 System of identification & needs assessment for those young people coming into the area as parents, or booking out of county	<i>Action:</i> Need to determine a process for identification / assessment of need for new to area / out of county booked young people <i>Leads:</i> Katie Phillips, Leicestershire County Council / Kirsty Reid, Leicester City Council	Red –LR, reduction of known % (LI) but potential safeguarding cases new to area (MI/HI)
1.4 Agencies who have contact with the cohort will all have a role in influencing behaviour and outcomes – our challenge is to capture this information to avoid duplication and track progress	<i>Action:</i> Pilot behaviour tracker tool with a sample cohort via the Providers Forum between October 2011 & March 2012 <i>Leads:</i> Katie Phillips / Kirsty Reid / Vicki Smith	Amber – plans in place to carry out pilot, subject to funding decision due May 2011 LR/HI to measure progress
1.5 The most vulnerable young people will often be those who refuse to engage with services or participate in EET	<i>Action:</i> Introduce new engagement measure – 80% of known young parents to be engaged / willing to engage with support agencies. Guidance for measure to be produced by end August 2011	Amber – plans in place to introduce LR/HI to identify vulnerable young people

Leads: Katie Phillips / Kirsty Reid / Vicki Smith

2. Engagement to Support & Remove Barriers

2.1 Workforce Development – is everyone confident about their role in supporting young people and the support available?

Actions: Work with partners to prioritise areas of the workforce to access training on support
Deliver training on the support needs of young parents
Work to embed issues around young parent's support within the wider Children's Workforce Development Plans
Leads: Katie Phillips / Kirsty Reid / Vicki Smith

Amber – in place in city, need to plan in county
LR / MI

2.2 Learning Provider Forum – Working to ensure workers and learning providers in the statutory and voluntary/ community sector are supported appropriately to work in partnership to meet the needs of the cohort

Actions: - Develop Terms of Reference for the Learning Provider Forum as the key delivery group for the Support Plan
Continue to support and develop the Learning Provider Forum to build the confidence and capacity of those engaging with young parents
Lead: Vicki Smith

Green – Forum meets 6-weekly
LR / HI

2.3 Where to signpost – Creating a menu of support and embedding the support pathway – where can workers signpost young people to?

Actions: Agree and confirm the local support pathway for young parents. *Leads: TP Executive Boards*
Ensure sources of support are identified and appropriate contacts shared with workers via parentsunder20 website – to complete by end November 2011 *Lead: Vicki Smith*
Partners to actively commit to the support pathway and their role within it.
Leads: TP Executive Boards

Green – plans in place
LR / HI

2.4 Measuring Impact – see 1.4

Action: Determine engagement & participation targets for localities. Leads: Katie Phillips / Kirsty Reid

Amber - need partner buy-in
MR / HI

3. Flexible Learning at level 1

3.1 Developing a cohesive learning offer that will enable progression

Actions: Work to ensure a comprehensive learning offer is available for young parents in the city and county. *Leads:* TP Executive Boards
Use the Learning Provider Forum to plan & support learning delivery
Lead: Vicki Smith

Green – plans in place
LR / HI

3.2 Sustainability

Action: Work with local colleges and learning providers to improve the mainstream learning offer and to develop innovative outreach learning models.

Leads: TP Executive Boards

Green – plans in place
LR / HI

Action: Use the Learning Provider Forum to identify any development needs and share best practice
Lead: Vicki Smith

Green – plans in place
LR / HI

3.3 Capacity Building / Sharing Best Practice

3.4 Measuring Impact – see 1.4

4. Progression into levels 2, 3 and beyond

4.1 Working in partnership with FE / HE to ensure level 2 & 3 learning and beyond are accessible and appealing to young parents

Action: Use the Learning Provider Forum to plan & support progression routes into FE/ HE and apprenticeship opportunities.

Develop further links with HE / Apprenticeship providers

Build on existing links with Principals Network

Leads: Vicki Smith, Kirsty Reid and Katie Phillips

Amber - plans in place
LR/HI

4.2 Raising aspirations

Action: Development of a series of positive case studies about local young parents who have progressed into positive destinations (through provider forum)

Lead: Vicki Smith

Green – plans in place
LR / HI

4.3 Peer Support

Action: Plan to develop and support young parents to offer support to their peers – work through the provider forum to develop & implement between October 2011 & March 2012

Lead: Vicki Smith

Amber - plans in place
LR/HI

4.4 Sustainability

Action: Work with local colleges and learning providers to improve the mainstream learning offer and to develop innovative outreach learning models.

Leads: TP Executive Boards

Green – plans in place
LR / HI

4.5 -Measuring Impact – see 1.4

5. 19 – 24 year olds support needs

5.1 Different support needs? Often the young people that we are supporting are ready and able to move on with their lives once they reach their early twenties, when support and learning opportunities are no longer available to them. The needs of the parent and child can remain unmet, which impacts on the lives of both. If a parent conceived under the age of 20 there is an argument to say they remain a teenage parent after their 20th birthday – when should support stop?

Action: Identify sources of support and appropriate contacts– to complete by end November 2011

Amber - plans in place
LR/HI

Lead: Vicki Smith

Action: Consider revising age definition of teenage parents

Amber
MR / HI

Lead: Katie Phillips, Kirsty Reid / Executive Boards

5.2 Sustainable approaches to support

Key : LI – Low Impact

MI – Medium Impact

HI – High Impact

LR – Low Risk

MR – Medium Risk

HR – High Risk

1 – p 9, Duncan, Edwards & Alexander; "Teenage Parenthood: What's the Problem?"; the Tufnell Press, London, 2010.

2 – "Children born to teenage mothers are 63% more likely to live in poverty than children born to mothers in their twenties" DfE (2010) "Youth Cohort Study of Young People in England: The activities and experiences of 18 year olds: England 2009" (A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families Lives, April 2011)

3 – "[Teenage mothers] experience 60% higher rates of infant mortality, have 3 times the rate of post-natal depression compared to older mothers, and there is a greater risk for them and their children of living in poverty in later life" Teenage Pregnancy Strategy: Beyond 2010, DCSF, Feb 2010

4,5- "Teenagers who become pregnant are more likely to drop out of school, missing a key phase of their education, leading to low educational attainment and no or low-paying insecure jobs without training.

Young mothers are also more likely to be lone parents with their children raised in a home with one income and often living in sub-standard housing or temporary accommodation. All these factors mean teenage mothers and their children need support to find a way out from what is often a low-income community to begin with, with families experiencing inter-generational teenage parenthood." Aspects of Child Poverty, Reducing Teenage Conceptions and Supporting Young Parents, Anna Sewell Implementation Ltd, March 2011

6 – "What is clear is that these poor outcomes are not inevitable if early and sustained support is put in place" – Teenage Pregnancy Strategy: Beyond 2010, DCSF, Feb 2010

7 – "Evidence suggests that if young parents move into employment or gain a qualification this leads to longer-term benefits for their children by breaking the cycle of worklessness and low aspirations which can run in families" The Audit Commission, Against the Odds, Re-engaging young people in education, employment or training, July 2010

8 – "Better targeting and collaboration can reduce lifetime cost and increase wellbeing. Early prevention through low-cost interventions can bring large savings. £4000 of short-term support to a teenage mother can be repaid twenty times over through net lifetime tax contributions. The same successful intervention can reduce public service costs by nearly £200,000 over a lifetime" The Audit Commission, Against the Odds, Re-engaging young people in education, employment or training, July 2010

9 – "The predicted Social Return on Investment (SROI) for the young parents EET Strategy is £5 for ever £1 that is invested over a 5 year period. Time limited one-to-one holistic support increases retention and progression through EET. Time limited one-to-one holistic support increases retention and progression through EET. Teen specific support provides opportunities for peer support, sharing experiences, social networking, increases sense of self worth and belonging and ultimately supporting retention and progression through EET alongside increasing parents life changes and aspirations." Evaluation of the young

parents EET strategy, The effectiveness and social return on investment of delivery, Oct 2010

10 – “As with effective strategies to reduce teenage pregnancy, the solution to improved outcomes for teenage mothers, young fathers and their children, rests with a range of services working together across the NHS, Local Authorities and the voluntary sector. The key ingredients of effective support are early identification and needs assessment in the antenatal period and dedicated, sustained support from a lead professional – a ‘critical friend’ – coordinating and drawing in specialist services as needed. Referral pathways between maternity services and ongoing support need to be clearly understood and watertight to prevent teenage mothers and young fathers slipping through the gaps between services and missing the support they need. And critically, all professional and services need to be proactively welcoming to young parents to dispel the apprehensions which deter many of them from accessing the very services they need.” Teenage Pregnancy Strategy: Beyond 2010, DCSF, Feb 2011