

## REPORT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOARD

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Panel</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Annual Report 2009</b>
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Children and Young People's Services</b>

### 5. **Summary:**

The National Teenage Pregnancy Strategy (1999) established the requirement on Local Authorities to reduce the under-18 conception rate by 50% by 2010, from the 1998 baseline of 56.4 (under 18 conceptions per 1000 girls aged 15-17). Whilst the overall trajectory for Rotherham is downward, 2008 saw a slight increase and progress against the target is unlikely to be sufficient to achieve the 2010 target. The under-18 conception rate target is a Local Area Agreement top 35 indicator and included within the Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health Authority Vital Signs performance measures. These targets require a 39% reduction for 2009/10 and a 50% reduction in 2010/11. The official final year data for 2009 will be published in February 2011.

The current priorities of the strategy are:

- Targeted interventions with high risk young people
- Increasing the role of parents in improving outcomes for young people particularly around talking to them about sex and relationships.
- A more systematic approach to comprehensive contraceptive provision.

### 6. **Recommendations:**

**To note the progress of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy during 2009 as identified in the annual report.**

## **7. Proposals and Details:**

The Strategy Refresh, which took place in October 2008 came into effect during 2009. The 2009 annual report highlights the impact of the refresh and provides an overview and analysis of the Strategy interventions.

The interventions within the annual report are based upon models of good practice and aim to prevent the negative outcomes for young parents and their children by reducing early conceptions and providing support for teen families. The work aims to address the social risk factors of teenage pregnancy, which contributes to work around wider social issues such as safeguarding, deprivation, child poverty and educational attainment.

The annual report identifies the successes from 2009 and areas which can be developed further. These include:

### Successes

- Early indications of a steep decline in under-18 conception rates.
- Increased attendance at youth clinics and the Contraception and Sexual Health Service.
- 95% uptake of contraception post termination within the RFT Pregnancy Advisory Service.
- Increased uptake of Long Acting Reversible Contraception.
- 'Pep Talks' is well received and valued by female pupils as part of Sex and Relationships Education.
- The Maltby Linx Young Women's Project was a national finalist for the Health and Social Care awards for success in partnership working.
- The launch of 'The S-Word, we need to talk about sex' with regional recognition as a model of good practice.
- The production and dissemination of two 'InControl' magazines.
- The introduction of Rotherham's sexual health week.

### Areas for development

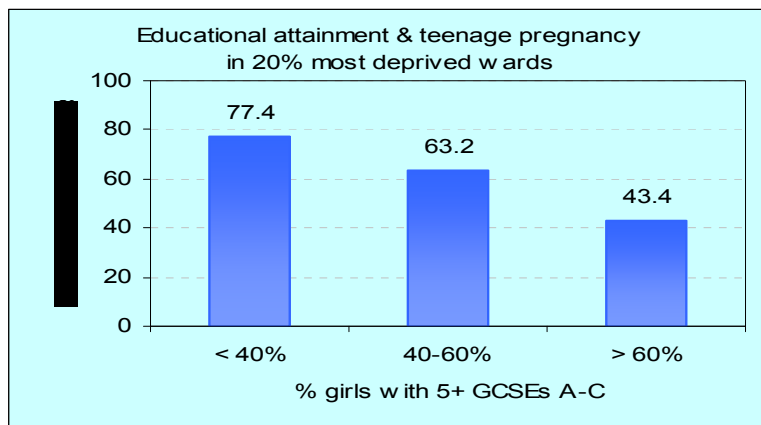
- Increase uptake of LARC further, including transferring pill users to LARC as a more effective contraception.
- Develop a one day training session covering all key elements of sexual health.
- Increase the percentage of people operating the Hardware scheme that have accessed the training.
- Consideration to be given to poorly attended youth clinics.
- Increase the number of pharmacists providing 'help72,' the free emergency contraception scheme in order to increase coverage and availability throughout the Borough.
- Long term sustainability and development of targeted prevention projects.

### Other points of interest

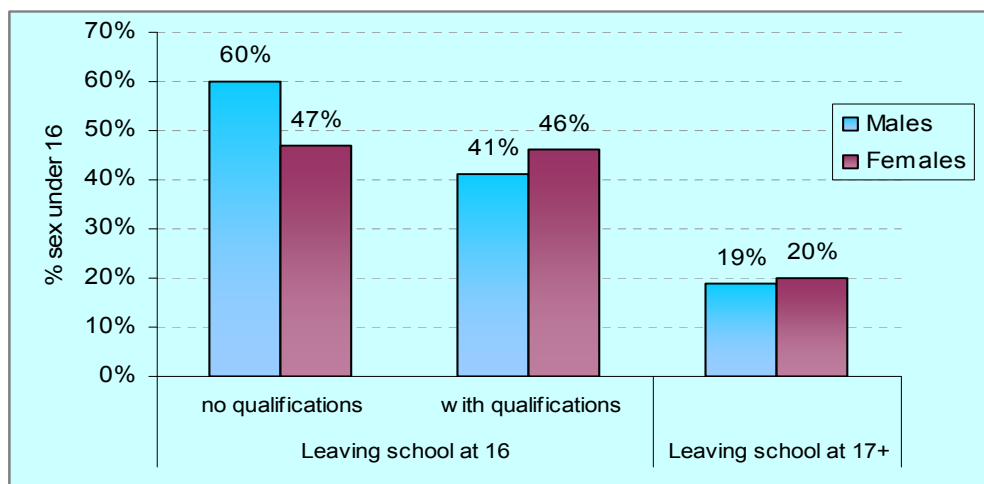
The national Sexual Health Balance Scorecard provided the statistical neighbour comparable data, which uses 2008 data in some cases. Therefore, our 2009 position may be slightly different. With this, the 2009 Office for National Statistics terminations data indicates that Rotherham has the fourth lowest rate for

terminations amongst under-18s in the Yorkshire and Humber region and is the best performing against the statistical neighbours quoted in the report.

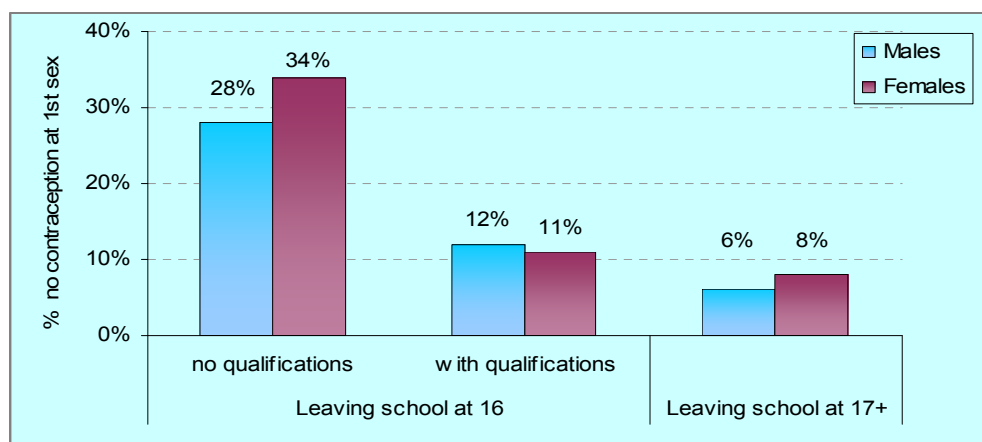
It is positive to identify Rotherham as having the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of 16-19 year olds in Education, employment or training as well as the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest percentage of A-C grade GCSEs gained in 2008. The 2009 figures will be compared in next year's annual report. Nationally, engagement in education, employment or training is closely associated with the prevention of early sexual activity and under-18 conceptions.



Source: Teenage Pregnancy Unit, 2006



Source: ONS & DCSF



Data Source: NATSAL 2000

**8. Finance:**

See the 2009 funding summary within the body of the Annual Report.

**9. Risks and Uncertainties:**

The entirety of the Teenage Pregnancy strategy is at risk due to financial constraints and changing priorities under the new Coalition Government.

The Teenage Pregnancy element of the Area Base Grant is not ring fenced nor guaranteed after 2010/11 and is at risk of cuts due to the national cuts being made to Area Base Grants.

The Strategic Health Authority funding is only temporary until 2010/11. There are 2 WTE fixed term Sexual Health Enrichment Officer posts funded by this which are due to come to an end in December 2011 in Thomas Rotherham College and Dearne Valley College if it is not possible to mainstream the roles. Work is already underway with RCAT to ensure the work of the role is not lost.

The Implanon Locally Enhanced Service is non-recurrent after 2010/11 and the allocated funding may not be sufficient to cover the costs for the year.

The Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Co-ordinator and Support Officer posts are fixed term and due to end as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

**10. Policy and Performance Implications**

The annual report highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the Strategy, which has allowed actions to be put in place to build on good practice and make further improvements.

**11. Background Papers and Consultation:**

Teenage Pregnancy Next Steps  
Teenage Pregnancy: Accelerating the Strategy to 2010  
Social Exclusion Unit Teenage Pregnancy Report  
Rotherham Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and action plan

**Contact Name :**

Simon Perry, Director of Community Services, (01709 823687)  
simon.perry@rotherham.gov.uk

Melanie Simmonds, Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Co-ordinator, 01709 302057,  
melanie.simmonds@rotherham.nhs.uk