

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 20th MARCH 2012

TEENAGE PREGNANCY – UPDATE AND PROPOSAL TO REVISE THE WIRRAL TARGET

1.0 Background

This paper provides the Children's Trust Board with an update of the review and refresh of Wirral's Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and seeks approval for the associated targets to be set for 2012 – 2015.

The National Teenage Pregnancy Strategy came to an end in 2010. Further clarity is anticipated from the national sexual health/teenage pregnancy paper due to be published later this year. In the meantime, areas have been advised to set their own targets and agree funding priorities locally.

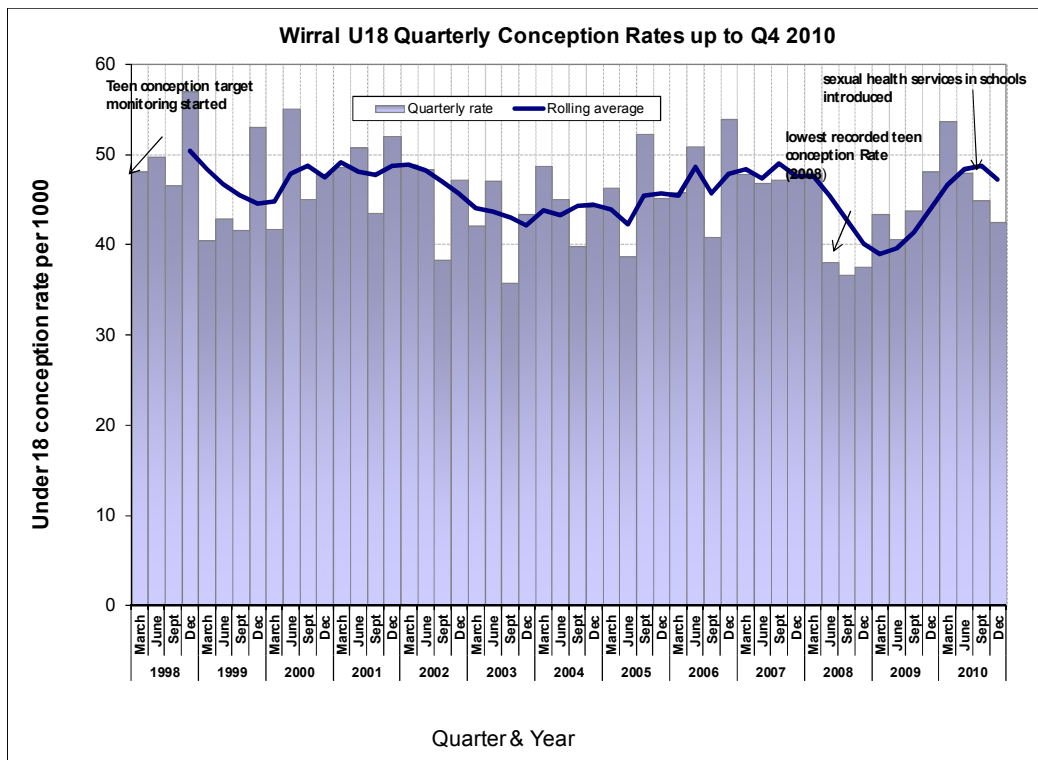
1.1 Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Background

Teenage conception data is collected and reported over a calendar year. However, the data is subject to a high degree of quarterly variation due to the relatively small number of conceptions involved and because of this, a small increase or decrease in conceptions can have a significant impact either way on the overall picture.

The most recent published annual statistics, (2010), show that Wirral recorded an under-18 conception rate of 47.3 per 1000 15 to 17 year olds for the calendar year 2010, (276 conceptions overall). This is an increase in the recorded rate for 2009 of 44.0 per 1000 15 to 17 year olds (264 conceptions overall).

	Q1 2009	Q2 2009	Q3 2009	Q4 2009	Q1 2010	Q2 2010	Q3 2010	Q4 2010
Rolling quarterly average (from Q4 1998)	38.9	39.6	41.4	44.0	46.6	48.4	48.7	47.3
Quarterly rate	43.4	40.6	43.8	48.1	53.6	47.9	45.0	42.5
No. of conceptions	65	61	66	72	78	70	66	62
Rate in North West	45.4	45.1	44.2	43.7	43.3	42.9	42.1	40.6
Rate in England	39.8	39.5	38.9	38.2	37.9	37.2	36.3	35.4

Wirral, along with many other areas, has not achieved the national target that was set by the previous government, to reduce the rate of conceptions for 15 – 17 year olds by 50% from 1999 to 2010, using the 1998 rate as a baseline (see graph below).

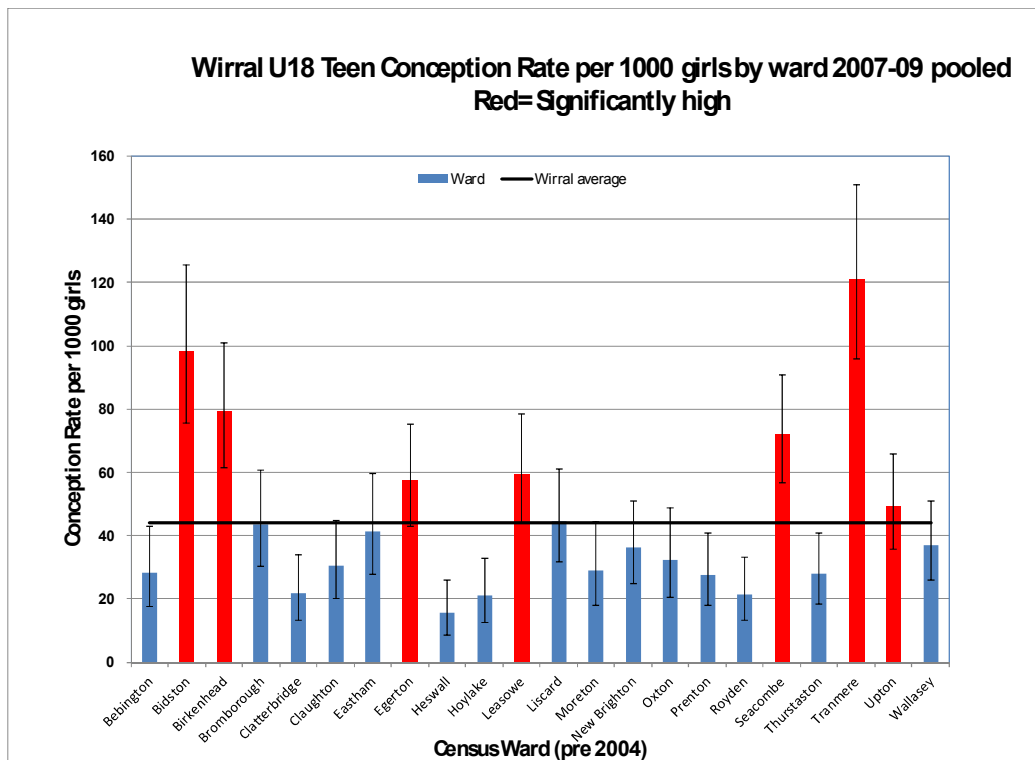


However, further analysis of the <16 data does indicate a reduction in the rate of conceptions per 1000 14 and 15 year olds. This may signify that the additional investment in sexual health services for secondary school aged children is having an impact on teenage conceptions for this age group in Wirral.

Year(s)	2001-2003	2002-2004	2003-2005	2004-2006	2005-2007	2006-2008	2008-2010)
Rate per 1000 <16's	7.2	8	8.5	9.4	10.3	10.2	8.5

1.2 Teenage Pregnancy Strategy 2012 and revised target setting

The Wirral teenage pregnancy strategic action plan 2008 – 2011 was designed to reflect the findings and recommendations arising from the National Support Team visit to Wirral in 2008. In order to assist the Teenage Pregnancy Steering Group (TPSG) and associated sub groups to undertake a comprehensive review of the current strategy and agree achievable targets, an analysis of local teenage conception data and ward level analysis for 2010 was undertaken by a Public Health Analyst. The members of TPSG agreed to take a targeted approach within those areas in Wirral that have teenage pregnancy rates above the Wirral average as reflected in the chart below. This has recently been refreshed to reflect the published data for 2010



Having been advised by the Government to take a local approach to target setting and knowing that other areas have adopted national advice to aim towards a 2-3% reduction in the number of conceptions, Wirral TPSG were cognisant of a desire to continue to stretch performance and aim to reduce our conception rate to that achieved in 2008 (i.e. a total of 249 conceptions and a rate of 40.1 per 1000 young women in a full calendar year). Using the 2010 provisional data as a baseline, a target reduction was considered using the following three options:

- 10% reduction in the overall number of conceptions would mean a 17% reduction in those targeted wards (in order to achieve a 10% reduction overall)
- 5% reduction in the overall number of conceptions would mean a 7% reduction in those targeted wards (in order to achieve a 5% reduction overall)
- 3% reduction in the overall number of conceptions would mean a 4% reduction in those targeted wards (in order to achieve a 3% reduction overall)

2.0 Proposal for 2012

Having discussed the options available, Wirral TPSG proposes to set a target to achieve an overall reduction of 5% in the total number of conceptions across Wirral during 2012, based on the total number of conceptions for 2010. This will mean achieving a reduction in the overall number of conceptions from 276 conceptions to 262. However, it is our intention to take a targeted approach to achieve a 7% reduction in aggregated wards as highlighted in the chart presented above. The TPSG Strategic Action Plan has been revised to ensure that in addition to the universal approach to avoiding unplanned pregnancies, targeted work will be focused in those areas shown to have the highest number of teenage conceptions. All providers delivering services in and around these areas will play their part in reducing the number of conceptions, by targeting those young people who are known to be having, or at risk of having early sexual activity. Universal

services will continue to be available for all other young people to prevent early sexual activity, including young men.

In addition, the format of the action plan has been revised to take into account the following priority areas and to incorporate the action plans of the two sub-groups:

- Vision and Strategy
- Data and Intelligence
- Communication and Engagement
- Commissioning
- Better Prevention
- Better Support
- Workforce Development
- Evaluation

Wirral TPSG recognises the need to ensure that we deliver a targeted approach to reducing teenage conceptions. Through a detailed analysis of the data available for 2010 we have been able to focus attention on those areas where teenage conceptions are highest and encourage local providers to make a concerted effort to really make a difference to the number of conceptions in 2012. The Teenage Pregnancy Strategic Action Plan has been refreshed to ensure that all relevant partners are clear about the part they have to play to make this achievable. The available data will be analysed regularly to assess the impact on the number of conceptions, paying particular attention to the age and locality of the young women involved.

3.0 Recommendations:

The Children's Trust Board is asked to support the above proposal, to reduce the overall number of teenage conceptions by 5% and by 7% through a targeted approach in those wards where teenage conceptions were reported to be higher than the Wirral average in 2010.

The 5% target reduction is for the calendar year 2012. If sufficient funding is available beyond 2012, the Children's Trust Board will be asked to support a further minimum target reduction of 2-3% for 2013 to 2015.

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