

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 27th NOVEMBER 2012

TEENAGE PREGNANCY UPDATE

1. Background

This paper provides the Children's Trust Board with an update on progress of Wirral's Teenage Pregnancy Strategy since March 2012, as requested by the Board.

The National Teenage Pregnancy Strategy came to an end in 2010 and areas were advised to set their own targets and agree funding priorities locally. Further clarity on the direction of sexual health and teenage pregnancy related work is anticipated from the Department of Health in December 2012.

2. Wirral's Teenage Pregnancy Strategy

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.

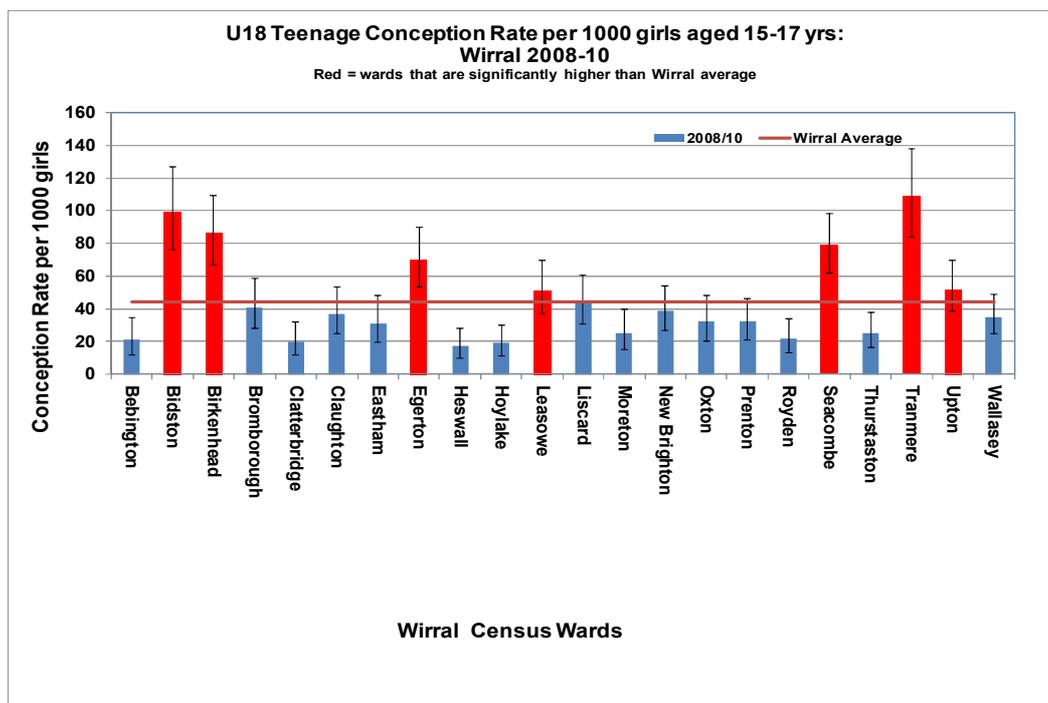
The most recent published annual statistics (2010) show that Wirral recorded an under-18 conception rate of 47.3 per 1000 15 to 17 year olds for the calendar year 2010 (276 conceptions overall). This is an increase in the recorded rate for 2009 of 44.0 per 1000 15 to 17 year olds (264 conceptions overall).

In March 2012 the Children's Trust Board agreed to set a local target for teenage conceptions based on previous trends in conceptions. This would be a 5% reduction on the 2010 ONS annual figure and a continued minimum target reduction of 2-3% for 2013 to 2015, if sufficient funding is available after 2012. As the target has been set with a 2-year trajectory mapped out, local data is the most appropriate source for reporting teenage conceptions for validity and methodology purposes. In light of this, local data is now being used to monitor performance instead of data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS). Local data tells us that we are currently on target to achieve the required reduction for 2011. The table below shows the rate per 1000 young women using published data (ONS) up to Q4 2010 and local data thereafter:

	Q1 2009	Q2 2009	Q3 2009	Q4 2009	Q1 2010	Q2 2010	Q3 2010	Q4 2010	*Q1 2011	*Q2 2011
Rolling quarterly average (from Q4 1998)	38.9	39.6	41.4	44.0	46.6	48.4	48.7	47.3	53.5	43.9
Quarterly rate	43.4	40.6	43.8	48.1	53.6	47.9	45.0	42.5	53.5	34.3
No. of conceptions	65	61	66	72	78	70	66	62	78	50
Rate in North West	45.4	45.1	44.2	43.7	43.3	42.9	42.1	40.6	38.8	38.4
Rate in England	39.8	39.5	38.9	38.2	37.9	37.2	36.3	35.4	34.1	33.5

*NB. Q1 and Q2 figures marked in red are based on local data

The chart below demonstrates the difference in teenage pregnancy rate across wards (using ONS data 2008-2010). This data has been used to target interventions in those wards with the highest rates:



Analysis of the <16 data indicates 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 age 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

Early indications suggest that the local under-16 conception rate for Q2 2011 has reduced further to 5.7.

2.1 Teenage Pregnancy Strategy 2012 – Progress since March 2012

Wirral’s Teenage Pregnancy Strategic Action Plan was refreshed for 2012 to reflect local priorities to reduce the under-18 conception rate and support pregnant teenagers and teenage parents. The plan is divided into eight priority areas; for each area there have been both successes and challenges as highlighted below.

2.2 Vision and Strategy

What has worked well?

- Clear accountability has been established within the local plan for all priority actions and Accountable leads provide regular updates to Wirral’s Teenage Pregnancy Steering Group
- Teenage pregnancy and sexual health champions have been identified across the partnership. They receive regular contact and support from the Teenage Pregnancy Coordinator and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Curriculum and Policy Lead

- Representation on Children and Young People Strategy Groups and Child Poverty Working Group has ensured teenage pregnancy priorities are reflected in relevant action plans

What have been the challenges?

- Continuing to maintain momentum and implementation of the local action plan with reduced Children and Young people workforce and financial constraints

2.3 Data and Intelligence

What has worked well?

- Dedicated teenage pregnancy data lead within NHS Wirral Public Health Information Team has resulted in improved use of local data and regular reports to TPSG to assist with planning and commissioning.
- Greater focus on local data has helped to provide a more accurate and current picture

What have been the challenges?

- Since the performance monitoring of teenage conceptions at a national level has ceased, the NHS Wirral Public Health Intelligence Team have replicated a local data set that continues to monitor teenage conceptions at a local level. Whilst initially this was a challenge, it has resulted in a more focussed and targeted approach to those areas with greatest need.

2.4 Communication and Engagement

What has worked well?

- Increased level of engagement with young people through consultation work on various projects
- The teenage parent section of Teen Wirral website has been refreshed and updated electronically by the Teenage Pregnancy Coordinator
- Teenage Pregnancy Coordinator has presented regularly and attended key staff groups to continue to raise the profile of teenage pregnancy

What have been the challenges?

- Reduced capacity of 'Communication Strategy' Accountable Lead has resulted in less marketing activity
- Limited involvement in Local Authority Youth Conference which could have provided a good opportunity to gain the views of young people on sexual health and teenage pregnancy related work

2.5 Commissioning

What has worked well?

- Commissioned services for young people are engaging well with the local 'Young People Friendly' programme
- All parenting programmes now include an element of 'Speakeasy' training to assist parents in talking to their children about relationships and sex

What have been the challenges?

- Financial limitations have resulted in a reduction in the teenage pregnancy budget for 2012/13 which has impacted on the number of interventions developed and commissioned

2.6 Better Prevention

What has worked well?

- Development and delivery of targeted interventions including a drama piece to educate young men on the consequences of unprotected sex and teenage fatherhood, delivery of a teenage pregnancy peer mentoring programme and delivery of the virtual baby education programme
- An audit has been undertaken on the use of long acting reversible contraception amongst young women in Wirral and work with Liverpool John Moore's University has identified attitudes and social norms through qualitative and quantitative research.

- Public Health has commissioned contraception workshops for targeted settings to improve knowledge around the different types of contraception available and to dispel myths
- The RSE Lead has continued to drive forward the curriculum within Wirral schools and has developed a Faith and Values Framework

What have been the challenges?

- Restricted financial and workforce resources to provide targeted interventions for the most vulnerable young people
- TPSG identified the need for a one-to-one support worker to work with the most vulnerable young women, at risk of early parenthood. This is based on a model that has been shown to be effective in neighbouring areas in reducing under-18 conceptions and ensuring vulnerable young women access contraception suitable to their needs. Although funding has been identified from the TPSG budget this project is currently on-hold due to the financial situation

2.7 Better Support

What has worked well?

- Presentations / workshops have been delivered to services including Wirral Metropolitan College, Connexions, Children's Centre's and Family Nurse Partnership to help raise awareness of the challenges facing young parents and explore more effective ways of supporting them. The Directory of Services on Teenwirral is promoted through these workshops
- A 'Pathway of Care' has been developed for pregnant teenagers and young parents to ensure all services are working together to provide teenage parents with the necessary support to improve the health outcomes for them and their children and to reduce the likelihood of child poverty
- The Teenage Pregnancy Coordinator has collaborated with a local training provider and Children's Centre to develop a young parents Foundation Learning Programme with onsite crèche provision

What have been the challenges?

- Ensuring young parents are not excluded from the 'Raising Participation Age'
- Impact of changes to housing and benefits for young parents

2.8 Workforce Development

What has worked well?

- The RSE Lead has successfully designed and implemented a tiered training programme across the children's workforce and this model has been used as an example of best practice across Cheshire and Merseyside. We have seen a good level of engagement from staff across the Children and Young People partnership in this programme.
- The teenage pregnancy budget has funded development of a brief intervention toolkit to assist workers in encouraging conversations with young people around relationships and sexual health in order to promote respectful relationships and contraception use

What have been the challenges?

- Changes across the Children and Young People workforce have led to reduced expertise amongst the workforce

2.9 Evaluation

What has worked well?

- An evaluation of the Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan was undertaken in conjunction with NHS Wirral Research and Development Team. Priority areas around long acting reversible contraception, the impact of a named/key worker and raising aspirations were identified. The Teenage Pregnancy Coordinator is now progressing work streams in these areas.
- A second evaluation of Health Services in Schools programme is being undertaken with Liverpool John Moore's University to assess the impact of service

What have been the challenges?

- Reduced capacity in NHS Wirral Research and Development Team to support evaluation of projects

3. Challenges for 2013/14

- It is anticipated that we will understandably face a challenge to ensure that teenage pregnancy work remains a priority locally within a climate of priorities and increased financial pressure (historically, teenage pregnancy has had a budget in Wirral). However, partners associated with TPSG are committed to continuing to promote the strategy and its associated work.
- The RSE Curriculum and Policy Lead is due to leave her post in December 2012, to take up a post with the Family Nurse Partnership. The TPSG partnership will need to consider how to deliver this role in future to ensure we maintain the momentum for workforce development and RSE across the Children and Young People's workforce.

4. Recommendations

The Children's Trust Board is asked to note the contents of this report and to continue to support a minimum target reduction in the under-18 conception rate of 2-3% for 2013 to 2015 if funding is available. A further update on local progress can be provided in 2013 following a review and refresh of the action plan, once the financial position is clearer.

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