Teenage Pregnancy

The local Teenage Pregnancy Strategy has successfully reduced the under 16s conception rate by 30%. Sustained efforts through partnership working will ensure continued downward trends in the under 18s conception rate.

Why is it an issue for Rotherham?
Local teenage pregnancy rates are slightly higher than the national average, with almost 10% of girls aged 15-17 in the most deprived areas of Rotherham becoming pregnant. 80% of all under-18 conceptions occur in the 20% most deprived areas of the borough. There are a range of negative outcomes associated with pregnancy at a young age including higher rates of post-natal depression, lower rates of breastfeeding, more dependence on benefits and increased risk of the baby being a teenage parent. Teenage parents are at high risk of social exclusion and make up approximately 10% of all 16-18 year olds that are not in education, employment or training in Rotherham.

The reasons for teenage pregnancy are varied; from lack of knowledge about sex and where to access contraception, to low aspirations and low educational attainment. Teenage pregnancy is also linked to a range of other issues for young people including substance misuse, family problems, youth offending and sexual exploitation.

What is NHS Rotherham doing?
The NHS in Rotherham works in partnership with the Local Authority and voluntary and community agencies in the development and delivery of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy. Key priorities within the Strategy are:

- Increasing opportunities to access contraception and other support services
- Delivery of high quality, imaginative and inspiring sex and relationships education in schools
- Targeted work in areas with higher levels of teenage pregnancies to deliver preventative work with those at risk of teenage pregnancy
- Provide intensive support for vulnerable groups
- Supporting parents of young people to talk to their children about sex and relationships
- Effective links with strategies which deal with the wider determinants of teenage pregnancy
- Multi-agency networks providing individualised support to teenage parents
- Raising aspirations for all young people in Rotherham

Further information and support

Public Health Projects - Training for front line staff working with young people around a wide range of sexual health issues is available through the annual Sexual Health Training Programme. The Hardwear Condom Distribution Scheme is also available for the distribution of free condoms to young people through a wide range of services across the Borough. Visit www.myhardwear.co.uk for a full list of Hardwear venues.

All Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health work for young people will operate under the new brand of “The S Word Rotherham – We need to talk about sex.” This will include promoting the network of contraception and sexual health youth clinics available across the Borough. Visit www.s-wordrotherham.co.uk

The Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health Team are also supporting help72, the free local Emergency Contraception Scheme operating through pharmacies and other accessible services. Visit www.help72.co.uk for more information and a complete list of venues.

For more information on any of these areas of work contact the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Support Worker on 01709 302792

Youth Start: a free and confidential Rotherham service that offers advice and support to young people aged 11-25 years around any issue that may be affecting their life.
Tel: 01709 820100 Text: 0778 148 6367
Website: www.youthstart.org.uk

Pregnancy Advisory Service: A self referral service providing support and information around pregnancy and terminations. Contacting this service early in a pregnancy increases a woman’s choices and options.
Tel: 01709 904542 Email: pregnancyadvisoryservice@rothgen.nhs.uk

National: The Department of Health’s “You’re Welcome – Quality criteria for making health services young people friendly” is available to all organisations who offer a health service to young people. Accreditation will mean that young people can be assured that services have met the minimum quality standards on service delivery including staff attitudes, environment and access. For further information see www.dh.gov.uk or contact Rachel Hogg, Health Equity Audit Development Worker on 01709 302732

For further information about all aspects of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy contact the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Coordinator, Keri Duffy, on 01709 302087.