

## Blackpool Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Strategic Overview

### Overview of current situation:

From the baseline rate of 64.8 in 1998, Blackpool's rates have risen by 23.9 taking us to a rate of 80.3 per 1000. Blackpool currently has the third highest rate nationally. Although Blackpool's rates have continued to rise over the past two years and live birth data for 2004 indicates this will continue to happen for 2004, the Partnership is committed to initiating an accelerated decline from 2005 to 2010. In order to reach the 55% reduction target for 2010, Blackpool needs to reduce the rates by 81.9%.

| Year                  | Under 16 conceptions |      |                     | Under 18 conceptions |      |                     |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------|---------------------|----------------------|------|---------------------|
|                       | Number               | Rate | % Change since 1998 | Number               | Rate | % Change since 1998 |
| 1998                  | 33                   | 14   | -                   | 153                  | 64.8 | -                   |
| 1999                  | 42                   | 17.3 |                     | 182                  | 75.7 | 16.8                |
| 2000                  | 37                   | 14.9 |                     | 171                  | 69.9 | 8.0                 |
| 2001                  | 32                   | 12.5 |                     | 156                  | 63.0 | -2.7                |
| 2002                  | 41                   | 15.7 |                     | 200                  | 76.8 | 18.6                |
| 2003                  |                      |      |                     | 215                  | 80.3 | 23.9                |
| 2004 (interim target) |                      |      |                     |                      | 55.1 | -15.0               |
| 2005                  |                      |      |                     |                      | 50.7 | -21.7               |
| 2006                  |                      |      |                     |                      | 46.4 | -28.3               |
| 2007                  |                      |      |                     |                      | 42.1 | -35.0               |
| 2008                  |                      |      |                     |                      | 37.8 | -41.7               |
| 2009                  |                      |      |                     |                      | 33.5 | -48.3               |
| 2010 (final target)   |                      |      |                     |                      | 29.1 | -55.0               |

Factors affecting Blackpool's rates are diverse, but the high levels of deprivation and low levels of educational attainment and self-esteem existing in the town do have a large role to play. The Partnership feels that without addressing these issues the rates will continue to rise or remain static. Additionally Blackpool has 2214 licensed premises, which equates to just less than one, per 15-17 year old young woman. (Total 15-17 female populations is 2449)

Research from the Universities of Brighton, Liverpool and Hull (Living on the Edge) reported that 'easy access to alcohol in seaside.... areas increased the likelihood of risky behaviour'

'In seaside resorts and their surrounding rural areas, a hedonistic 'carnivalised' leisure and entertainment environment, together with more transient populations increase the likelihood of young people engaging in unprotected sex'.

### **Vulnerable areas 'hotspots'**

In 11 of Blackpool's 21 wards the conception rate for 2000-02 is among the highest 20% in England. 10 of these wards are in Deprivation Quintile 5 and have less than 50% of girls achieving 5+ A\*-C GCSE'S. (See appendix 1, chart 1.). The 05/06 Action plan will specifically target work to these areas. Squires Gate is the exception to the rule and the public health team aims to explore the reasons behind its high rates over the coming year.

### **Vulnerable Groups.**

The Partnership identifies the following groups of young people to be more at risk of teenage pregnancy:

LAC, Care-leavers, young people at risk of offending, young people in educational diversity, 16/17's not in EET, young people moving into the town, Daughters/ siblings of teenage mothers, young women with low educational attainment.

These young people will be specifically targeted in the next year.

### **Vulnerable Schools**

St Georges, Palatine, Collegiate and Beacon Hill schools will be targeted with extra resources over the next year. These schools have been identified from their levels of attainment, the number of conceptions and the wards they cover.

### **Forward Action Plan Summary**

In previous years Blackpool's action plans have concentrated heavily on improving conditions for young families in the town, and much progress has been made in this area. The 05/06 Action plan aims to ensure this work continues, but owing to high rates will focus growth in the prevention arena.

## **Being Healthy**

### **SRE and Service information**

#### Universal

All young people at mainstream schools will receive accurate information concerning sexual health to equip them with the necessary skills to negotiate healthy relationships into adulthood. This will be delivered through the school's PHSE accredited teacher with the LEA PHSE Consultant. Increasing awareness of local services will be achieved through the provision of notice boards in toilets and signposting from trained school practitioners. LSP have resourced the training of all practitioners working with young people to ensure consistent sexual health messages.

#### Targeted

Palatine, St. Georges, Montgomery and Highfield Schools have poor Connect (Young Peoples sexual health service) attendance, and so will be targeted for additional Connect marketing.

Young people in Education Diversity will be specifically targeted with SRE as national and local research indicates increased vulnerability to early pregnancy.

SRE and sexual health outreach will also be targeted to other vulnerable groups of young people, including care leavers and LAC, 16/17 in training or FE, young people at risk of offending and homeless. Service information will also be targeted at young people moving into the area.

Parents and carers will be specifically targeted with sexual health training through the 'Speak Easy' programme to empower open discussion with their young people on sexual health issues.

### **Increase access to sexual health services.**

#### Universal

Blackpool PCT has committed to further developments in sexual health services in the LDP.

#### Targeted

Blackpool's forward action plan emphasises improvement of sexual health services for young people, specifically in high rate areas. Young people in Bloomfield, Victoria, Tyldesley, Hawes side, Waterloo and Squires Gate will benefit from the development of the Connect satellite and availability of Implanon through an enhanced service in general practices.

Vulnerable young people facing barriers to accessing services will be targeted through detached workers, sexual health outreach and the creation of a mobile facility, initially targeting the four wards with the highest conception rates.

### **Antenatal and postnatal services**

#### Universal

The forward action plan continues to focus on improving health outcomes for both teenage mothers and babies through robust support mechanisms and health promotion.

#### Targeted

For 2005/06 the specialist midwifery service will be extended from one worker to two, and given an additional remit to improve percentage of EET. Specialist coordination of health visiting is also to be addressed.

## **Staying Safe**

#### Universal

Ensuring a consistent approach to confidentiality both to enable young people to understand their rights, and in order to protect them is a priority for Blackpool. The action plan seeks to address this via training across agencies.

All young families in Blackpool will be supported at a level that meets their need. The multi agency support panel will continue to assess need and provide tailored packages of care from the various support agencies in the town. Housing needs will continue to be addressed through the housing panel, with specific focus given to improvements in the private sector.

#### Targeted

Protecting young people from sexual exploitation and addressing links of alcohol to risky behaviours are both priorities for the forward action plan.

Continuing to target vulnerable young parents with more intense support and parenting programmes and exploring ways to manage domestic violence is also focused on.

## **Enjoying and achieving**

National and local research and data indicates that there is a strong correlation between low educational attainment and high teenage conception rates. Improving educational attainment levels for young women in Blackpool is viewed as a key factor in reducing rates. Targeted work specifically with young women in order to raise aspirations and self-esteem and to challenge the negative perceptions will include gender specific group work, a positive images media campaign, and positive role models. Work will be targeted at young women in four schools, Palatine, St Georges, Collegiate and Beacon Hill, identified through low attainment levels, numbers of live births in schools and high rates in school feeder areas.

Young mothers at risk of social exclusion will also be a priority. The provision of 6 peer support groups, linked to Sure Starts and family centres, will ensure that young mums can become part of a support network in their own localities.

### **Making a positive Contribution**

Young peoples' involvement in all elements of the strategy is a priority.

Universal work aims to consult and engage young people through schools and the newly emerging access and participation strategy. Active involvement and participation in the delivery of services will be achieved through peer education projects and mystery shopper schemes.

Targeted work includes consulting with young mums about service provision through a needs survey, which be used to shape support services and to inform preventative strategies. Resources will be targeted to consult and engage hard to reach young people specifically vulnerable to teenage pregnancy in order to identify specific local issues.

### **Achieving Economic Well-being.**

The provision of coordinated packages of support for young parents via professionals is detailed in other areas of the plan and the emphasis for this section is to enable parents to access support for themselves, through the provision of service directories.

The forward action plan will ensure all young parents in Blackpool are encouraged to achieve economic well-being through the provision of good quality education, employment and training opportunities linked to a high standard of childcare for both pre and post 16 young parents. Strong coordination is the key and the focus of the plan will be having key professionals leading their areas of expertise. The support sub group will act as a regulating body to ensure gaps are addressed.

Targeted work will focus on more vulnerable parents, for example care leavers, young offenders and homeless or transient young people who may have had previous poor experiences of work, and limited life skills.

### **Mainstreaming**

The CYPSP recognises teenage pregnancy as an important issue for Blackpool and thus will endeavour to ensure both the coordination structures and the grant are maintained in the future. The work below illustrates the wider partnerships commitment, which occurs predominantly without TP funding and will continue following 2006.

#### **Health Partners.**

- The TP Coordinator has a permanent contract with Blackpool Council and is line managed by the PCT Public health team to ensure a direct link to the Director of Public Health.
- The Better Services group ensures the implementation of both the Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health Strategies and is chaired by the PCT Sexual Health Commissioner and focuses the future development of sexual health services to meet existing needs.
- The PCT commission Connect to provide outreach SRE to vulnerable groups via the appointment of a sexual health adviser.
- The public health nurse consultant will lead on the certification programme for community nurses.
- Specialist TP midwives have been mainstreamed into Connexions to work towards reducing health inequalities for teenage mothers and their children, and provide annual audit to monitor outcomes (Appendix 2)
- Negotiations are in place to appoint a specialist health visitor for one day a week, to ensure that young parents receive a non-judgemental service and are linked into wider TP support networks.

#### **Education Partners.**

- The LEA has a dedicated PHSE team, led by the LEA General Advisor/Inspector who promotes PHSE at the highest level through the head teacher's federation. Within the team two PHSE consultants share the responsibility for the PSHE Accreditation scheme and NHSS.
- All high schools with 20% FSME have at least one certificated teacher. Two good practice conferences, for secondary and primary respectively have been organised for PSHE teachers in the summer term, to inform the development of the PHSE Coordinators Network.
- The TP Coordinator will join the NHSS steering group when established in April 2005.
- Raising girl's attainment and aspirations is a priority for Blackpool as girls are underachieving at KS 4. The University of Liverpool has recently been commissioned by the LEA to undertake research in order to identify the causes for local under achievement.

- Blackpool has four BIP schools, robust behaviour and attendance strategies and ESW's working with target groups to address low attendance and attainment levels.
- The development of four youth service led extended school programmes, whole school approach and PAYP aims to target young women over the next two to three years with self-esteem/ aspiration raising programmes. Schools link closely with PAYP Programmes and a coordinated approach to young women's work should materialise with the creation of a network.
- The assistant director of pupil services is leading the development of Montgomery High School as a FS Extended school. The school nurse manager and TP Coordinator sit on the steering group and are leading the development of an onsite sexual health service.
- The LEA dedicated TP Reintegration officer, sits on the Support sub group which ensures school age mothers receive appropriate packages of education and the coordination of Post 16 education opportunities.
- Peer education programmes exist in one FE College and plans are in place to extend to other training providers. Condom machines in colleges will be explored in collaboration with college reps on the sub groups.

#### **Other Partners.**

- TP Coordinator sits on Connexions local management committee and Connexions are represented at every level of the TP Partnership structure. Quarterly updates on NEET are provided to the partnership board and TP strategy is implicitly mentioned in Connexions LDP.
- Blackpool will have eight Children's centres, including the three Sure Starts. The TP Coordinator works with the Children's Centres management group to ensure the needs of teenage parents are addressed.
- An executive group of the CYPSP has been established, chaired by the Strategic director of Communities, to lead on the development of the Children and Young Peoples Plan. The CYPSP, which is also the partnership board, feeds directly into the Executive group and addressing teenage pregnancy is a key priority.
- The principal youth officer is a member of both the management group and the partnership board and ensures that all youth workers have sexual health training and are linked into the C Card scheme.
- Partnerships with the voluntary sector vary with Barnardos linking well with both support and preventative elements. Further developments with Homestart are being explored and the TP Coordinator is discussing additional avenues of work for young women with 'Groundwork'.
- The Children's Fund commission's two projects aimed at vulnerable young people. One targets both vulnerable young people and their parents through self-esteem group work for young people and Speakeasy courses for parents. The Emotional Literacy project is designed to improve young peoples emotional health and equip them with necessary life skills.
- PAYP targets young people at risk of offending with positive activities and discussions are ongoing for the referral of young women at risk of pregnancy onto schemes.
- Both YOT and the DAT are represented on the TP strategy sub groups and a new joined up media strategy aims to tackle risk-taking behaviour amongst young people.
- The TP Coordinator attends Supporting People strategy days and ensures provision for teenage parents is adequate. The TP housing support panel monitors ratio of provision to need and is fed back quarterly to supporting people team via TP lead.