

## The Kent Teenage Pregnancy Strategy

The National PSA targets relating to teenage pregnancy are to

- Halve the rate of conceptions amongst under 18 year olds by 2010
- Increase to 60% the participation of teenage mothers in education, training and employment and reduce their risk of long-term social exclusion by 2010

The 2005 data (latest published) demonstrated that within Kent some districts had achieved excellent reductions, Dover and Swale have reduced by 30%, Canterbury and Sevenoaks by 26%. However, overall Kent had achieved a reduction of 9.7% set against a national reduction of 11.3%. Swale, Maidstone and Thanet have found reducing teenage pregnancy particularly challenging.

Kent has its own strategy, which aims primarily to target those at most risk of teenage pregnancy and focuses down on areas with the highest conception rates. The strategy is divided into 4 key strands

- Sex and Relationship Education
- Contraception Services and Access
- Young Parents and improving outcomes
- Media campaign

A core team, comprising of a coordinator and two project managers, for young parents and the media, drive the strategy forward, identifying gaps in services with a view to commissioning, planning and shaping services. Within the coordinators role is monitoring and assessment of the strategy progress to ensure implementation strategically across the county.

A strategic county Teenage Pregnancy Partnership board monitors the implementation of the strategy and at local level 11 implementation groups, with boundaries coterminous with cluster boards, seek to ensure local needs are met.

Kent Teenage Pregnancy Partnership is the wider team, all part of the various organizations working with young people who strive to ensure the strategy is delivered.

In 2005 clear guidance was published regarding what works to reduce teenage conceptions and known criteria for success are

- Strong delivery of SRE/PSHE by schools
- Active engagement of all key mainstream partners
- A strong senior champion
- Discrete, credible, highly visible, young people friendly sexual health/contraceptive advice services
- Targeted work with at risk groups of young people, especially Looked after children
- Workforce training on sex and relationship issues within mainstream partner agencies
- A well resourced youth service with a clear remit to tackle big social issues, such as young peoples sexual health

The Kent strategy is delivered within this context and the action plan is written under these headings.