

# Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - February 2023 Teenage Pregnancy



Walsall Council



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Subheading

# Purpose and Recommendations

Aim of paper is to outline Walsall's current position around teenage pregnancy and describe the actions and progress made by the multiagency teenage pregnancy prevention strategy group in the actions set in place to reduce teenage pregnancy in Walsall.

Recommendation that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- Recognises that teenage pregnancy reduction cannot be tackled by one organisation alone and to support the strong partnership of key organisations who are needed to implement a successful integrated strategy.
- Provides a collective voice to shape and support linking the Teenage Pregnancy Reduction agenda with other issues concerning children, young people, families, health and education particularly in vulnerable groups.

# Implications of teenage parenthood

- At age 30, teenage mothers are 22% more likely to be living in poverty and are much less likely to be employed or living with a partner.
- 20% more likely to have no qualifications at age 30 than mothers giving birth aged 24 or over.
- 30% higher risk of mental illness two years after giving birth which affects their ability to form a secure attachment with their baby.
- 60% higher infant mortality rate.
- Teenage mothers are three times more likely to smoke throughout their pregnancy, and 50%, less likely to breastfeed
- Children have a 63% increased risk of being born into poverty and are more likely to have accidents and behavioural problems.
- Men who were young fathers are twice as likely to be unemployed at 30.

## Progress to date



- Walsall has made good progress in reducing teenage pregnancy. The conception rate amongst the under 18s has reduced significantly. The rate in 1998 was 67.2 per 1,000, whereas the latest data for quarter three 2021 shows a rolling rate of 20.3 per 1000 girls. Walsall's total decrease from 1998 is 73.7% which supersedes the England decrease of 71.1 and the West Midlands 70.2.

# More to do through refreshed strategy actions

Indicator	W Midlands	Walsall	Wolverhampton	Sandwell	Dudley
U 18 conception rate	15.1	17.7	20.2	16.3	15.3
Teen mothers	0.8%	1.2%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%
Number teen mothers		30	25	30	25



# Teenage Pregnancy Reduction Strategy

The strategy is led by a multiagency task and finish group who review previous actions to reduce teenage pregnancy, support teen parents and build on emerging evidence of effectiveness. It is in process of being refreshed.

## Focus

work with vulnerable groups and in hotspot areas and learning from national evidence.

## Key Activities

- Teens and Toddlers
- Employment and Training
- Sexual Health support in school
- Information resources for schools

# Priorities

- Gain strategic partnership support for the refreshed strategy 2023 – 2027.
- Ensure commitment to maintain employment and training support for young parents and vulnerable teens when IMPACT funding ceases.
- Work with our economic development teams to improve young people's prospects
- Challenge private businesses, and key employers provide a wider range of placements and work experience options for young people
- Support parents of children at year 6 and year 7 transition in conversations around relationships
- Audit the Relationship and Sexual Health advice and teaching offered in schools Increase access to sexual health services and advice.
- Continue to monitor populations and geographical areas where higher numbers of teen parents are seen
- Continue to offer intensive support to hotspot schools and populations

# Thank you

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