

Appendix C.

Update on performance

Indicator: Teenage mothers in education, employment and training

2008-09 target: 60% **Current performance: 20.9 %**

The Performance Subgroup reviewed the report card on teenage mothers in education, employment and training on 14.01.09. Please refer to the Trust Board papers for 23 January for the report card. The group looked at the data and the story behind the trend with the lead officer responsible for this area of work.

Five issues were identified as being barriers to improved performance and at the last Performance Subgroup meeting Richard Savage, the Service Manager for Connexions updated the group on progress made. A summary is attached below:

1. Culture within the Connexions service

Barrier: Need to challenge perceptions of young parents to return to work or education within a 2 year time period. The Connexions system has previously categorised the young mother as NEET and has not contacted them but waited for them to contact the service.

Progress made: Connexions personal advisers have been challenged to contact young mothers before two years has elapsed. The evidence of this has been a 20% reduction in the number of young people whose status is identified as 'unknown'. Additional resources have been put in to champion this work and model best practice.

2. Supply of learning

Barrier: On the whole Connexions is successful at engaging young parents in learning, which has to be appropriate and flexible to their needs. For example the FE Colleges running courses such as 'Young Mums To Be' have no drop out. However, the type of learning available tends to be short term and therefore short-lived.

Progress made: The new 14-19 strategy for young learners addresses the supply of learning and increases the variety of courses available for young learners for whom the traditional pattern of learning is not a practical option.

3. Access

Barrier: Young people, who are parents, struggle to access training when living in a rural area.

Progress made: The Positive Activities for Young People initiative has transport as a priority.

4. Data

Barrier: This needs to be more accurate and consistent across the agencies collating and presenting information.

Progress made: A data set on teenage pregnancy has been developed to monitor progress made against the teenage strategy. The first draft went to the Performance Subgroup on 07.05.09. The new Reducing Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator is now working with PCT and Children, Young People & Families Directorate to improve information held on teenage mothers.

5. Collaboration

Barrier: The partner agencies could be smarter in co-ordinating their response to this group collectively.

Progress made: The new Children and Young People's Plan is reflecting the needs of this group within the theme of 'Narrowing the gap'. The new commissioning strategy for 'Housing and related support services to Young people aged 16-24' reflects the learning and educational needs of this group.

Additional recommendation from the Performance Subgroup: Review the Common Assessment Form pilot and extend it to the whole of this vulnerable group across the county. This will ensure that the needs of young mothers are understood and that the right agencies are involved in supporting them.