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OXFORD, OX1 1ND

Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust  
Jubilee House  
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Cowley  
Oxford OX4 2LH

20<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Dear Councillors,

Thank you for your letter of recommendations regarding the service provision for reducing teenage conceptions in the county. We welcome the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee's focus on teenage pregnancy as it is a priority for the Children's Trust.

Staff in both OCC and the PCT have recently conducted a thorough data based self assessment of our progress on teenage pregnancy. It highlights a number of strengths in Oxfordshire which we know we can build on. These include commitment at a strategic level; strong investment in sex and relationships education and school health nurses; high quality contraception and sexual health services, including an outreach nurse; publications; websites and information from Integrated Youth Services and a growing number of Safety card (condom distribution) outlets.

The teenage pregnancy data self assessment also highlights a number of gaps and areas requiring action. We have taken these gaps as the basis of a new teenage pregnancy strategy which is being formulated at present. We welcome the recommendations from the scrutiny joint working group. Below are our responses to the recommendations:



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



- **Support should be targeted towards the most vulnerable young people, in particular those who are in poor attendance or excluded from school. Support should also be directed towards both rural and urban areas.**

Agree. We will continue to target areas where we know teenage pregnancy rates are at their highest and therefore where young people are at their most vulnerable. We intend to continue to strike a balance between targeted services and high quality universal services for all young people in the county. We will continue to invest in school health nurses and offer a new phone advice line to some of the most vulnerable. The Bodyzones (health, youth work and advice drop-ins) in rural areas will continue as they are thriving and clearly what young people want in rural areas. We currently have a sexual health contract for services to young people which includes targeting those who are excluded from school. We intend to expand this work where possible in the new strategy. Furthermore we also plan to commission new nursing services in FE colleges.

- **Health Centres play a key role and should be consistent in providing contraception and sexual health services for young people.**

Agree. All GPs have a role to provide contraception for all women and this is part of our commissioning strategy. Providing young people with high quality, appropriate advice on sexual health and contraception remains a vital part of the teenage pregnancy strategy. We intend to introduce the You're Welcome standard to Oxfordshire. This standard measures how welcoming and accessible a service is for young people. It is judged by both professionals and young people.

- **The delivery of good quality sex and relationship education should be consistent throughout Oxfordshire schools.**

Agree. We have invested in improved sex and relationships education (SRE) across the county in three ways and we intend to continue this investment. We have created an SRE specialist teacher post who delivers lessons, teaches small groups of vulnerable young people and advises schools in the areas with the highest teenage pregnancy rates. We have invested in a theatre based education programme across the county which addresses alcohol abuse and sexual health and is extremely popular with pupils. Finally we are also delivering the Personal, Health, Social and Economic (PSHE) education teachers' Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training course. In the new teenage pregnancy strategy we aim to continue to roll this out across the county and to secure training for staff in Pupil Referral Units and teenage pregnancy target schools.

- **Leadership should be embedded at the area level through securing Senior Teenage Pregnancy Champions on the area trust boards and the item of Teenage Conception should be a recurring agenda item on partnership agendas.**

Agree. In the new teenage pregnancy strategy we intend to form a task and finish group that achieves specific outcomes, this will include appointing teenage pregnancy Champions on each Area Trust Board. We would welcome the Scrutiny Joint Working Group's influence and drive to achieve this aim.

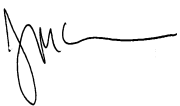
- **Information sharing between districts and the county should be better joined up, especially for data on young people and young parents who are homeless or in supported housing.**

Agree. The Local Strategic Partnership is currently working on a data sharing agreement and we have appointed a senior lead for teenage pregnancy data as part of our self assessment. We will make high quality data collection and performance monitoring a priority for the new teenage pregnancy strategy.

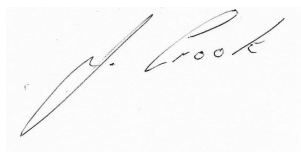
- **The strategy should include an information provision for young people on contraception sex health services (including hours and services available), emergency hormonal contraception, and other sources of information such as [www.spired.com](http://www.spired.com).**

Agree. Currently information is available on spired.com, the Young People's Survival Guide, via support professionals and in occasional campaigns. The new strategy will establish a teenage pregnancy communications plan and make sure young people get clear messages about their health and where to get help.

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan McWilliam  
Director for Public Health



Jim Crook  
Interim Director for Children Young People and Families