

From: Andrew Scott-Clark, Interim Director of Public Health

To: Thanet Health and Wellbeing Board

13<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Subject: Kent teenage pregnancy strategy 2015-2020

Classification: Unrestricted

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## Summary

This paper presents the strategy (appendix 1) to reduce teenage pregnancies in Kent between 2015-2020. It takes into account national policy and guidance about teenage pregnancy. The draft strategy has been informed by stakeholder engagement events, which included the views of sexual health workers, school nurses, midwives, district level representatives, health improvement workers, early intervention workers and teachers and has been developed by close collaboration between public health and education and young people teams.

The draft strategy was subject to an equality impact assessment and stakeholder and public consultation. Feedback from the consultation has been incorporated.

The Strategy ambitions are as follows:

### **AMBITION 1 reducing under 18 conceptions requires strong leadership and joined-up working**

The development of a Kent Health and Wellbeing board, as well as local CCG Health and Wellbeing boards, provides the multi-agency leadership and accountability required. CCG level action plans will be implemented and monitored.

### **AMBITION 2 providing universal access to high quality personal, social and health education (PSHE) to all children and young people**

Working with children and young people, it is important to emphasise their strengths, so that these can be built that can built upon. The Chief Medical Officer has identified that relationships and sex education (RSE) in the context of PSHE is critical. Provision of good quality PSHE is understood to be a key driver in the reduction of under 18 conceptions. Our ambition is that delivery of PSHE becomes 'outstanding'. Young people also want to contribute to the improvement of PHSE. Kent Youth County Council has made the delivery of PHSE one of their priorities. It is important to apply whole school approaches to build emotional health and resilience through HeadStart Kent and to implement a workforce development strategy.

### **AMBITION 3 building the aspirations for young people**

There is concern that some children and young people are not reaching their full potential and are not being proactively identified and supported early enough. For some cultures, communities and families, parenting at a young age is the social norm. Breaking this cycle requires the building of aspirations for communities and families alongside individual young people. For those young people who become young parents, we need to embed progression

planning as part of the holistic plan early into the pregnancy to ensure that they become economically active citizens.

**AMBITION 4 Children and young people playing an active role in shaping the world around them**

Their participation is not only their right, but evidence also shows that it results in better service design and delivery. Furthermore, they welcome the increased responsibility and share their enthusiasm and knowledge through their own friendship groups and networks.

**AMBITION 5 Improving sexual health for young people**

Sexual health services are valued by the wider children and young people's workforce, but need to be more visible and take a more integrated approach. They are not equitable and it is not clear that they meet the needs of the most vulnerable young people. Young men, in particular, may not be accessing services as they could be.

**AMBITION 6 Improving emotional, physical, educational and economic wellbeing for young parents**

Young parents are vulnerable to poverty and poor emotional and physical health. Many young parents leave education or training to support their families and find it hard to return to education or the workplace.

**Recommendation**

**The Thanet Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and ambitions and ensure through the Children's operating group that an implementation plan is developed and monitored**