

report



meeting **HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE**

date **11 July 2005**

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE

RESPONSE TO HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON TEENAGE PREGNANCY

Purpose of report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide a response to the recommendations contained in the Health Select Committee Report concerning teenage pregnancy, which was considered by the Cabinet on 8th February 2005.

Response from Cabinet

2. I would like to thank the Chair and members of the Teenage Pregnancy Study Group. This is an important area of the County Council's provision and Cabinet is keen to demonstrate a clear commitment to the continued development of the Nottinghamshire Teenage Pregnancy Strategy.
3. Cabinet recognises that the Government's targets for the reduction of teenage pregnancy require a multi-agency partnership response, led by the County Council. It is recognised also that the targets are set in a ten year timescale which goes beyond the current national ring-fenced funding arrangements.
4. The Local Implementation Grant (LIG) allocation for 2005/06 is £363,000. This is the final year of the current national ring-fenced arrangements. Guidance is awaited from Government in relation to future years, although it is anticipated by the National Teenage Pregnancy Unit that the level of funding beyond 2006 will be maintained. Subject to this guidance, Cabinet supports local ring fencing of the LIG for Teenage Pregnancy. Provided that funding levels are maintained at current levels, this arrangement would not represent an additional cost to the County Council and should be incorporated into the medium term financial strategy from 2006/2007 onwards.
5. Clearly, the links between the Education Department and the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy are critical to its continuing success. In consequence,

Cabinet agrees that the Director of Education should be asked to consider the long term funding for the posts of Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator and PSHE Consultant within the PSDI team. The work of these officers is critical in relation to supporting the development of Sex and Relationship Education and the professional development of teachers.

6. Cabinet agrees that the Assistant Director for the Young People's Division of the Culture and Community Department, as Chair of the Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board, be asked to give consideration to reviewing the seniority of the County Council's membership of the Board.
7. Cabinet agrees that the Assistant Director be asked also to work with Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to identify a strategic lead/s at director level to represent health community interests at Teenage Pregnancy Board level. It is anticipated that PCT's may nominate a single representative to represent more than one PCT.
8. Finally, Cabinet agrees the need for an effective partnership with the Connexions Service. Since the report of the Health Select Committee the Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board has funded a post of Personal Assistant for two years. This post will coordinate the development of work with teenage parents and pregnant teenagers and is seen as a positive development.

Conclusion

9. Cabinet welcomes the recommendations of the Health Select Committee and requests that the Committee monitors the progress and implementation of the actions outlined in paragraphs 4 to 10, inclusive.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the attached report.

Recommendations

11. That, subject to confirmation from the Teenage Pregnancy Unit in relation to the amount and future use of the Local Implementation Grant, the funding which replaces the Grant in 2006/2007 be ring-fenced for use in the Nottinghamshire Teenage Pregnancy Strategy.
12. That the Director of Education is asked to consider the issue of funding for the posts in the Education Department, as set out in paragraph 5.

13. That the Assistant Director (Young People's Division) be asked to take action on the issues set out in paragraphs 6 and 7.

**COUNCILLOR C BARON
CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE**

Background Papers Available for Inspection

Nil.

Director of Resources' Financial Comments

As indicated in the report to the Health Select Committee on 7th December 2004, the Teenage Pregnancy Implementation Grant will cease in 2005/06. From 2006/07 FSS will increase to account for the mainstreaming of the funding for this activity. However, notification as to the level of this funding has yet to be received. Funding for the implications arising from the recommendations indicated in the report will need to be identified and prioritised through the medium term financial strategy from 2006/07. (NS 23/12/04)