



Teenage Pregnancy

Early Intervention Pathway 2018



Pregnant ⊕
Not Pregnant ⊖

Purpose of the document

This resource has been developed to support you to help any young women under the age of 20 who suspect they may be pregnant.

In conjunction with this document and the suggested referral flowchart, it is important for you to familiarise yourself with, and ensure you are working to:

- Sunderland's safeguarding children procedures.
- Your organisation's safeguarding procedures
- Your organisation's confidentiality and information governance policy and procedures

“You should also be aware of the boundaries and limitations of your role”. Although you may not be the expert, remember young people often require a listening ear. You will then be able to support them to navigate the system and ensure they are supported into the appropriate specialist services and support.

This document replaces the existing Sunderland “Teenage Pregnancy Partnership, Early/Suspected Pregnancy in under -18s referral flowchart”. This document has been designed to raise awareness amongst professionals and key workers of the services that are available in Sunderland to support young people under 20 who think they may be pregnant or those young people who are already teenage parents (including teenage fathers).

Whilst some teenage parents will have positive experiences during pregnancy and parenthood and require little additional support from professionals, many teenage parents have additional unmet needs which lead to poor health and social outcomes. This document provides guidance around the key services which professionals and key workers can refer to when supporting pregnant teenagers and their partners.

Early identification of risk factors for teenage conceptions

- The high percentage of conceptions leading to abortion suggests in Sunderland many pregnancies are unplanned, and indicates poor or no use of contraception and increased risk of sexually transmitted infections in under-18s
- Young people are more likely to have risky sex when under the influence of alcohol
- Alcohol consumption is associated with an increased likelihood of having sex at a younger age and is the main contributing factor to first sex using no contraception
- Young people experiencing poor emotional and physical wellbeing are at increased risk
- Areas of geographical deprivation often have the highest teenage conception rates and the lowest percentage of conceptions leading to abortions
- Looked after children - teenage motherhood amongst looked after teenagers is three times higher than the general population.
- Persistent absence from school has shown a strong independent effect on the risk of teenage pregnancy
- Low parent and child aspirations
- Ethnicity Census data shows teenage conceptions are significantly higher among mothers of 'White British' 'Mixed White, Black Caribbean', 'Other Black' and 'Black Caribbean' ethnicity.

Source: Sunderland Teenage Pregnancy Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2017

Practitioner questions about sexual health and young people

What is the legal age of consent for sexual activity?

- The legal age of consent is 16. However, the Home Office document 'Working within the Sexual Offences Act 2003', states the law is not intended to prosecute mutually agreed teenage sexual activity between two young people of a similar age, unless it involves abuse or exploitation. For further information and guidance on cases involving underage sexual activity please see 'safeguarding young people engaging in underage sexual activity', page 5.

Can health professionals, teachers, support staff and other key workers provide confidential sexual health advice and treatment without being seen to facilitate an offence?

- The Sexual Offences Act (2003) states that health professionals and others working with young people can provide confidential advice or treatment on contraception, abortion, or sexual and reproductive health, to young people under 16, providing they are acting for the purpose of:
 - protecting a child from pregnancy or sexually transmitted infection;
 - protecting the physical safety of a child;
 - promoting a child's emotional wellbeing by the giving of advice.

Can health professionals give contraception and sexual health advice and treatment to young people under 16 without parental consent?

Fraser guidelines allow clinicians to provide contraception, and sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment to young people under the age of 16, without parental consent, providing that the following criteria are met:

- The young person understands the clinician's advice
- The young person is very likely to begin or continue having intercourse with or without contraceptive treatment
- Unless he or she receives contraceptive advice or treatment, the young person's physical or mental health, or both, are likely to suffer
- The young person's best interests require the clinician to give contraceptive advice, treatment or both, without parental consent
- The young person cannot be persuaded to inform his or her parents or allow the clinician to inform the parents that he or she is seeking contraceptive advice.

The General Medical Council's (GMC) "0-18 years: guidance for all doctors" suggests that GP's should encourage a young person to involve his or her parents or carers in making important decisions, but if the above criteria are met, they should abide by any decision the young person makes.

Safeguarding young people engaging in underage sexual activity

Safeguarding

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 states the age of consent (the legal age to have sex) in the UK is 16 years old, the laws are there to protect children from abuse and exploitation; not to prosecute under-16s who have mutually consenting sexual activity.

Although it is not always necessary to make a safeguarding referral where underage sexual activity has taken place, professionals should be prepared to explore the relationships in which sexual activity has occurred with the young person, alone wherever possible. Particular consideration should be given to a large difference in age between partners, the possibility of child sexual exploitation and any history of abusive relationships or previous Children's Social Care involvement. Any concerns should be discussed with a Safeguarding advisor and SSCB procedures followed. As a minimum, you should also take advice from the nominated safeguarding professional within your organisation.

Within the context of sexual exploitation it is recognised that no one partner holds all the information required to effectively assess the needs or fully assess the risk of serious harm to children and young people. In cases of concern the MSET (Missing Sexual Exploitation & Trafficked) toolkit should be followed at all times. www.sunderlandscb.com

When a young person is under 13 years

Sex under the age of 13 is unlawful, young people under 13 years are not deemed to be able to consent and there may be a requirement for a multi agency strategy meeting in which the police will look into the circumstances. National and local guidance stipulates that when a case of underage sexual activity involves a young person under the age of 13, it is

always necessary to discuss the case with a nominated safeguarding children lead in your organisation, and sets out a presumption that the case would be referred to Children's Social Care.

Where a concern is raised in relation to PREVENT (radicalisation) relating to a child or young person (aged under 18) go to

<http://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/what-we-do/concerned> where you can make a referral (stipulate you are making a referral under "Prevent").

Other Sources of information:

Together for Children LSCB protocols and procedures.

<http://www.sunderlandscb.com/>

Home Office, (2004) Working within the Sexual Offences Act 2003, Communications Directorate.

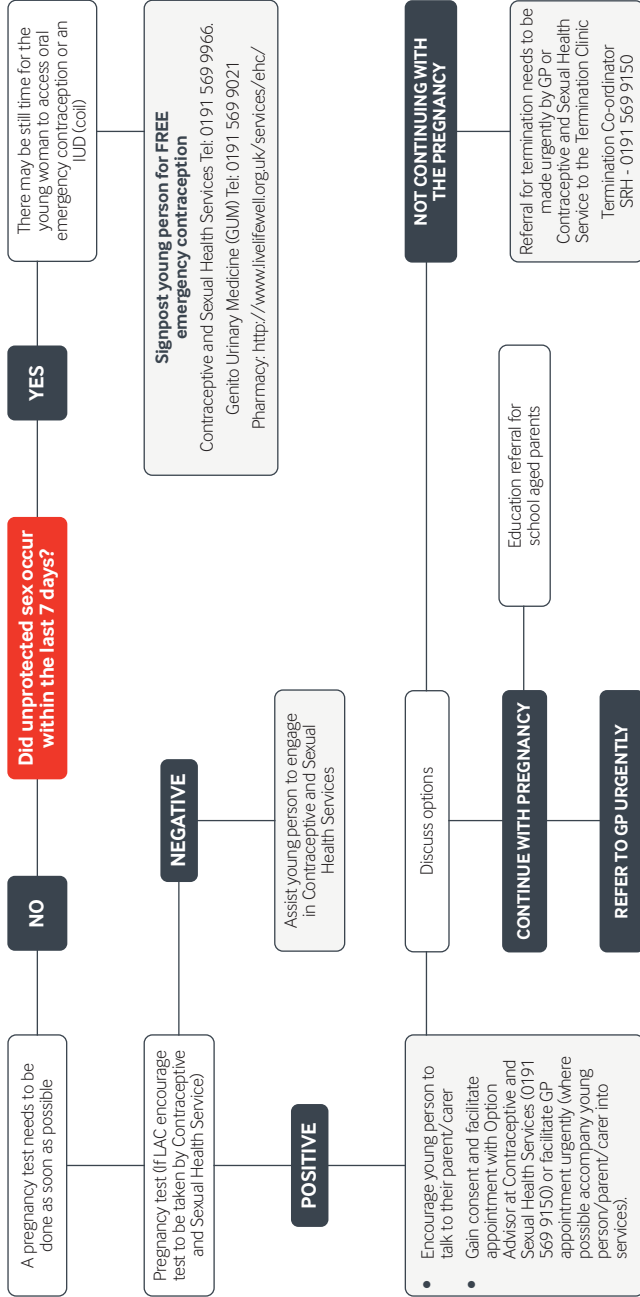
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/pdfs/ukpga_20030042_en.pdf

Home Office, Guidance on Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, November 2016.

https://www.gov.uk/government/Guidance_on_part_2_of_the_sexual_offences_act_2003_2.pdf

Young person under 20 years thinks she is pregnant

If young person is under the age of 13 a safeguarding referral must be made



Throughout this pathway if there are any concerns about the safety, health and wellbeing of the young person then Safeguarding Children Procedures should be followed www.sunderlandsccb.com

Sunderland Support Services

Contraceptive and Sexual Health Service

A comprehensive sexual health service providing outreach community-based contraception and sexual health (CASH) clinics supported by the Young Persons contraceptive nurse.

Contraceptive services appointment line: 0191 569 9966

GUM clinic appointment line: 0191 569 9021

Young persons nurse: 0191 569 9966

Pregnancy options counsellor: 0191 569 9966

Termination of pregnancy co-ordinator: 0191 569 9150

Family Nurse Partnerships

The Family Nurse Partnership in Sunderland is a voluntary home visiting programme for first time young mums, aged 19 years and under.

0191 283 1263

GP Practices

NHS Choices, Your Health Your Choices

Various www.nhs.uk

Looked After Children Nurse

Named Nurse for looked after children and young people:

0191 569 9980

LAC & young person's nurse: 0191 569 9984

School Nursing

School nursing is a service that provides health support and advice to young people aged between 5-19yrs. Drop in clinics are available across Sunderland where young people can access sexual health advice including, C Card condom distribution.

0191 502 5426

Together for Children

<https://togetherforchildren.org.uk/>

0191 520 5555

Early Help Advice and Allocation Team

0191 561 4084

Risk and Resilience Workers

0191 561 7810

<https://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/what-we-do/concerned>

Bump to Baby (B2B)

Old Hendon Health Centre Meaburn Terrace, Hendon SR1 2LR

0191 553 2381

email: tracy.rawding@togetherforchildren.org.uk

Young Mums Unit

Hendon Health Centre, Meaburn Terrace, Hendon, Sunderland SR1 2LR

0191 553 2382

Pharmacy Emergency Hormonal Contraceptive

Please phone the pharmacy before the young person visits to check that free EHC is available on that day.

Location (West Locality)

Boots UK Ltd,

Springwell Health Centre, Springwell Road, Sunderland SR3 4HG

0191 522 9914

K and S Dixons Pharmacy

68 Ormonde Street, Sunderland SR4 7PP

0191 528 4676

E Chaston Pharmacy

Vane House, Vane Street, Sunderland SR3 1EJ

0191 521 0500

Grindon Pharmacy

17 Galashiels Road, Sunderland SR4 8JJ

0191 534 4514

Rowlands Pharmacy

The Old Forge, Pallion Park, Sunderland SR4 6QE

0191 567 4504

Rowlands Pharmacy

189 Chester Rd, Sunderland SR4 7JA

0191 567 8900

Rowlands Pharmacy

19 St. Lukes Terrace, Sunderland SR4 6NQ

0191 567 3140

Rowlands Pharmacy

Pallion Health Centre, Hylton Road, Sunderland SR4 7XA
0191 514 1915

Lloyds Pharmacy

Sainsbury's, Silksworth Lane, Sunderland SR3 1PD
0191 511 0365

Tulloch Pharmacy

Unit 9, Pennywell Shopping Centre, Portsmouth Rd, Sunderland SR4 9AS
0191 534 2869

Location (East Locality)

Boots (The Bridges)

45, The Bridges, Sunderland SR1 3LF
0191 567 0933

Boots (Park Lane)

2-3 Park Lane, Sunderland SR1 3NX
0191 567 5422

Rowlands Pharmacy

Mill Street, Sunderland SR4 7BG
0191 567 2290

McCarthy Pharmacy

1 Saville Place, Sunderland SR1 1PA
0191 567 3550

Location (North Locality)

Well Pharmacy

79-80 Dundas Street, Sunderland SR6 0BB

0191 567 3165

Lloyds Pharmacy

Sea Road, Sunderland SR6 9BX

0191 548 6701

Davy Pharmacy

2 Ethel Terrace, Sunderland SR5 3BQ

0191 548 4462

Redhouse Pharmacy

127 Renfrew Rd, Sunderland SR5 5PS

0191 549 6433

Location (Washington Locality)

Blue House Pharmacy

Blue House Lane, Washington NE37 2TE

0191 416 4212

Boots (The Galleries)

81, The Galleries, Washington NE38 7RT

0191 416 1680

Boots (Concord)

Arndale House, 12 Victoria Rd, Washington NE37 2SW

0191 416 0825

Lloyds Pharmacy (Concord)

1 Heworth Rd, Concord, Washington NE37 2PY

0191 416 0920

Lloyds Pharmacy (Galleries)

35 The Galleries

0191 417 9997

Location (Coalfields Locality)

Hopes Pharmacy

49 Newbottle St, Houghton le Spring DH4 4AR
0191 584 3437

Kepier Pharmacy

Kepier Medical Practice, Leyburn Grove, Houghton le Spring DH4 5EQ
0191 584 2291

Houghton Pharmacy

31 Queensway, Houghton le Spring DH5 8EL
0191 584 0007

Penshaw Pharmacy

36 Avondale Ave, Houghton le Spring DH4 7QS
0191 584 0600

R Whitfield Pharmacy

93 High St, Easington Lane, Houghton le Spring DH5 0JR
0191 526 3261

N.B At the time of printing this is the most up to date list of EHC providers for further information see:

www.livelifewell.org.uk/services/ehc/

C Card Condom distribution and Emergency Contraception

Signposting is not the most effective way to ensure young people access services. Most vulnerable young teenagers will need encouragement and support to access appointments with their GP or sexual health services as they can find the process challenging and intimidating.

Further information on access to services can be found below:

- The C Card distribution scheme is available at a range of outlets across Sunderland for full information see: www.ccardsunderland.co.uk
- Emergency contraception is available through a range of providers for further information see: www.livelifewell.org.uk/www.chsft.nhs.uk

Reference

NSPCC. (2016). Gillick competency and Fraser guidelines. [online] Available at: www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-protection July 2017.

Useful Sources of Information

Family Planning Association (FPA) 2016, Under-16s: consent and confidentiality in sexual health services.

www.fpa.org.uk/factsheets/under-16s-consent-confidentiality July 2017.

Fraser Guidelines Competency Checklist

www.bpcnw.co.uk/professionals/

[c-card/ewExternalFiles/Fraser%20Guidelines%20Checklist.pdf](http://www.bpcnw.co.uk/professionals/c-card/ewExternalFiles/Fraser%20Guidelines%20Checklist.pdf)

Sunderland Children's Safeguarding Board

www.sunderlandscb.com

www.sunderlandscb.com/reporting

Marie Stopes UK, Abortion in the UK.

www.mariestopes.org.uk/women/abortion?

Sunderland Contraceptive Services

chsft.nhs.uk/our-services/contraceptive-services/

Brook Sexual Health and Wellbeing for under 25s

www.brook.org.uk

Child Sexual Exploitation

www.sunderland.gov.uk/

Tommy's Pregnancy Information

www.tommys.org/pregnancy-information?

