Teenage Pregnancy
Early Intervention Pathway 2018
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/

Communications Directorate.

Home Office, Guidance on Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003,
November 2016.
Young person under 20 years thinks she is pregnant
If young person is under the age of 13 a safeguarding referral must be made

A pregnancy test needs to be done as soon as possible

Did unprotected sex occur within the last 7 days?

YES

There may be still time for the young woman to access oral emergency contraception or an IUD (coil)

NO

Pregnancy test (if LAC encourage test to be taken by Contraceptive and Sexual Health Service)

Did unprotected sex occur within the last 7 days?

NEGATIVE

Signpost young person for FREE emergency contraception
Contraceptive and Sexual Health Services Tel 0191 569 9966.
Genito Urinary Medicine (GUM) Tel: 0191 569 9021
Pharmacy: http://www.livelifewell.org.uk/services/ehc/

Assist young person to talk to their parent/carer
Gain consent and facilitate appointment with Option Advisor at Contraceptive and Sexual Health Services (0191 569 9150) or facilitate GP appointment urgently (where possible accompany young person/parent/carer into services).

Discuss options

CONTINUE WITH PREGNANCY

REfer to GP urgently

NOT CONTINUING WITH THE PREGNANCY

Education referral for school aged parents

Referral for termination needs to be made urgently by GP or Contraceptive and Sexual Health Service to the Termination Clinic Termination Co-ordinator SRH - 0191 569 9150

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.sunderlandscb.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


Useful Sources of Information


Fraser Guidelines Competency Checklist
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?