A Joint Approach to Tackling Teenage Pregnancy

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Why did we focus on Schools?

• Governments deep Dive Success factors

Working with Schools to develop SRE programmes, and to raise aspirations of young people

•Local Public Health research indicated that taking a schools approach would be more effective than a communities approach

•Review of Southwark's Teenage Pregnancy Strategy indicated that engagement with schools needed strengthening

- Support to targeted schools with highest conception rates

- Training and development for all front-line staff to ensure consistent and coherent messages – recently published SRE guidelines

- Agency support available to enhance existing SRE lessons in schools

- Aiming to work with parents

- Visited each school to ascertain what their needs were

- Began helping support them through existing resources (including training and other initiatives such as ‘drop in clinics’)

- Arranged programmes for the schools.

The stark facts

• the majority of teenage conceptions are unplanned and about half lead to abortion

• half of all under 18 conceptions occur in the 20 per cent most deprived wards

• 20 per cent of teenage births to under 18s are second pregnancies

• Over a third of teenage mothers have no qualifications and 70 per cent are not in education, training or employment

• babies of teenage mothers have a 60 per cent higher risk of dying in the first year of life and have an increased risk of living in poverty and achieving less at school

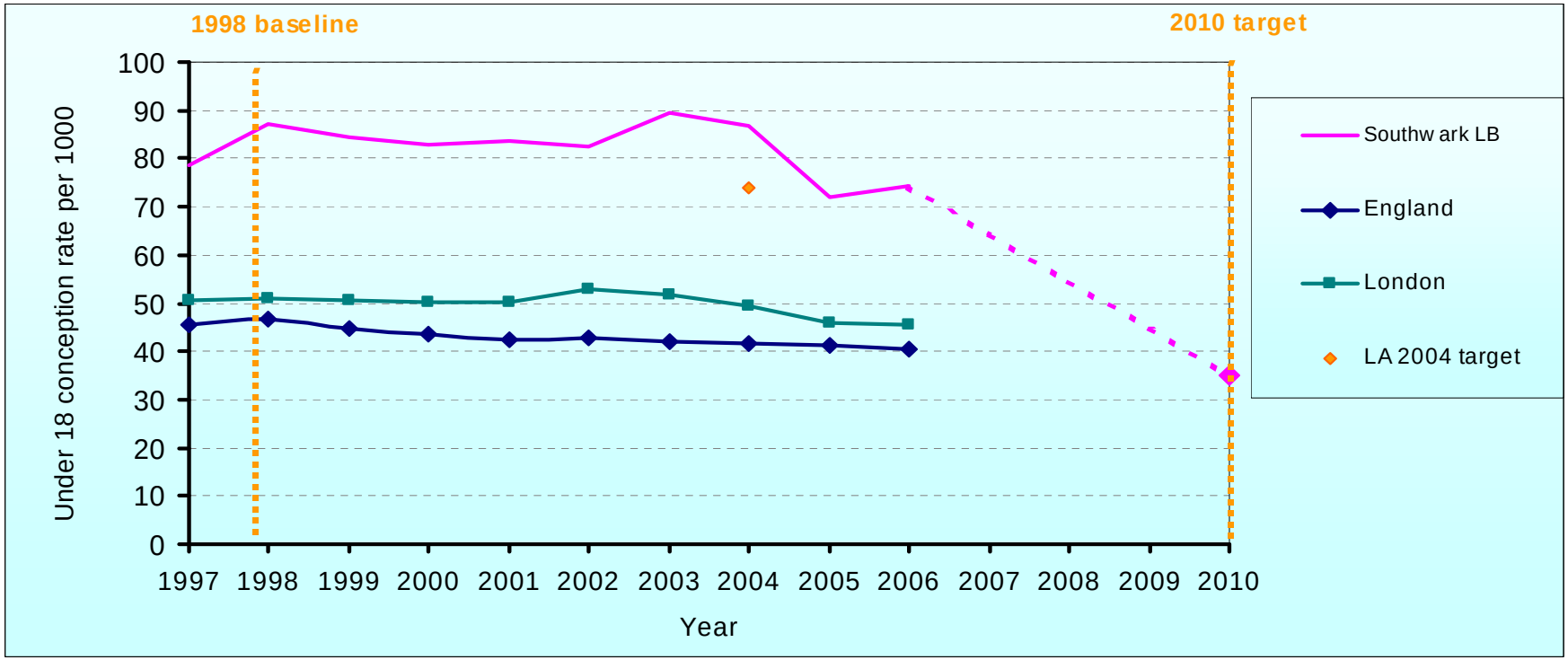
Source: Teenage Pregnancy: Accelerating the Strategy to 2010, DfES, 2006

Why does teenage pregnancy matter?

Teenage pregnancy is strongly linked with poor outcomes. Teenage mothers, young fathers and their children are less likely to be in good health or to complete their education and more likely to live in poor housing and spend long periods on benefits and out of work3.

Teenage pregnancy matters as it:

- impacts on the *poorest communities* and *most vulnerable* young people
- widens health inequalities
- limits educational opportunities and attainment for young parents and their children
- contributes to worklessness and poverty
- carries avoidable costs to the NHS and public services


1998 baseline
2010 target
Under 18 conception rate per 1000
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
Year
Southw ark LB
England
London
LA 2004 target

Southwark remains 2nd highest in London and nationally. Lambeth is highest with a rate of 82.8, Southwark 80.0, Nottingham 74.0, Lewisham 73.4 and Kingston upon Hull 72.4. In Quarter 1 Southwark improved to 3rd highest nationally with Lambeth & Nottingham higher).

The **2007 PSA trajectory of 54.48** per 1,000 remains challenging.

Under 18 conceptions per 1000 females aged 15-17 years old – update

The latest data from the Teenage Pregnancy Unit (end of Aug 2008) is for provisional data for Quarter 2 2007 (Apr-June) and final figures for 2006.

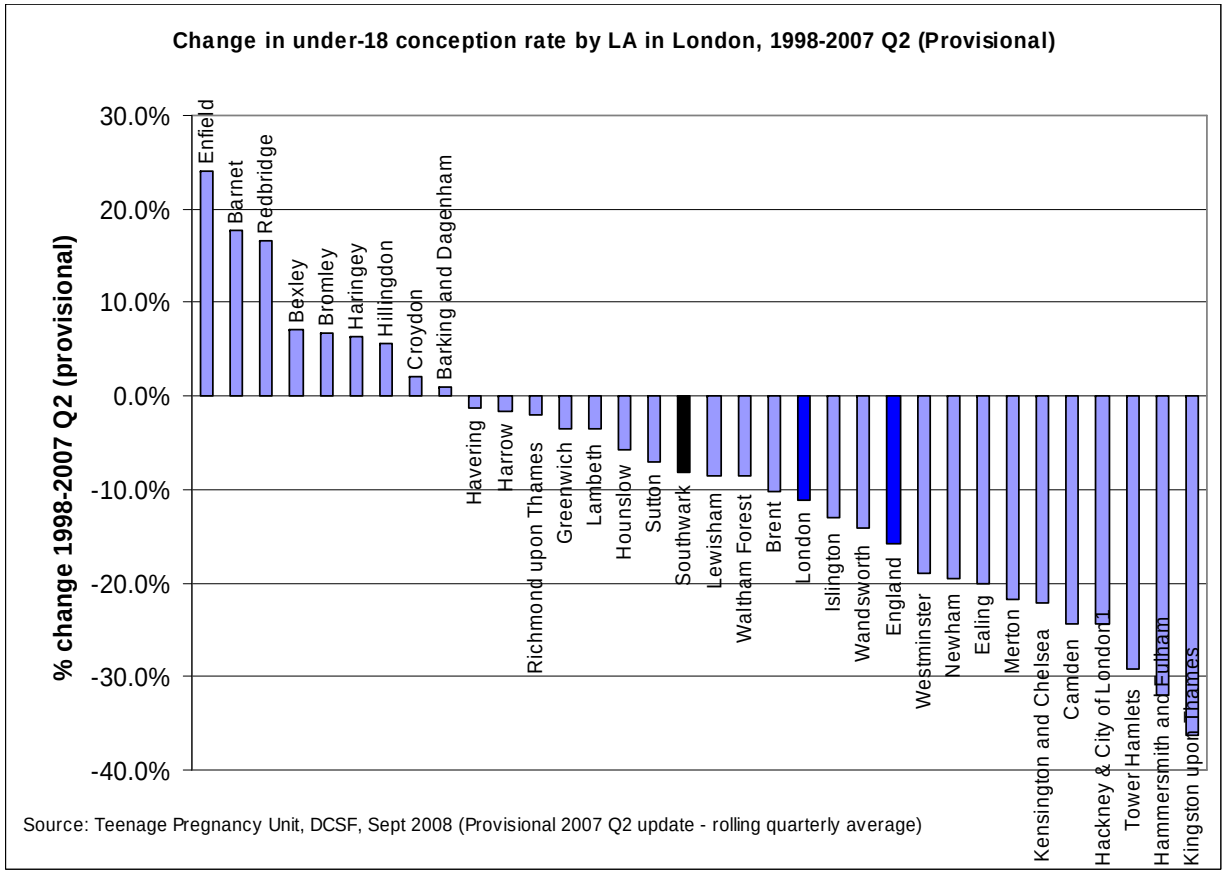
Final 2006 Conception rates (Jan –Dec 2006)

Final 2006 data shows that there were **291** under year old conceptions during the period, a **rate of 75.0** per 1,000 15-17 female population. This is a reduction of 14.0% on the 1998 baseline rate of 87.2 per 1,000, which is a greater reduction than England (12.9% reduction) and London (10.6% reduction). This is slightly higher than the provisional figures published in Feb 2008 which showed 288 conceptions, a rate of 74.2 and a reduction of 14.9%.

Provisional Quarter 2 2007 (Apr – Jun 2007)
The latest data available on Teenage conceptions is provisional data for Quarter 2 2007.

	Under18 yr old Conceptions	% change on baseline
1998 (baseline)	318 (rate 87.2)	N/a
2004	343 (rate 86.7)	-0.6%
2005	285 (rate 71.8)	-17.6%
2006	291 (rate 75.0)	-14.0%
2007 Q1 (provisional)	62 (rolling avg rate 72.1)	-17.3%
2007 Q2 (provisional)	89 (rolling avg rate 80.0)	- 8.3%

During the quarter there were **89 conceptions**, a quarterly rate of 95.1 per 1,000, which is the second highest quarterly rate in the last 8 years. Disappointing after the previous quarter was the lowest since September 2005. The 12 month rolling average is now **80.0 per 1,000 15-17 year-old population**. This is a reduction of 8.3% on the 1998 baseline rate of 87.2 per 1,000, compared to 14% reduction in 2006.



Source: Teenage Pregnancy Unit, DCSF, Sept 2008 (Provisional 2007 Q2 update - rolling quarterly average)

TEENAGE PREGNANCY RATES ARE AT THEIR LOWEST LEVEL FOR OVER 20 YEARS.

Effective local delivery of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy in many parts of the country has reversed the previous upward trend and reduced the national under-18 conception rate by 12.9 per cent. If all local areas were performing as well as the top 25 per cent, the reduction would be more than double of that achieved so far.

Useful links and where to find out more:

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/teenagepregnancy

www.dh.gov.uk/sexualhealth

www.lga.gov.uk

Any Questions?