Teenage Pregnancy Strategy: Beyond 2010

…meeting the needs of boys and girls

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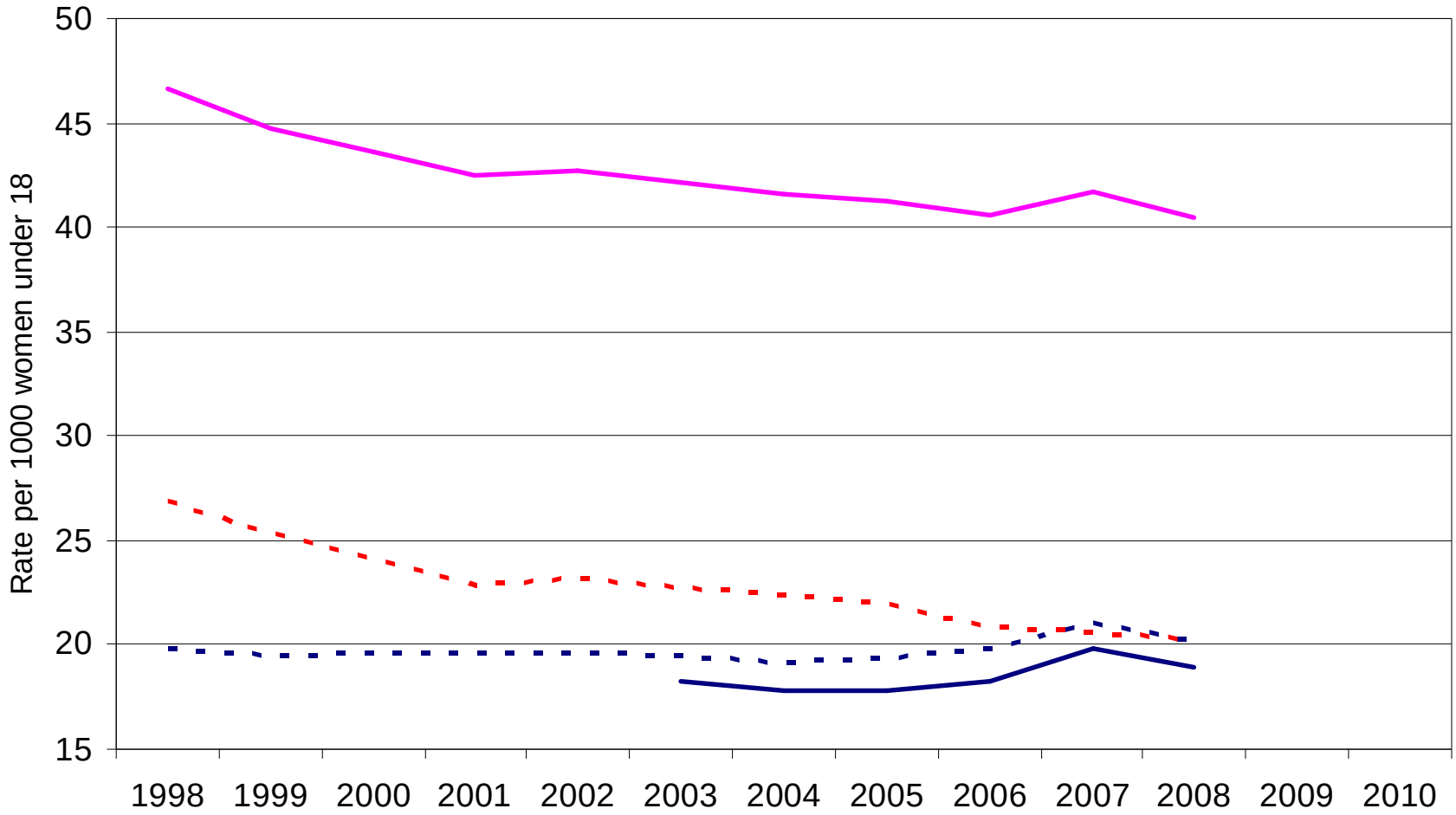
The need for the journey to continue

- Still more to do to ensure all young people have the information, advice and support they need
- Need to build on progress so far and drive forward actions already in the pipeline
- Take steps to ensure Strategy is reaching all young people through mainstreamed effective delivery in all local areas
- Need for Government commitment to a continuing priority to avoid 'end of strategy' disinvestment by local areas
- Identify any new policy proposals which could strengthen impact of the Strategy in the next phase
- And address any new challenges to ensure the Strategy is fit for the 21st century – and meets the needs of boys and girls

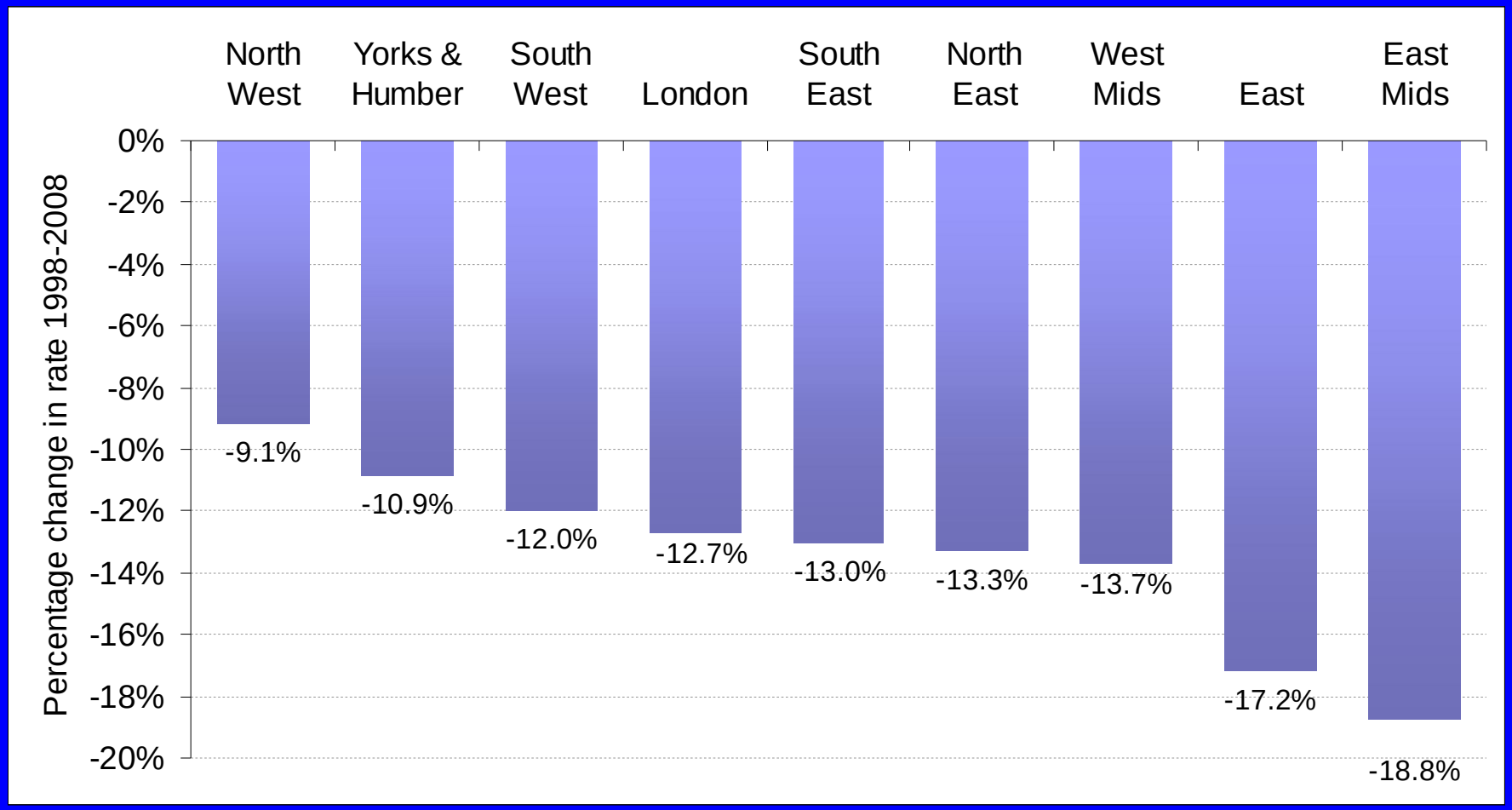
Latest data

- 2008 provisional data shows 3% reduction from 2007 – bringing decline from 1998 to 13.3%
- Conceptions leading to birth down by almost 25%
- Under 18 conceptions and births to lowest level for over 20 years
- 86% of areas now showing declines from 1998 – 28% with reductions of over 20%
- Proportion of teenage mothers in education, employment or training (EET) has risen from 22% to 33%

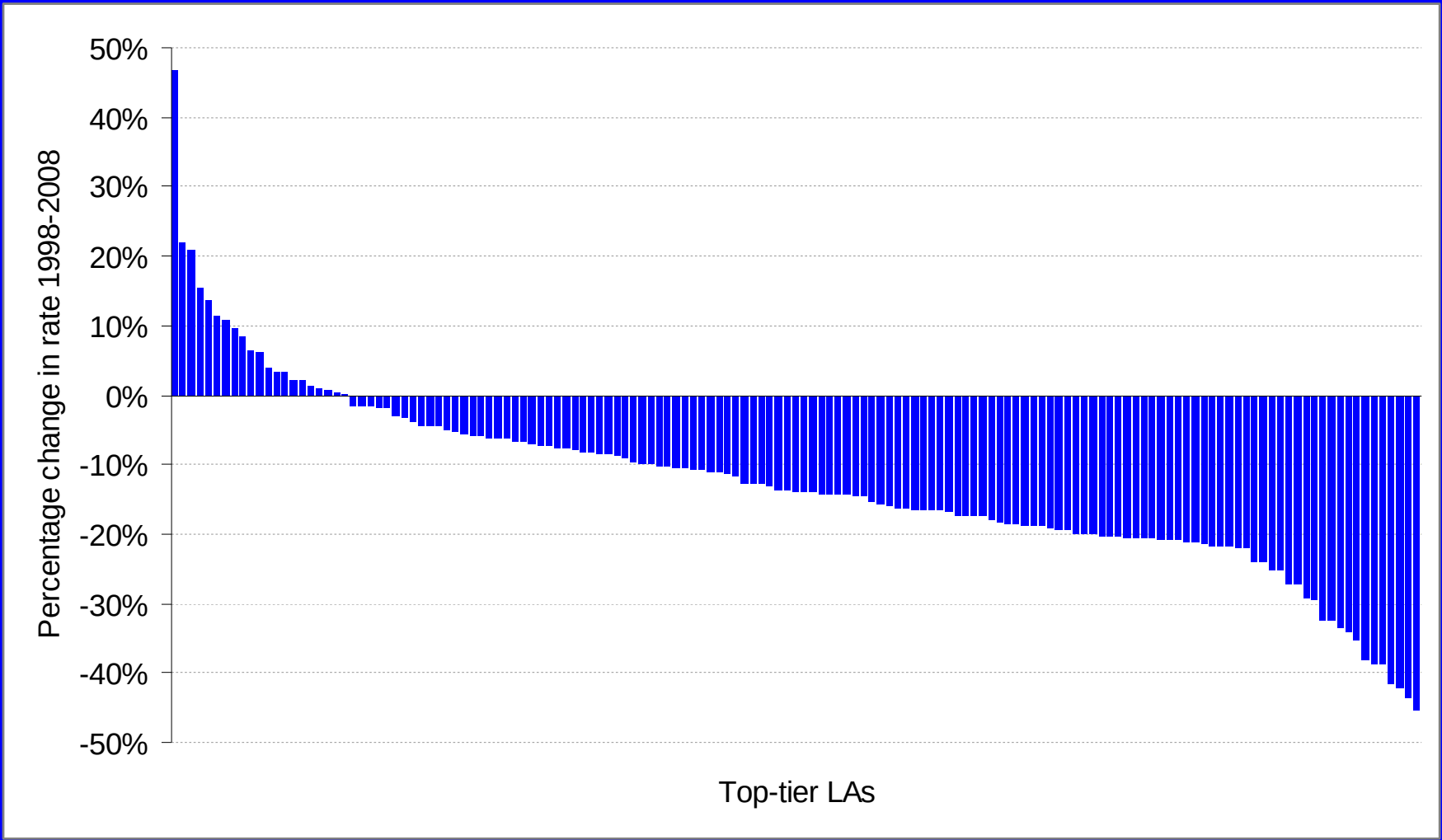
National progress: 1998-2008



Regional progress: 1998-2008



Local progress: 1998-2008



Behind the data: what has changed since 1998?

- *Every Child Matters* Outcomes: for all young people with early intervention for young people needing more support
- Legislation for statutory PSHE/SRE
- Statutory well being duty on schools, and within FE Ofsted framework
- More contraception/sexual health services + condom distribution schemes in schools, colleges and community settings
- Healthy Schools, Enhanced HS and Healthy FE programmes
- *You're Welcome* young people friendly service criteria
- Growing consensus on importance of SRE, access to contraception/sexual health services and open discussion on sex and relationships issues ….*Sex. Worth Talking About* media campaign
- Greatly increased support for teenage mothers – and young fathers

The evidence for moving into next phase

- Provision of high quality SRE, and improved access to contraceptive and sexual health services are areas where strongest empirical evidence exists on impact on TP rates
- Qualitative evidence identifies senior leadership, workforce training and effective use of data as also being critical
- No evidence that alternative approaches (e.g abstinence-based/benefit conditionality) are effective
- Challenge now is for all areas to integrate SRE and contraception/sexual health advice into mainstream planning – with each part of the delivery network understanding and contributing their part of the solution
- With universal provision for all young people and more intensive support for young people at risk

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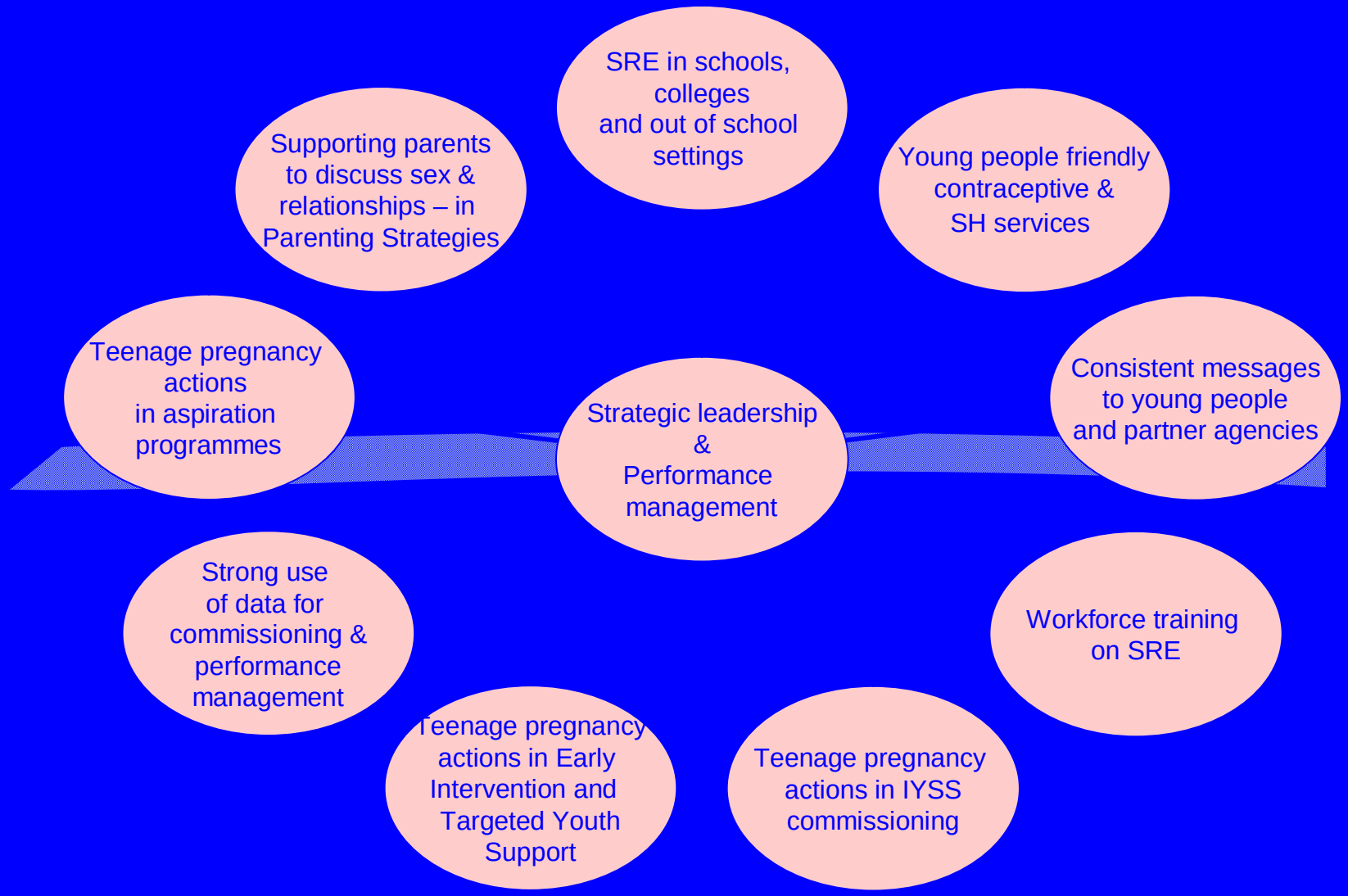
Teenage pregnancy actions: keeping the focus within integrated delivery



Supporting young people – girls & boys - to make positive, healthy and safe choices: some new challenges

- Increasing use of the internet and mobile phone technology by young people
- Early sexualisation and celebrity culture
- Alcohol-fuelled sexual activity – and the impact on consensual, safe relationships
- Potential impact of recession on poverty and aspiration
- A tougher financial climate in public services – doing more with less!

Teenage Pregnancy Strategy: Beyond 2010: vehicles for identifying and meeting the needs of girls and boys

- Sex. Worth Talking About – monitoring the tracking survey by gender, developing new messages and using relevant media channels to reach boys and girls

- Improving SRE in schools:

  - Gauging the views of boys and girls through SRE pupil audit, Tellus – and Well Being data for School Report Card

  - Addressing knowledge and skills of boys and girls in new lesson plans on fertility and contraception

  - Highlighting gender issues in training on PSHE/SRE for teachers

- Supporting parents/carers to talk more to boys as well as girls – through *Sex. Worth Talking About* and local parenting strategies

Teenage Pregnancy Strategy: Beyond 2010: vehicles for identifying and meeting the needs of girls and boys

- Improving effectiveness of contraception/sexual health services:
  - Increasing involvement of boys in *You're Welcome* mystery shopping service evaluation
  - Using the new Brook guidance on effective work with boys and young men
  - Exploring views of girls and boys involved in 1-1 consultation pilot

- Including TP actions into integrated delivery and early intervention
  - Including gender issues in qualitative research with practitioners on knowledge and attitudes towards teenage pregnancy and sexual health
  - Integrating key gender issues into new national workforce standards on relationships and sexual health
  - Highlighting gender specific risks in Early Identification and Intervention work

- Identifying common ground and key differences between the needs of boys and girls

Next steps

- Addressing gender issues in the commitments to accelerate progress this year
- Consultation with LAs, PCTs and stakeholders until 20 May – please respond!
- Consultation with young people through Brook – and parents through Parentline Plus
- Use consultation responses to inform guidance for local areas for 2011-12

❧ Making the solution to a complex issue simple and achievable!

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For more information

Teenage Pregnancy Strategy: Beyond 2010.

www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/

www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/healthandwellbeing/teenagepregnancy

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