

# Scarborough Teenage Pregnancy Taskforce: Developing and Implementing a Multi-Agency Approach to Reducing Unplanned Teenage Pregnancy in Scarborough

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## BACKGROUND

### Translating evidence into a 'whole systems' approach: 10 key factors of effective local strategies



Levels of teenage pregnancy in Scarborough have historically been significantly higher than the national average. In 2021, the under 18 conception rate (19.7/1000) and under 18 birth rates (6.8/1000) in Scarborough were above county, regional and national levels, and were higher than equivalent rates amongst CIPFA nearest statistical neighbours.

The Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Framework (TPPF) advocates for partnership working to be central to any efforts to reduce levels of teenage pregnancy. The multi-agency Scarborough Teenage Pregnancy Taskforce comprises representatives from Local Authority, NHS, youth groups, housing providers, charities, and academia. The taskforce aims to reduce unplanned teenage pregnancy, and to ensure that pregnant teenagers and teenage parents are empowered and supported to achieve good health and wellbeing, reduce their risk of long-term social exclusion, and provide the best start in life for their child.

## SCARBOROUGH CONTEXT AND TASKFORCE

In 2022, North Yorkshire Public Health Team re-established the Scarborough Teenage Pregnancy Taskforce. This is a multi-agency group of professionals and organisations who aim to:

- Reduce unplanned teenage pregnancy rates in Scarborough and in particular to reduce the gap between Scarborough, national rates and the rest of North Yorkshire.
- Ensure that pregnant teenagers and teenage parents are empowered and supported to achieve good health and wellbeing, reduce their risk of long term social exclusion and provide the best start in life for their child.

A self-assessment using the Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Framework established key priority areas as:

- Key Factor 5: Youth Friendly Services
- Key Factor 6: Targeted prevention for young people at risk
- Key Factor 8: Advice and access to contraception in non-health, education and youth settings
- Key Factor 10: Support for pregnant teenagers and young parents, including prevention of subsequent pregnancies.

In addition, University of York's School for Business and Society conducted a research project investigating the Experiences of Pregnancy and Parenthood amongst Teenage Parents in Scarborough. They identified the challenges of living and parenting in Scarborough during the cost of living crisis, in a context of dramatic cuts to services intended to support young people. Additionally, young parents had a pervasive fear of social work involvement, and many had experienced of stigmatisation and discrimination.

### Taskforce Members

NYC Public Health

YorSexual Health Service

0-19 Service

Scarborough Core PCN

Community Pharmacy North Yorkshire

Early Help

Youth Justice

Education and Skills

Placement and Fostering

Sidewalk Youth Group

North Yorkshire Youth

Stronger Communities

Humankind/NY Rise

University of York

Foundation UK

## FUTURE PLANS

A round-table session took place with strategic leaders from NHS and Social Care, to share University of York's findings and identify next steps. Based on this and the self-assessment, in the next year we aim to:

- Establish a youth voice group to ensure that the voices of young parents are heard within the taskforce's work.
- Develop a young parents charter, underpinned by a training offer for professionals and services who work with young parents. Initially we will look to work with social care/Early Help and Maternity systems.
- Develop toolkit for professionals to share experiences of young parents with the aim of reducing experiences of stigma and discrimination.
- Collate and disseminate available resources and support available to young parents in Scarborough area.
- Continue to work as a multi-agency group to ensure consistency of work and messaging across NHS, Social Care and the wider system.

