

**TITLE OF REPORT:** GAP analysis: To identify any service improvements that may lead to a reduction in unplanned teenage pregnancy amongst care experienced young people.

Including the views of some young people who are not care experienced. Full report circulated prior to the meeting.

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### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek the views of the Corporate Parenting Board on what measures are required to demonstrate that professionals and carers who hold corporate parent responsibility have embraced the ethos that the sexual health and prevention of unplanned teenage pregnancy amongst care experienced young people, is everyone's responsibility. It is also important that particular emphasis is given to those care experienced young people who are persistently absent from education.

### **Background**

2. Evidence suggests that young people who have experienced the care system are more likely to have an unplanned teenage pregnancy and subsequent care proceedings in relation to their children (Broadhurst et al, 2017 and Roberts et al, 2017). Having a strong ethos of corporate parenting involves all professionals, agencies and carers taking responsibility for the children in their care, as well as those who have left care (Department for Education, 2018). In the role of corporate parent, carers and professionals are urged to ask themselves, would this be good enough for my child? With that in mind, the Looked After Children's health team in Gateshead in conjunction with Gateshead Sexual Health Service, have completed a GAP analysis with the overall aim of finding out what needs to be done for the young people in Gateshead to enable us to turn the trend for them, and truly make the issue of sexual health and unplanned pregnancy prevention everyone's business. The GAP analysis was conducted between July and October 2021 and included the circulation of two separate confidential questionnaires for completion via an online link, one for professionals and carers, and the other for young people. The links to the questionnaires were shared via email, staff communications and across the social media platforms Facebook and Twitter. The professional/carer questionnaire was circulated on 3 occasions over a 2-month period. The limitations of using this method are discussed in the full report. The questionnaires generated 110 responses from young people and 116 from professionals and carers.

## Proposal

3. It is proposed that the learning gained from the GAP analysis should be used to inform the corporate parent response to the sexual health and prevention of unplanned teenage pregnancy amongst care experienced young people in Gateshead.

## Recommendations

4. The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to consider the recommendations from the GAP analysis which would include:
  - Signposting young people to Gateshead sexual health service's comprehensive website which enables young people, professionals, carers, and the public access to the most up to date timetable for the service. The website has already been updated in response to the GAP analysis to include PDF leaflets on contraception and sexual health, allowing for information to be at hand for young people, and professionals/carers.
  - Social workers and carers to attend short learning sessions delivered by Gateshead sexual health service and the Looked After Children's health team, with a focus on confidentiality in relation to sexual health, and what services can be accessed where.
  - Gateshead sexual health service will be supported by the CCG newsletter to share information in relation to what services can be accessed where with colleagues working in GP practices across Gateshead.
  - The ethos should be embraced in Gateshead by all who hold corporate parent responsibility that sexual health and prevention of unplanned teenage pregnancy is everyone's business. The young people in Gateshead will know that happens when they receive timely sexual health advice when they ask for it from any member of the corporate parent team.
  - Social workers and carers should identify any young people whom they work with who are not in education and ensure provision is in place to address any sexual health needs, or any educational gaps in relation to sexual health.

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