

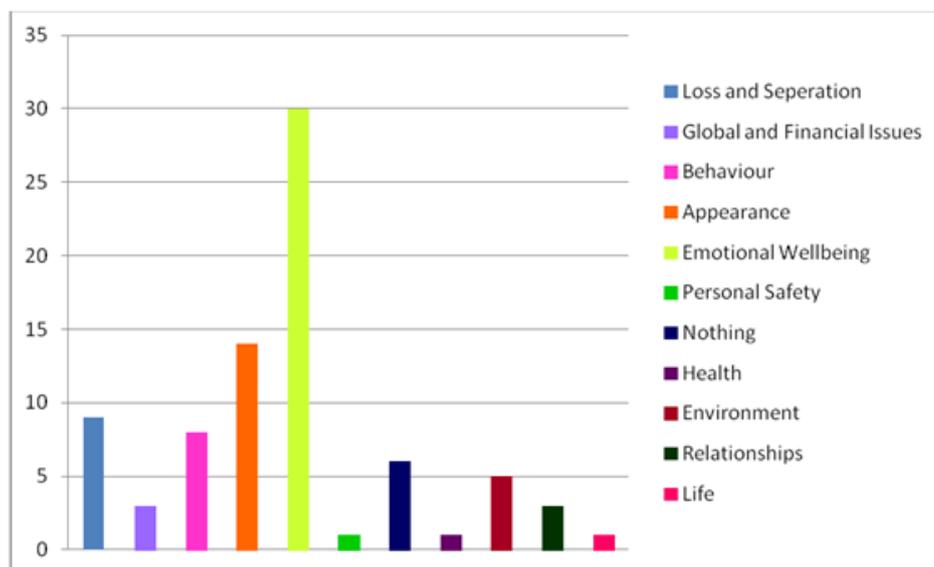
Children's Services Department Case Study

Title of project:	Young Parents Community Coaching Project-Brune park cluster, Gosport
National Indicators:	<p>Stronger Communities:</p> <p>NI 4 - % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality</p> <p>Safer Communities:</p> <p>NI 17 – Perceptions of anti-social behaviour</p> <p>NI 22 – Perceptions of parents taking responsibility for their children in the area</p> <p>Children & Young People:</p> <p>Be healthy:</p> <p>NI50 – Emotional health of children</p> <p>Staying Safe:</p> <p>NI 69 – Children who have experienced bullying</p> <p>Enjoy and Achieve:</p> <p>NI 79 – Achievement of a level 2 qualification by the age of 19</p> <p>NI 82 – Inequality gap in the achievement of a level 2 qualification by the age of 19</p> <p>NI 91 – Participation of 17 year olds in education or training</p> <p>Make a positive contribution:</p> <p>NI 110 – Young people's participation in positive activities</p> <p>NI 112 – Under 18 conception rates</p> <p>Economic and social wellbeing:</p> <p>NI 116 – Proportion of children living in poverty</p> <p>NI 117 – 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment</p>
Every Child Matters outcome:	ALL 5 ECM Outcomes-as above
What were the issues? (providing the context)	
<p><i>Why was action taken? What was the aim? How does it link to priorities? What evidence and knowledge was drawn upon (e.g. local/national policy, user feedback)? Is there a specific target group?</i></p> <p>The issue presenting is the continued rate of teenage conceptions in the catchment area-especially those occurring within the local Community College regardless of all previous interventions in place.</p> <p>Local data shows that on average, there are 25 teenage conceptions in the Tree House Children's Centre notional catchment area alone, which is higher than the national average.</p> <p>Staff at the Tree House Children's Centre have supported a group of 10 young parents who have continued to meet throughout the year. Since last case study, and in the true spirit of the</p>	

community coaching model, the focus has been realigned from the practical issues that the young parents could support, for example; signposting and directing young people to family planning, giving information-highlighting the responsibilities of becoming a parent at a young age and the challenges that come with parenting, changing emotions and the support networks required, restriction in accessing opportunities, the finances, transport and housing issues that arise as well as relationships that tend to breakdown or become challenging. The young parents have now further researched the issues local young people face in more depth during wellbeing week at the community college.

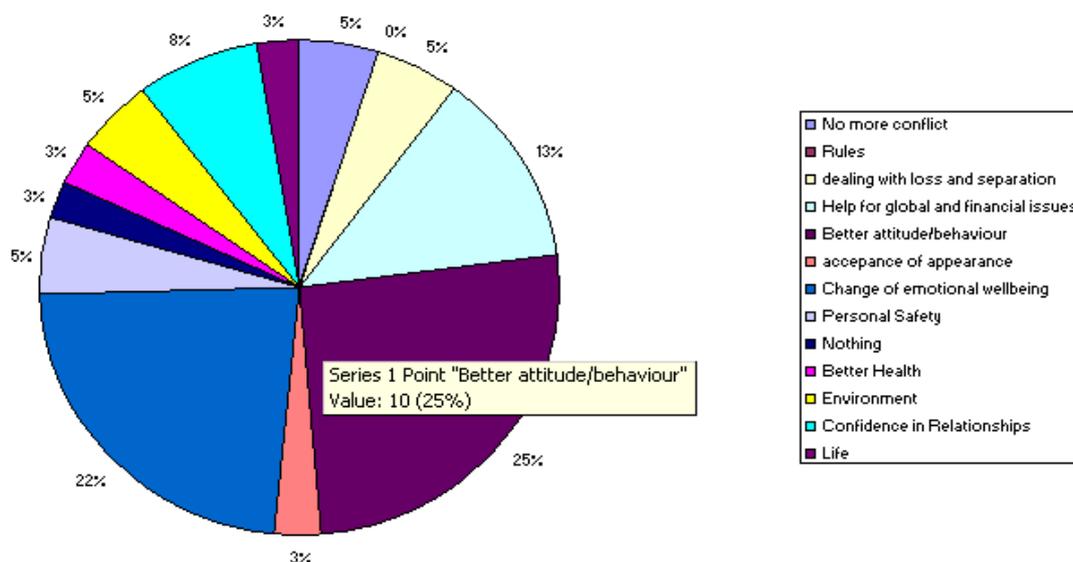
Analysis of the information collected from young people in the community college during wellbeing week gives us deeper understanding of the underlying issues that affect young people in the area for which becoming a teen parent may be a consequence.

Bar Graph Representing the Answers Students Gave Us to the Question "if you Woke Up in the Morning and Everything Was Perfect, What Would Have Changed?"



The young parents grouped the issues into main areas of concern for young people. The main concern highlighted was young peoples emotional wellbeing. This included the need to feel happier and more secure, have positivity in their lives modelled to them and feeling confident with raised self-esteem. The next highest concern was around their appearance and this was around fitting in with perceived socially accepted norms being included in social groups and "having to be someone they are not". Loss and separation relates to the culture of forces families and also siblings who have subsequently died, in prison or left the family home due to conflict. Regarding Behaviour, this area comprises, bullying, acceptance, conflict in relationships and risky behaviours.

Responses from question: What needs to happen to make it a reality?



Peer groups attitude and behaviour along with managing personal safety were the highest ranked solutions along with finding resolutions for global and financial issues as they feel they have been disadvantaged by poverty and this has had an impact on how they have been parented.

The group have been creatively finding ways to overcome these difficulties with young people and have come up with an innovative course of action as described in the next section

What did we do and who was involved?

Give a brief outline of the project/event/change to service delivery. Focus on the action taken and include details of the planning, resources (staff/cost), partner involvement, publicity etc. What were the issues /risks and opportunities?

Key members of the Tree House Children’s Centre staff team were trained by Woodward Lewis Associates in the Positive-Deviance Community Coaching Approach. This training allows the staff team to take a facilitative approach with ‘the community’ (in this case ‘the community’ refers to the young parents and young people in the local community) who identifies the issues. The positive deviance community coaching approach is a long term sustainable solution to intractable social problems-in this case the continued rise in teenage conception rates in the local area. The approach taps into local knowledge and unlocks community capability. Solutions are sought from local practice within the community and process of community teaching/learning takes place change made using existing resources. Along this particular journey, community members (young parents) have learnt a new set of skills, which include:

- Facilitation
- Data collection and analysis
- Consultation
- Finding and seeking out young people who achieve safe practices in the community (Positive Deviants) and Influencing their participation
- Finding out what practices Positive Deviants employ to prevent them from becoming pregnant and about their current situations i.e. family, boundaries, drinking, drugs, what it is

they do to avoid, or practice safe sex

- Breaking down the skills of those 'acting safely' or those who have experience – the smallest things that make the biggest difference
- Teaching, coaching and mentoring other young people in those skills, which firstly brings about an attitudinal change followed by a behavioural change.

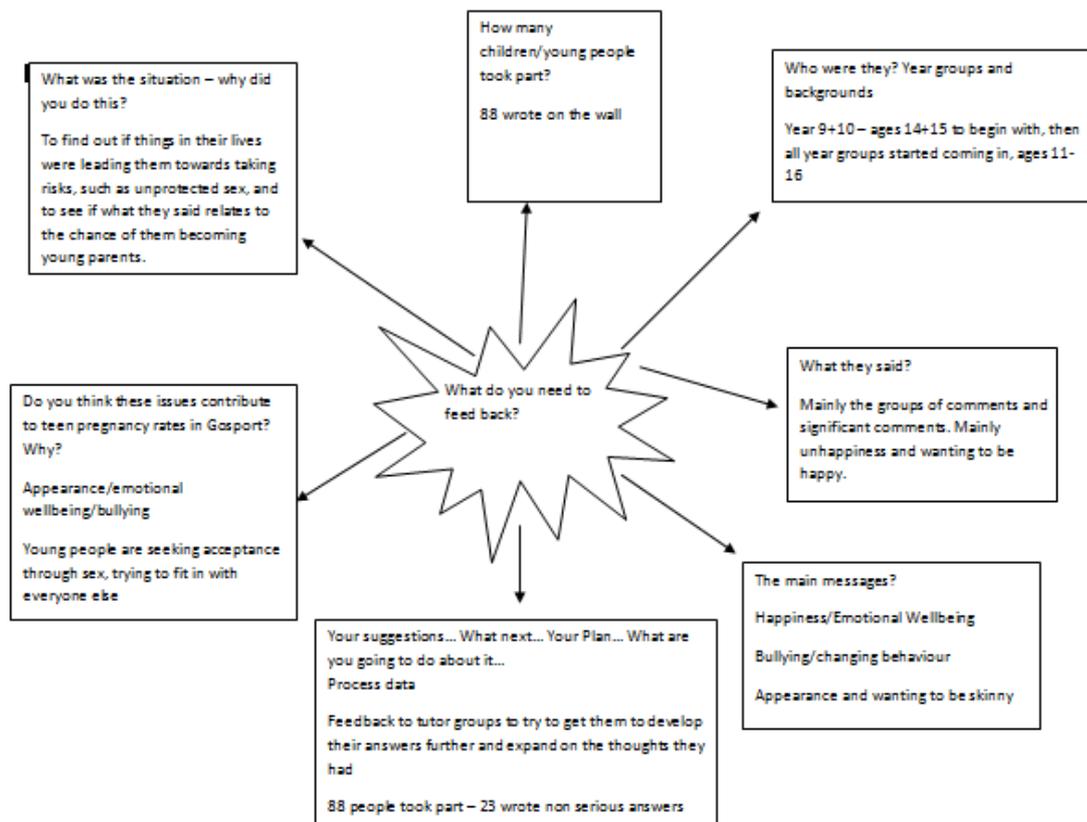
The reasons the young parents wanted to continue this work is because:

- They want to make a difference to the amount of pregnancies within the local community relating to young people
- Young people are more likely to be influenced and listened to by their peers rather than adults
- Young people generally have a 'romantic' view about relationships and having a baby which is not realistic with the current social challenges and rising thresholds
- They have experienced 'real' issues by becoming a parent when young and didn't really know the challenges and difficulties parents face
- They do not want other young people to have to make the same choices at this stage of their lives (retrospective view)
- They feel it is too much responsibility, too young-still things to try and do before being exposed to the commitment and responsibility
- Becoming a young parent inhibits life chances, especially if you don't have support and everything takes so much longer to achieve
- Life goes on hold-education and work

The centre and young parents have worked in partnership with the community college teaching and pastoral staff as well as the multi-disciplinary steering group for Personal Development Lessons (PDL).. The groups has also worked in partnership with other centres, health practitioner and social care agencies who have a lead role with young parent/people. The work has also been discussed at the LCP subgroups-supporting families and communities.

Woodward Lewis Associates continue to guide and mentor the staff team in the community coaching approach, the direction of which is derived from the young parents, so is a very different way of working for staff. Although there are steps to follow, the group dictates the direction according to what they see is important to them in solving the problem.

The Tree House Children's Centre has provided a space at the centre and at The Vicarage Nursery for the young parents to meet on a weekly basis as well as a crèche. Each week the young parents have focused on an issue from the consultation and analysed/discussed them to identify solutions.



From this, the group have decided on a number of activities and interventions that they have started to plan and deliver. They are:

- Keeping a journal about the realities of parenting; the impact on relationships, finances, housing, the practicalities of pregnancy and parenting, how they feel emotionally and physically, what they have to go without etc. Information from these journals will feed into articles for a magazine they want to write and publish as well as discussions with young people in schools
- The young parents (Mums and Dads) delivering (dependant on school time table) within a course called 'The Truth about...' with the Community College to year groups 9, 10 and 11 from January 2011. The sessions covered:
 - Emotions and stresses and taking risks
 - Safe sex
 - Inclusion
 - Rights, respect, responsibility
 - Managing conflict, bullying and harassment within peer groups
 - Building positive relationships
 - Signposting to support agencies
 - The truth about becoming a young parent-Realities of pregnancy and childbirth (real experience not a romantic view) incorporating-what happens to your body
- The group collects real-time data about all the number of conceptions, terminations, live births in the cluster for different year groups (under 16s)
- The group undertakes a survey to ascertain who, in years 9, 10 and 11 would consider risking unprotected sex at the beginning of the workshops and then at the end.
- The group continues to measure the level of conceptions throughout the year to create a baseline for 2012.

- The young parents undertake Relate training for non-councillors and become peer mentors for targeted young people or those identified as 'at risk'

What have we achieved?

Describe the impact on outcomes for children, young people and families. How has the impact been evaluated? What now happens differently as a result? If possible, show how the project is making a difference to individual lives/the community and its relevance to Hampshire in general.

Young parents having been making a positive contribution towards changing a serious and historic issue in the local community. The group have taken ownership of the project and the quality work the young parents groups continues to be funded by Hampshire Action Team and the local councillor.

The outcomes of the sessions with year groups in the community college raised further issues that informed further planning and need for consultation:

The year groups fed back to young parents that,

“They now know it’s not easy being a young mum and that they would think more about what they are doing before it’s too late.”

Other benefits, observations from the learning and identification of issues form the sessions:

- YPs concerns about Y8s practice-safety issues level of vulnerability if they are waiting outside shops, approaching strangers to buy cigarettes and alcohol
- Realisation that work with these year groups need maintaining for drip-drip effect to change attitudes
- Year groups willingly took part in activities-the overarching discussions were sleep, relationships and changes to your body
- Examples of interaction below:

What are the prospects for further improvement?

How are we taking this forward? Do you plan to develop or repeat this event/project? Will it/has it become mainstream? What did you learn? What worked well, what would you do differently in future? Could other authorities replicate the project – if so, what 'tips' would you give?

The project will be evaluated at the end of the academic year 2012 and a system for regular review and monitoring effectiveness is in place.

During the summer term, young parents will undertake a consultation with parents of young people attending the community college to identify the challenges for them and sought solutions and good parenting practices that can be cascaded through workshops within the school to support their children.

The longer term plan is to roll out the project to the other two senior schools in Gosport and deliver a similar programme but tailored towards the consultations undertaken in each school..

The young parents will continue to recruit other young parents to deliver the project and train them as they will be moving on to college and work.

For the Tree House, we will continue to offer two activities in parallel with each other:

- To raise the confidence and self-esteem within the young parents group in order to enjoy and achieve as young people and as young parents using the support networks in the community and facilitate the community coaching approach
- To ensure continuation of the workshops and that they are delivered with the key messages they have identified as a group in senior schools, contributing to the reduction of teen conception

The staff team will continue to extend the thinking beyond these activities as the 2 year funding for the teenage parent advisor in Gosport comes to an end in March 2011

What people tell us

Feedback from service users or personal testimony to include a brief quote from a local resident/service user who has directly benefited.

"The purpose of our meeting with Jane was to brief Cllr Carter on this approach and some of the work currently being delivered by colleagues in Children's Services and Gosport Borough Council (Housing and Streetscene, led by Denise Hudson and Stevyn Ricketts I think). The outcome was that Cllr Carter would be happy to consider bids to the HAT to extend and continue some of this work, he was particularly interested in the potential this may have to make progress in the area of teenage pregnancy" Neil Cole Head of Community Involvement.

"Just wanted to say you really did bring this to life thanks. Kate will deal with the HAT formalities to confirm funding etc...but I'd really appreciate being kept in the loop on progress. A great example of involving communities in resolving difficult issues. Might be a good idea to catch-up with you sometime in the New Year to get your view about how we use this approach in the future. Please thank the young parents for giving up their time today" Neil Cole, Head of Community Involvement

"HAT members really appreciated their input and were very moved by what was said and impressed by their work as young people" Kate Fryatt-Business advice and member support

"The group is perfect, we wouldn't change anything-apart from wanting longer sessions..." Young

Parents group

The young parents contribution has made such a good impression and impact on some of the children most at risk in the school community-extended services

Key contact

Contact details if further information is required (including name; job title; email address and telephone number).

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