

## Inquiry into teenage pregnancy

### Fife Gingerbread

Due to nature of the questions posed by the inquiry they were reframed in a way more appropriate for the young parents to answer.

#### Gallatown Young Parents Group – 6 young mums age 19-22 years

- a. **Do you have any views on the current policy direction being taken at the national level in Scotland to reduce the rate of teenage pregnancy?**
  - What do you think the government in Scotland are doing to reduce the rate of teenage pregnancy?
    - *They can't.*
    - *How can they?*
    - *How can they force people not to have sex? People are always going to have sex.*
- b. **Do you have any views on the action being taken at local level by health boards, local authorities and other relevant organisations to reduce teenage pregnancy, particularly in the under 16 age group?**
  - What do you think is happening in Fife to reduce teenage pregnancy, particularly in under 16s?
    - *They can't do much more than they are already doing*
    - *There aren't as many groups or clubs for young people to go to anymore to keep them occupied, there's nothing to do.*
    - *I know there's a rise in teen parents in Dunfermline*
- c. **What are your views on the relationship between higher levels of teenage pregnancy and socio-economic inequality?**
  - Do you think there is a link between teenage pregnancy and your background e.g. how much money your parents had, where you lived, what school you went to?
    - *It's nothing to do with how people are brought up, siblings brought up the same way can be very different, it's about what the individuals chose to do*
    - *People get pregnant because they think it will get them a house and benefits but that's not fair on the people who are working full-time jobs and are earning less than the people on benefits*
    - *The people that think they'll get a house and benefits have no idea what it's like in reality. Yeah you get a house and money but it's not enough to cover all the costs of having a baby.*
    - *Having supportive parents is a protective factor*

- d. **What are the barriers and challenges to making progress in achieving positive change in communities that might lead to reductions in the levels of teenage pregnancy?**
- What do you think makes it hard to reduce the number of pregnant teenagers?
  - No direct answer given.
- e. **What are your views on the current support services available to young parents / young mothers, e.g. range of services, focus of services and whether services are being delivered in the most appropriate settings?**
- What do you think about the support services that are available for teen parents in your area?
  - *There are not many for young parents, more for really young school-age mums and for older mums but not for those in their late teens and early 20s*
  - *The ones that exist, like this one, are good but there aren't enough*
- g. **Are there specific approaches to reducing teenage pregnancy that are not currently getting sufficient attention in order to affect positive change for children and young people?**
- Do you think there are other better ways to reduce teenage pregnancy?
  - *Forced contraception when young people start becoming sexually active*
  - *Male contraceptive*
  - *More educated in schools about the risks of sex e.g. HIV, pregnancy*

Like the Linktown parents this group of parents felt that not all teen pregnancies are bad and that it depends on the age and maturity of the individual. They all agreed that young teenagers (i.e. under 16) were too young but that it does depend on the individual circumstances and maturity of over 16 year old parents. A few of the parents felt that they had their 'wild years' in their early teens and by the time they were 18-19 years old they were ready to have a child.

**Gallatown Teens' Response**  
**Louise Morris**  
**Teen Parent Support Worker (Kirkcaldy)**  
**Fife Gingerbread**

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