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Louise Tyres
Scrutiny Manager
On behalf of the Scrutiny Commission for Health Issues
Democratic Services
Chief Executive's Department
Town Hall
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Dear Louise

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR HEALTH ISSUES – PROGRESS ON TEENAGE PREGNANCY

Thank you for your letter requesting a response to recommendations made by the Scrutiny Commission concerning the future commitment of this organisation to address teenage pregnancy within our strategic priorities, service provision and sustainable funding.

NHS Peterborough will continue to prioritise teenage pregnancy as part of its Public Health priorities. Teenage pregnancy is incorporated within our Healthy Lifestyles agenda addressing the multiple key issues impacting on the health of vulnerable young people. Teenage Pregnancy is also incorporated within the enhanced work we are commissioning with the Healthy Schools Partnership, where secondary schools will have the choice to offer Sexual Health as a priority, in addition to their core SRE Programme. The Health Trainer Service is delivered across Peterborough providing one to one support to vulnerable young people and adults to assist them in accessing core services.

NHS Peterborough will continue to commission core sexual health services that include specific work with vulnerable young people to support them to make informed decisions. This includes the Contraceptive and Sexual Health (CaSH) service, which delivers comprehensive sexual health provision, including training to GPs and health practitioners to increase access in primary care to Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC). This is an evidence-based intervention shown to impact significantly on teenage pregnancy rates.

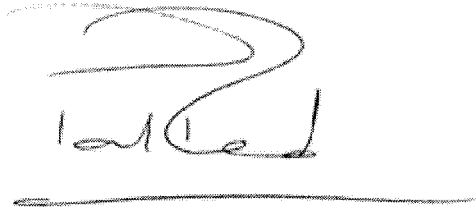
The increased capacity and focus on young people within GP surgeries will enable young people across the city to access contraception and sexual health information more easily. The Contraceptive Sexual Health Nurse, who has remit to prevent second pregnancies, will continue to work with girls under 18 who are at risk of further pregnancy. In addition, the outreach programme which focuses on identifying the most vulnerable young people in schools, colleges and alternative locations will deliver their interventions alongside the C-Card condom scheme, which offers free condoms to young people under 25.

NHS Peterborough works very closely with the City Council and will strive to ensure that teenage pregnancy will be maintained as high priority through joint partnership agendas.

Finally, I have asked Sue Mitchell to undertake a review of the recently completed teenage pregnancy and sexual health needs assessments and a review of service provision in order to ensure that we are delivering the best quality targeted services for young people.

I hope this response will reassure members of our commitment to the health of young people and to reducing under 18 conceptions. However, if the Commission has any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Read', written over a horizontal line.

Dr Paul Zollinger-Read
Chief Executive

cc Dr Andy Liggins, Director of Public Health