

Fact Sheet 2015

- Founded in Kingston in 1998 by Hilary Pannack to tackle the high teenage pregnancy rates in England
- Straight Talking have over the years employed more than 300 teenage mothers and young fathers, training them to work as peer educators in secondary schools educating young people about the realities and hardships of teenage parenthood
- Our aim is to reduce teenage parenthood in England
- We have educated more than 65,000 young people making them more aware of the serious implications of early parenthood
- Teenage parenthood is an entrenched social issue in the UK and the impact is often generational
- Regardless of this sex education is still not statutory in schools and Straight Talking continue to have this policy changed
- While we wait for statutory action Straight Talking peer educators work directly with schools to fill this educational gap and try to prevent young people from making decisions that will affect the rest of their lives without the necessary information
- In 2013 one out of every 25 teenage girls fell pregnant in England and Wales¹
- In 2013 nearly 38,000 teenage girls in England and Wales had a baby¹
- Teenage pregnancy and parenthood is linked to low self esteem, low educational attainment, low aspirations, income and employment deprivation²
- 40% of teenage mothers left school with no qualifications²
- 20% are more likely to have no qualifications by the age of 30²
- 15% of those not in education, employment or training are teenage mothers or pregnant teenagers²
- There is a 63% increased chance of being born into poverty for children of teenage parents²

- 22% of girls in the care system become teenage mothers Teenage mothers have three times the rate of post-natal depression than older mothers and have a higher risk of poor mental health for three years after birth²
- US research found that two-thirds of women who become pregnant as adolescents where sexually or physically abused at some point in their lives³
- Infant mortality is 60% higher for teenage mothers than for babies born to older mothers²
- The greatest predictor of teenage parenthood is being the child of a teenage parent yourself²
- A single, unemployed, teenage mother will cost the benefits system more than £100,000 in the first 5 years of having a baby and this does not include costs to the NHS
- Deloitte found that Straight Talking Peer Education has an £8.93 return on investment for every £1 invested over 5 years

1. ONS (2015) Conceptions in England and Wales, 2013
2. Local Governments Association (2013) Tackling teenage pregnancy, local governments new public health role
3. Leiderman, Sally and Almo, Cari. (2001). Interpersonal Violence and Adolescent Pregnancy: Prevalence and Implications for Practice and Policy. Cynwyd, PA: Center for Assessment and Policy Development. Washington, DC: Healthy Teen Network (formerly NOOAP)

