



Straight Talking Peer Education is the leading UK charity working towards the prevention of teenage pregnancy and the re-engagement of teenage parents with education and employment.

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Established in 1998, and winner of several national Third Sector awards, Straight Talking is the UK's leading teenage pregnancy charity. In the last 16 years it has reached over 50,000 young people, educating them about the importance of delaying parenthood, and has improved the life chances of hundreds of young parents trained to deliver its peer education programme.

Straight Talking's approach employs socially excluded teenage mothers and young fathers as peer educators, who go into schools, to present the realities and implications of pregnancy and parenting to 13–17 year olds in schools. Last year we employed and empowered 53 teenage parents who delivered 235 courses to 6,900 pupils in 42 schools.

Teenage pregnancy, one of the UK's most persistent social problems, goes hand in hand with social deprivation as a cause and a consequence. This means the negative impacts are unfairly concentrated among those people who are already disadvantaged, trapping young people and their children in a downward spiral. Straight Talking exists to break that cycle.

The charity campaigns on policy issues and it works directly with schools and other local partners with fantastic results. Whilst sex education in schools teaches young people *how* to avoid becoming pregnant, Straight Talking succeeds in teaching them *why* they should not become pregnant. Our peer educators present what it really looks like living on the other side of the decision to have a child at a young age. Our work is currently delivered across a number of the most deprived London Boroughs and we plan to have extended our reach to all 32 Boroughs by 2017 as well as to the North and South of England.

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