



## **ADDITIONAL BRIEFING NOTE**

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE – 7<sup>TH</sup> February 2007.

### **SCRUTINY BOARD 2 WORK PROGRAMME**

#### **Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood**

Reducing the incidents of teenage pregnancy within the City is a corporate priority of the City Council. In recent years the Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board has developed a strategy aimed at reducing the number of conceptions. The Scrutiny Board 2 work programme for the current year included investigating the steps being taken to tackle this issue in the City.

#### **Showcase Event**

Following on from work done earlier in the civic year the Board has resolved to hold an event to celebrate and raise awareness of the various efforts being made in Coventry to reduce teenage pregnancy. The event will include dissemination of two recent pieces of research by Coventry University in this field.

The event is very much going to be geared to spreading good practice amongst teenage pregnancy practitioners within the City, it is also aimed at professionals whose primary role is not teenage pregnancy, but come into contact with young people; youth workers, connexions PAs, housing staff, primary care practitioners, midwives, health visitors and service leads. It will further provide elected Members with a clear understanding of the strategy in place to reduce teenage pregnancies in the City and an honest appraisal of the gaps and difficulties experienced by professionals on the ground.

It is currently envisaged that the event will take place at the Techno Centre, on a date to be agreed in May. The event is in the advanced planning stage presently and was considered further by the Scrutiny Board at its last meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> January. The Board have given their go-ahead for the Event, however it is anticipated that the event may require some support from the budget available to support scrutiny activities.

Much of the administration of the event is to be undertaken by Diva a communications company already involved in the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy. At the Scrutiny Board meeting the Head of Children's Specialist Services advised Members that there was potential to market this event at least regionally on the back of the Coventry University research, and the basis of the event being aimed squarely at professionals working on the ground. The event will therefore be funded mainly through a conference attendance fee and sponsorship, however attendance by local practitioners will be free. The Board have been asked to underwrite the costs of the event although as stated above planning is proceeding on the basis of the event being self-financing.

## **Recommendation**

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee are recommended to note the report, endorse the plans of Scrutiny Board 2, and agree that £ 5,000 of the scrutiny support budget be allocated to support this event, on the basis of the funding being provided only if necessary.

## **Author / Contact for Information**

Peter Barnett  
Scrutiny Co-ordinator SB2  
Chief Executive's Directorate

Tel: 02476 831172

Email: [peter.barnett@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:peter.barnett@coventry.gov.uk)

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