



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET
13 MAY 2003

Report of the Director of Social Services

Children Looked After Health: Sexual Health And Personal Relationships Policy

RECOMMENDATION

1. To adopt the Sexual Health and Personal Relationships for Young in Public Care Policy for Social Services staff.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2. This report presents the Sexual Health and Personal Relationship Policy for Young People in Public Care (Appendix 2). This is part of the Policy, Procedure and Practice Guidance for Promoting the Health of Children Looked After, which was approved by Policy Committee on 17 October 2001.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Sexual Health and Personal Relationships Policy identifies that children and young people in public care are particularly vulnerable to a high teenage pregnancy rate and may not be equipped with skills to develop and maintain healthy personal relationships. This has an impact on a child's ability to achieve in other areas of their life.
- 3.2 The attached Policy details the actions that social care staff and managers will take to make sure the sexual health needs of children in public care are met (Policy, Section 3). Consultation with these young people is referenced in the Policy.
- 3.3 The Policy highlights that this is not a 'one off' event but a process that takes into account the age and understanding of a child and can be provided for in a variety of ways (Policy, Section 5).
- 3.4 The Policy highlights that children and young people will receive sex and relationship education in different settings - in school, from their parents, from health staff, social care and youth workers.
- 3.5 In the Policy there is clear guidance on the legal aspects of providing sex and relationship information (Policy, Section 4). This includes issues of confidentiality, the Fraser Guidelines on giving contraception advice for health professionals and sexuality issues.

- 3.6 Copies of the Sexual Health and Personal Relationships for Young in Public Care Policy are available on Derbynet at <http://172.16.1.41/locdem/meetings/meetingadmin/Mdisplay.asp?refnum=374> or on request from Jason Spencer, tel 255466 jason.spencer@derby.gov.uk.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4. No other options were considered.

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. Costs of publication of the policy will be kept to a minimum and met within existing budgets.

Legal

2. Relevant law is outlined in the Policy (Section 4). The City Council's Legal Department have agreed the content of the Policy.

Personnel

3. None.

Corporate Themes and Priorities

4. This Policy addresses the information and social inclusion needs of young people who are likely to be discriminated against because of their 'in care' or sexual health status. There is a recognised link between sexual ill health, poverty, social exclusion and being care experienced.

This accords with the Council's key themes of **safer and healthier communities** and **a fairer society**. It also supports the Council's priorities of **improving children's and young people's prospects** and **improving life chances for disadvantaged people and communities**.