

## Inquiry into Teenage Pregnancy

The aim of this survey was to find out the views young women who had experienced a teenage pregnancy themselves. It is important that these voices are heard to avoid making assumptions about WHY young people become pregnant and HOW young people at risk of an unplanned or unwanted or teenage pregnancy should be supported.

**Responses: 82**

**Date: 27th October 2012 to 1st November 2012**

**Questions 1. How old were you the first time you were pregnant?**

Age	No.
15	13
16	11
17	22
18	16
19	18

**Question 2. How old was the person who you got pregnant with?**

Age	No.
15	3
16	4
17	10
18	12
19	15
20	8
21	5
22	3
23	6
24	1
25	1
26	2

Age	No.
27	0
28	2
29	1
30	1
31	0
32	0
33	0
34	0
35	1
over 35	4

*Other: Unknown but older than 25*

**Question 3. Why did you become pregnant as a teenager?**

	No.	%
Too embarrassed/awkward to ask partner to use contraception	5	7%
<b>Contraceptive failure</b>	30	39%
I wanted a baby	3	4%
I wasn't too bothered about getting pregnant	5	7%
I wanted benefits/housing	0	0%
I was in a stable relationship and wanted to start a family	9	13%
I was in a unstable relationship but wanted to start a family	1	1%
I was/felt pressured into having unprotected sex	5	7%
I wasn't thinking	13	17%
Got caught up in the moment	14	18%
I was drunk	8	10%

	No.	%
I wanted to show I loved my partner	1	1%
I was expecting my partner to use contraception	1	1%
I thought I couldn't get pregnant	8	10%
I didn't feel comfortable obtaining contraception (including morning after pill)	7	9%
I didn't know about contraception (including morning after pill)	1	1%
I had no access to contraception (including morning after pill)	3	4%

**Other:**

*Anorexic, not menstruating, found out at 16 weeks*

*My partner was told he was infertile.*

*Contraception failed*

*This isn't really answering the question, but there's nowhere to stay. we did decide to keep Baby but I miscarried.*

*My partner had a low sperm count*

*Badly depressed recovering from rape and had sex with some one very much regretted after*

*Was sick for a week, didn't realise would mess with my pill.*

**Questions 4. If you decided to continue the pregnancy what were your reasons?**

	No.	%
<b>I didn't agree with abortion</b>	24	36%
<b>I didn't feel I could go through with an abortion</b>	24	36%
I didn't really think about the options	4	6%
I didn't know about the options	0	0%
I felt pressured not to have an abortion	4	6%

	No.	%
I didn't feel I had a choice	3	4%
I wanted a baby / it was planned	8	12%
It wasn't planned but realised I wanted it	19	28%
I realised I could get benefits/housing	0	0%
I felt that I should take responsibility	21	31%
I thought it must have happened for a reason	15	22%
I thought I could be a good mum	21	31%
I knew I had support from family/partner	20	30%
I wanted my partner to stay with me	1	2%

**Other:**

*Found out at 33 weeks so abortion was no option.*

*I didn't find out I was pregnant until it was too late*

*Mental illness contributed to my presenting at abortion clinic 1 week after legal limit. I gave baby up for adoption.*

*I'd consider abortion and one was booked but I change my mind*

*I had the first of many miscarriages*

*I ran out the hospital on the way to have an abortion*

**Question 5. What do you think about homeless young parents being high priority on housing waiting lists?**

*It's a tough one, I appreciate that some people really need the help, but why should a mother get more help just because she's a teenager?*

*Temporary foster parents/care leavers accommodation should be considered, as a family environment would help.*

*It's good I'm homeless and been told 5 years plus for a place even though I'm pregnant*

*It is a necessary thing as young people who are pregnant may find it practically impossible to rent privately.*

*I think its a good idea as the children are the main priority and deserve to grow up in a stable environment*

*Good. All homeless kids need a home.*

*I think it is good nit for the parent but for the child a child shouldn't have to be homeless at all its not right*

*I think they should be high priority for the childrens' sake, they should be able to stay with their parents if its safe for them to do so and given safe housing.*

*I think its a good idea, no little child deserves to be homeless.*

*Each case should be looked at and acted upon depending on its merits.*

*Anyone who is homeless with a child is a priority on housing waiting lists, it isn't just young parents. This is because children are vulnerable, it doesn't take into consideration the parents, unless of course they are children themselves in which case if they are homeless and vulnerable social services would be alerted. (I have a housing background) They are and should be treated the same as everyone else.*

*They should be.*

*Some young mothers require a lot of support with being just a teenager let alone a young mum and feel they would be unable to sustain a property so early on.*

*I think if you haven't got the support from your parents, they need somewhere to live to build a life for their selves and their baby.*

*All children deserve a stable upbringing and a place to call home. With priority, the parents need to take responsibility with working to pay rent etc with childcare and educational support and advice from local councils.*

*I think it's the right thing to do.*

*The children don't deserve to be born into a homeless environment but it shouldn't be seen as a way of getting a house*

*I think this is essential. I realise that some believe this is an incentive for falling pregnant, but in any case where this is actually true, imagine how desperate the situation must be to take such drastic action to escape.*

*Are they?!*

*Housing don't give u anywhere any way I had to privet rent and find my own housing*

*A good thing- I don't think anyone with young children should be left homeless no matte why there age*

*Personally I think its wrong, most people aren't homeless they just do it to get a house quicker, but people that have to wait months for a house its wrong.*

*Makes sense.*

*They need help and support, and their babies shouldn't be punished for the age of the parents*

*After choosing to abort at 8 weeks due to living with my grandparents and unable to bring up a child with a future I would want for my offspring, ie no job and no education. At the time it was the best option for me and my unborn child. I went to uni completed my education to masters level, got myself a job, a decent fiancé with a good job also and had my first baby at the still tender age of 24. I feel this was plenty young enough and I did get those "how old are you glares" on the bus etc. whilst a homeless pregnant teenager needs housing I would think the last thing they need is a child too, what life will they have. The right to have a family is something I recognise and my family is at the heart of my belief set, but I do not want to let my child live a deprived life. I do not believe that having a child solves any emotional problems and I do not think that you have a child simply because of free housing. I sound harsh and unsympathetic. But birth rate is at a record high, the economy in an appalling state. Housing is essential for a new born but is it the answer....*

*Everyone should be a priority when they are homeless, but anyone with a child should be top priority, no one should have to sleep on the streets especially children! So in regards to this question, I have no particular comment in regards to young parents.*

*I think it is good if they are high priority being homeless, if they are in fact homeless as many young people get their parents to tell the local council that they are no longer living in their house so they get bumped up the council list.*

*A lot of them choose to not make an effort to have a home and rely solely on the government, that isn't right.*

*I think it's probably a good idea or you're punishing children for daring to be born. Homeless babies are probably not going to get the best start.*

*I think this is a good idea*

*It is a good idea.*

*That's reasonable. It's important for all parents of minors to be high priority.*

*I believe it's a good thing that we are high priority, but I do not agree that we should be placed in bedsits or hostels. Disgusting options, especially with a young child*

*I think they need to be housed.*

*I think it's a good thing.*

*Age shouldn't come into it, just because someone is young doesn't make them bad parents. It's a myth perpetuated by middle aged people & the media.*

*I imagine they're as high a priority as a person of ANY age who is homeless and has children.*

*It's reasonable that they should be high priority*

*It is a myth- I was refused housing.*

*Obviously they need a home, so I approve.*

*They should be the highest priority. They're so vulnerable.*

*If they are truly homeless then fine but they should try to stay with family until they can pay their own way.*

*Obviously this is essential.*

*Where are their family?!*

*If the baby is happy, healthy and loved by the parents I don't mind but if the baby was just a tool to get a house I don't agree with it*

*I was seen as homeless with my council and they did nothing to help I found myself a rented property*

*Everyone should wait their turn. When my child was born the wait for council property was so long we worked to buy our own house when I was 18. Lived separately with relatives until then.*

*I think that is correct. young parents need support.*

*They should be at the top with any other vulnerable people.*

*Depends on circumstances. My parents supported me so I lived at home. In which case I would have rightly been further down priority list.*

*I became high priority on a housing list after being made homeless by social services due to being beaten by ex partner- they would take my child into care if I didn't leave. No space in refuge, myself and 1 year old daughter had to stay with family both of us sharing one bedroom with female relatives. When I fell pregnant I had good job working for government, my partner ran a pub and we weren't on benefits. Through domestic abuse I lost my job and was isolated from family and friends. Stereotyping young parents is wrong, not a 'one size fits all' situation.*

*It's the right thing to do*

*Understandable but misused*

*Yes*

*I think it's right, they need help so they can look after their children and get back on track. Nobody should be homeless especially not children.*

*It's wrong*

*Obviously mums and babies need houses but some people take the mick, some teenagers shouldn't keep a baby if they can't keep a house over their head!*

*I believe they should ask family 1st and only get out in list if no one can help*

*Good, I was homeless with a baby until he was 1 and had to fight to receive benefits.*

*There should be more social housing available and in a progressive format*

*It is a must. Parents can't offer children stability without housing.*

*This is as it should be.*

*Homeless and children should always be a priority as they are the most vulnerable*

*It's a good idea.*

*It is right and just, though I think more housing support should be offered to young people without children too.*

*This should be more prominent*

*I don't understand why there would be any opposition to this. Every child deserves a home.*

*I do not know one single person who got pregnant to be housed. I spent time in a hostel (hell). If you want children to do well, there is not a better place to start then access to quality housing.*

*I think it's good - but this notion you can automatically get council housing if you're pregnant is BS, esp if you're in a rural area. 15 yrs ago I had no chance!!*

*I don't think the bulk of teens think a flat / bedsit is a reason to have a baby.*

*If there are no other options for them they definitely should be a priority*

*I don't see a problem with it, the children are the priority and no children should be homeless.*

*I think it's a common misconception caused by the British media that young parents are a priority. All parents are priority, it is just more likely that a young mother will find herself facing homelessness than a thirty-year-old. I feel that it's fair that children should be a priority; a child can't survive without a home. I also feel that the idea of a teenage mother being rewarded with a council flat on giving birth is absurd. Where I live, the reality is that there are 8-10 year waiting lists, and, until a home is found, the families live in rooms with kitchenettes, sometimes a shared bathroom, damp, and often a pest problem.*

*Considering young families have usually never lived on their own and may not have well-jobs (if any), they should definitely be high priority. I think it's important for young families to receive as much support as possible. Homelessness is a top issue amongst young families. If they are high priority, we can better support them find a stable and safe home.*

**Question 6. What do you think about the idea of young parents being housed in “boarding houses” to act as a disincentive to getting pregnant?**

*I think it sounds like a punishment, when getting pregnant is not a crime!*

*Would make the parents feel bad, not good for emotional wellbeing.*

*Stupid*

*I don't think it would discourage people from getting pregnant.*

*I don't think it will act as a deterrent young parents will always exist regardless where they live*

*Terrible. I think most teen pregnancies unplanned, and incentives only work when something is planned. Punitive shaming things like this don't work, anyway. I also suspect the fathers aren't going to be housed in "slut barracks" boarding houses.*

*I don't think it right for child to be there*

*I think its a good idea. Too many young people get pregnant for a free house and its wrong.*

*I wouldn't like to live in a boarding house*

*I haven't read enough on this to make an informed decision*

*There aren't many young parents who get pregnant just to get a council house, this is an urban myth and tars all young parents with the same brush. Most of them fall pregnant due to contraception failure or not using anything in the heat of the moment. I would have thought that treating young parents differently to their older counterparts would be classed as discrimination.*

*I think the fact young parents are vulnerable anyway and need to have support and help I feel this houses could be dangerous to their mental health. I know if it had been me i would have gone and jumped off the nearest bridge.*

*I think supported housing is a great way of offering support yo young mums but a boarding house seems more like a punishment than positive support*

*I think it's against human rights, it's also putting all young parents in the same bracket, these young parents home/ accommodation never work , people take advantage of this situation and prey on the people living there.*

*I don't think it would chance anything. I don't believe anyone would get pregnant in order to receive accommodation. If the government see teenage pregnancy as wrong they need to stop the pregnancies happening rather than punishing those that fall pregnant regardless of reason.*

*Don't like this idea.*

*Love it. Put them together as a community for both support and protection. Include parenting classes/ support*

*Why not bring back the workhouse?! Or maybe concentration camps if that doesn't work? Seriously, how damaging would it be to the child to start life knowing their mother was punished for their existence?*

*Wrong why should we be singled out*

*Unfair- why should young women get treated differently to older women?*

*This is dependent on the notion that young parents choose to get pregnant for the social security benefits. I think that's a false notion.*

*Why not just bring back workhouses, and introduce the Magdalene laundries to this country so you can really punish and stigmatise? Do you really think that teenagers plan so far ahead that this kind of "disincentive" would work? This is a hideous idea designed to make young people's lives even worse, and not better.*

*Excellent idea.*

*Stupid idea, they will be watched and imo not have the proper rights to deal and bond with their baby/babies.*

*I dont think it would be a deterrent. I believe in the sake of people getting unexpectedly pregnant, if they need somewhere to live they wont mind if its a boarding house.*

*Its a good idea, when you're young you aren't always going to be in ideal living situations, especially if you aren't working. young kids should see that*

*I haven't thought about it.*

*I think it's a good idea.*

*It is difficult enough as it is! Babies will need a secure, family environment to aid attachment with their mothers. Boarding houses strike me as a very unstable environment with a lot of disruption for the child. It would be very stigmatising for the mother and child both*

*I like it.*

*Ugh, is this going to make a difficult situation more difficult? Or do they have an on-site creche? If there's an on-site creche, it might be fine. I see, it's a questionnaire from the UK and I have heard of girls using pregnancy to get out of abusive homes, but I think the incentive here is not pregnancy but to get out of abuse. Your system sounds more humane toward young mothers.*

*very wrong*

*Unsure. Haven't heard enough about this idea*

*I don't have enough information to know whether that would be a good thing.*

*Ridiculous, it won't make any difference.*

*Is 'getting pregnant for a house' exclusive to the young, then? There is nobody over the age of 21 who might be guilty of this? Why not put all single parents in boarding houses too, they must be a massive drain on the system!*

*Is there proof that people are getting pregnant just to be allocated council housing?*

*Disgusting*

*I actually think this is quite a good idea. Smash stereotype of have a baby, get a flat.*

*... Erm. What the fuck? Being pregnant isn't a crime. You don't have to build a prison for it. I was made pregnant by abuse. Please, put me in a "boarding house". Disincentivise me.*

*Could be effective.*

*Ridiculous.*

*No.*

*Depending on where they are and who would be housed in the same area it would be ok*

*It's silly*

*I don't think it would be a disincentive. No one thinks of housing when they are getting pregnant.*

*Unlikely to work. Sounds like prison for being pregnant.*

*I don't feel that would prevent young people becoming pregnant.*

*I think there is a culture of girls/women just getting pregnant to get a council or HA home, not just young women but older ones too. I do think this would be a disincentive. There are too many people abusing the system.*

*Maybe in some situations. For me this would have been horrendous, I was already under immense pressure and stress and being judged and thrown into a unit after such a traumatic time would have been really bad for my already suffering mental health.*

*It wouldn't work. It's not exactly going to be the first thing on your mind when contemplating sex*

*A bit grim, perhaps 1 bedroom flats as opposed to houses*

*No*

*Young old it doesn't matter as long as the children are in good care. People shouldn't be labelled or punished or treated differently.*

*It's not right but better than giving them their own houses*

*I have different opinions, it depends if the person is genuinely homeless and in need of a house or just saying it to get their own house*

*There's pros and cons for this*

*Not a good idea. Pregnant teenagers are grown people as soon as they become pregnant and shouldn't be treated as criminals.*

*Ridiculous*

*It wouldn't address the issues as to why YP get pregnant so would be a waste of public funds. Spend the money where it's needed not on some new oppressive and discriminatory hair brained scheme.*

*Short sighted, ineffective and cruel. You are punishing them and their children for being human.*

*Good idea to have other options available to those that need them*

*I think it is an awful idea as it undermines the young persons confidence in their parenting ability.*

*I think in some cases it could help the young person, but should not be used as a blanket. It should be a means of support rather than as a disincentive. If it is used against a young person's wishes, and those of the needs of the child, it is an infringement of their right to privacy.*

*This is not a stable way to start a life*

*I'm not sure this would work/is morally right.*

*I went to one of these to visit a friend, she was abused by a 'carer' at 15 pregnant and her mother had just died from cancer. We went to the same private respected girls school. She had no responsible adult and this made her mix with drug addicts etc.*

*And what about the kids? They've done nothing to warrant such crappy accomodation.*

*See above*

*Disgraceful. Haven't we moved on from the Victorian era?*

*I haven't heard of this before.*

*In my mind, the word "boarding house" suggests somewhere that is not fit for living. However, I'm not against the idea of mother and baby units, particularly ones where the child's father is welcome. While I'm not sure about them being used as a direct disincentive, I feel that the support given to young mothers is extremely beneficial, and if more of these were available, the falsely portayed idea of being given a council flat may become archaic and realities shown more.*

*I'm not familiar with boarding houses in America but I find the idea closer to being a punishment rather than support. Considering most young families have unintended pregnancies, I think adding an additional stress and unnecessary obstacle only limits their success.*

**Question 7. Do you think that the current benefits/housing system glamorises/incentivises becoming a young parent?**

*Not at all, as a teenage parent I had no help from the housing system, and only a little from the benefits! I think teenage Mum's that can afford everything are completely playing the system and they should be caught out.*

*No.*

*Nope too hard to get a place anyway*

*Not at all*

*No.*

*I don't think so as a single young parent I still struggled I don't at all think its glamourous to live off benefits and know many others who would agree*

*Hell no! I think some young people may see the future as very bleak, and see being a parent as one of few positive social roles available. Not a case of incentivisation or even poverty of aspiration.*

*I don't understand question*

*Yes. Get pregnant = own flat, bills paid, benefits and not having to work.*

*Maybe to some people*

*Yes*

*No. I for one didn't even know what I was entitled to as a parent (the young parent thing never even came into it) and instead of staying off work with my child for a longer period of time as I was entitled but on reduced maternity pay I returned to work when she was just 3 months old because I didn;t know I was entitled to housing benefit etc while I was on a low income. Not all young parents think in the way in which they are said to. The same could be said for older parents.*

*Not at all. I barely get by and that's always been the case. Why would anyone want to live like this,*

*Not at all*

*When I got pregnant, I didn't even know what housing benefits was, as I don't think a lot of young parents do.*

*No, completely the opposite. It is embarrassing and demoralising. Every parent wants to be able to support their child fully.*

*No, I don't.*

*Yes - they end up with more disposable cash than my family where we both work..*

*Ha! My primark wardrobe says no. as does my empty passport and lack of fondant fancies*

*No way, it's a mission and a half to get a council house and its not always what u need*

*No*

*Definitely not! There's a lot of stigma around being a young parent and on benefits*

*No*

*No. The Daily Mail wants us to think it does but they are incapable of presenting complex arguments whether or not they understand them.*

*I think the theory of having three children so you don't have to work is.... Having undertaken a little observation on Saturday E number of young people with there children is amazing! - there are loads.*

*I have been on and off benefits since my child was born, without benefits me and my child would of starved or died from pneumonia. The benefits system should not however be used for a full time replacement of 'work'. I am now self employed.*

*I think it may seem like a good option to people before they have a child. Then when they actual are on benefits they realise how little money it actually is to live on. In the case of housing, it may be their own home but shortly after moving in you realise how undesirable it is to live in council blocks on estates.*

*Yes, everything is handed to young parents. They don't have to worry about struggle because someone will always be there to feed them, clothe them, and shelter them whether they are able to do it for themselves or not.*

*No, not really.*

*Yes.*

*No*

*It can*

*No. I don't think so. Not in the US where I live.*

*For some yes*

*No. Not at all.*

*No, this is a ridiculous idea.*

*No, there are people of all ages on benefits.*

*Absolutely not.*

*No idea on current benefits/housing system*

*Not at all*

*Yes, a bit. Although think people misinterpret it from the outside.*

*No! It's impossible to survive on that money!*

*Yes*

*No. Unless you are an idiot. But some people are idiots, so I don't deny that there are a few who might get pregnant for this reason. But it's a tiny minority.*

*No. Not at all.*

*No as I myself am a young parent at I find myself barely scrapping by with the benefits I receive*

*It does but I've never had any help*

*NO. The benefits available are too low for anyone to have a decent life.*

*No.*

*No*

*I don't think it glamourises it but I think it makes it easy for people to see it as a way of getting their own home. Getting a good job and renting or buying your own home should be shown as being more glamorous and something to be proud of.*

*No.*

*No*

*Yes*

*Possibly*

*Absolutely! Have a baby and we will give you all this money ect for it! A little help and support is ok but I do think a lot gets given.*

*Not glamourises, but it doesn't make things difficult for them.*

*Yes*

*Definitely I've spoken to teens for course I'm studying and a few say they got pregnant as they wanted out off their parents house and didn't want to work*

*No it doesn't. I really struggled, I was entitled to many things but refused even more. I think the bigger problem is that everyone is receiving benefits instead of just those who truly need it*

*No - I think we only hear about the extreme instances.*

*Definitely not. Anyone who thinks/states that hasn't tried to access the housing/housing benefit system.*

*I doubt it. It's not about money, it's about self-esteem, self-worth, having no long term life view.*

*My husband and I don't apply and we have our own mortgage from when we were 20 years old but I do know people who did have a baby for at purpose. There should be help available for those that need but it shouldn't be automatic as soon as they get pregnant.*

*Definitely not.*

*I wouldn't like to say that it has never incentivised a young person into falling pregnant, but I believe the press has misled the public into believing it is a far more common occurrence than it is in reality.*

*Yes it should be made more clear that it isn't as easy as that*

*Definitely not. Anyone who becomes pregnant to obtain benefits and social housing is massively ill-informed and will have quite the shock when they discover the realities of bringing a child up in these conditions.*

*No. Not in any shape or form.*

*Absolutely not. It's hard living on benefits as anyone knows them realises; getting off them is even harder. They're a contingency plan, nothing more. Ironically, the Mail etc slagging teen parents has the opposite effect - it seems more "rebellious"/against the status quo.*

*No.*

*No but this is what the media and politicians portray. More should be published on the many many positive stories of hard working young parents. Too much stereotyping & stigma of teenage parents*

*Not at all, I was much better off financially when working full time before I fell pregnant but I knew what I had to do for my son. I think its often older people who have never been in that situation assuming that is how teenagers see things without actually asking them.*

*Again, I think the portrayal of it does. I'm yet to meet a young mother with loads of extra cash, swanning off on holidays in designer clothes and not having to worry about working a day in her life. I'm also yet to meet a young mother who intentionally got pregnant so that she could gain these things. Who would have a baby so they could earn a fortnightly payment of around £120 and perhaps a place to live in a run-down area and bad schools, when they can work for far more than this and save the responsibilities for later on in life?*

*In America, I don't think anyone looks at housing shelters or section 8 as glamorous. We all have dreams of the types of homes we want to live in - white picket fence, backyards, and multiple bedroom homes. There's nothing glamorous about what is being offered to homeless young parents.*

*Frankly, from experience, I've seen young parents desperately trying to find alternative low-income or income-based housing to AVOID the resources and homeless housing options in America.*

**Question 8. Do you think those having sex with someone under 16 should be prosecuted?**

	No.	%
Always	15	19%
If force is used	54	68%
If the person under 16 reports it	39	49%
If they are aged 16-17	0	0%
If they are aged 18-24	20	25%
If they are aged 25-29	27	34%
If they are 30 or over	29	36%
If the person under 16 is considered vulnerable	41	51%

**Other:**

*Depending on circumstances*

*I'm considering the young person is over 14, otherwise always.*

*I might say 'if the person under 16 doesn't consent' rather than 'if force is used'.*

*"if force is used" means RAPE. Yes. People should be prosecuted for that.*

*Different 2 15 year olds and a 15 year old and a 30 year old teacher.*

*Each case on its merit.*

*It is hard to say - depends on each situation. If it is consensual and the partners are not too different in age, I don't think anyone should be prosecuted.*

**Question 9. England has the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in Western Europe. Why do you think this might be?**

*It is so socially acceptable, sex is everywhere, especially in the media, and still people don't feel comfortable talking about sex and the facts about protection.*

*Access to contraception.*

*Dunno*

*Poor sex education*

*Because there is no emphasis on healthy family life, instead parents are being forced to work to maintain the high cost of living and teenagers are being left to their own devices.*

*Not enough sex and relationships education. Also young people afraid to seek advice and contraception because of social attitudes.*

*Because a lot of people don't take precautions and if decided to have abortion it is too easy to one*

*Because its so easy to get free housing that way.*

*I'm not sure*

*Relates to high numbers of teenage alcohol abuse we have.*

*Lack of sex education, embarrassment over obtaining contraception*

*Because there isn't enough sex ed!*

*Lack of preventative work in some areas and not starting this work early enough*

*Lack of education within schools and also no prospects and ambitions e.g jobs.*

*Lack of education-sex is still sen as a secret taboo subject. Not enough support available to discuss other options. Pressure to achieve in education, if fail pregnancy may be the 'next option' as jobs may be limited.*

*Maybe not enough information on prevention. Not sure.*

*Lack of openness about sex / sex education, peer pressure, what they perceive as the easy way to get benefits and housing etc and to get away from parents*

*Destroyed self esteem, lack of prospects and honestly? Culture pushing out Christianity/faith*

*Because there is support for young parents*

*Dunno*

*We don't talk about sex enough! Needs to be more education on all aspects of parenting as well as contraception and relationships*

*I think its cause they can't be bothered to get a job so they have a child so then they have no excuse to have a job. I think its wrong.*

*Poor sex education in schools. Sex education needs to be given earlier & be more frank. Emphasise how responsible men are for pregnancies. Develop a culture in which getting girls irresponsibly pregnant is seen as shameful male behaviour.*

*Why don't you check out the research? And try not to make such sweeping statements. Some parts of the UK have higher rates than the rest of Western Europe - why not look at social deprivation,*

*education, employment opportunities in those areas? How about considering the anti abortion views of Hunt, Dorries, that other woman who is the so called Minister for Women? Many working class girls are anti -abortion, then you condemn them for having babies while being anti abortion yourselves. Try being consistent, try looking at the evidence, try thinking about deprivation, inequalities, opportunities.*

*Society has a very liberal view of sex, sex before marriage is usual, in fact I would think hardly anyone except hard line believers would wait. Children out of wedlock is normal. Social media, popular culture, tv, all openly accept child birth in young people, help us given emotionally and financially by the govt - it's all too easy. Having a child should carry more consideration, it's the worlds hardest job, it also the most important, they are raising the next generation on a whim, because it easy.*

*Alcohol is easy to get hold of, drugs are cheap, girls don't know the true meaning of 'love'. I know at least 3 girls who had a baby because they thought it would save their relationship, the relationship ended anyway. How about talking about love? We all know sex education but how about someone going into the schools/youth clubs and saying don't think because your having this person's baby they will stay with you forever etc, truth hurts but so does the truth. A baby is forever, your be the one left with it whilst your friends are out etc. I have socialites and a small number of close friends, they all know my baby comes first and ALWAYS will.*

*The different types of contraception isn't explained well enough. The consequences of having a baby isnt explained well enough. Young people are naive enough to think it wont be too hard and to just go ahead with a pregnancy without all the facts.*

*Excessive benefits to people that don't deserve it.*

*Lack of education.*

*Lack of education about the consequences. Normally a cycle; teen parent family=teen parent family. Don't allow benefits for under 21's.*

*I don't know why*

*The UK has higher youth drunkenness and maybe less sex education.*

*Because England are soft!*

*Because the whole system of discipline in this country has gone out the window. There are few clear boundaries and too many rights for kids*

*Poor sex education provision, poor sexual health service provision.*

*The ridiculous attitude this country has to sex, nothing out in the open with regard to education and discussion.*

*Poor education and lack of access to information*

*There are a lack of well paid career options for working class young women.*

*Poor parenting of teens, loose morals.*

*A failed sex education system.*

*Bad example of existing system where you can be jobless and live on benefits with your kids as lifestyle choice. Lack of strong female role models / lack of ambition. Unequal opportunities through state education system.*

*Education and the 'taboo' issue. Since it's not often 'talked about' or seen as an uncomfortable issue, sex might not be addressed at home as much as should be*

*Who knows.*

*There's not enough in school or tv showing the real outcome and how hard it actually is*

*Young people don't seem afraid of the stigma. In other countries/culture it is socially unacceptable.*

*Young people not given enough relationship education. Young people are not taught to respect their own sexuality*

*Too much information given at school during psre*

*Children are too exposed to sexual images and too conscious to having to appear to be like their peers, who all seem to be having sex or know all about it.*

*Because the standard of sex education from parents/schools isn't high enough*

*Alcohol*

*Sex*

*Look at all the "free things" you get for having a baby and what a "easy" ish life it gives you! Schools need to educate a lot more on having sex, getting pregnant and actually bringing up a child.*

*Bad parenting & easy benefits*

*Parents of there teenager are a lot more reasonable and like a friend to there teenager in england,so the parents can't make them have an abortion like other countries can!*

*Teenagers get council property and benefits they hear about all off these but not the disadvantages. They're not told that teenage pregnancys result in a higher rate off post natel depression etc*

*Lack of sex ed and contraception precautions*

*relaxed attitudes to sex, easy access to contraception,*

*"England" seeks to blame the young mothers instead if looking at all the other factors such as low self esteem, poverty, class, education, opportunities.*

*Multiple factors, but perhaps our bizarre attitude to sex. We are simultaneously self-righteous and prudish, whilst being fed sex all the time through advertising and media. Our lives are saturated with distorted images portraying sexual attractiveness as the height of success for girls/women. I'd also like to use this opportunity to say that I understood all about contraception. I didn't insist on it because I didn't feel I could, something that I think came from my upbringing.*

*Definitely the system and education in schools and at home, other countries are far more open with their sex education and have much lower rates.*

*Everything treats sex as a taboo subject. Sex education is minimal and girls feel embarrassed to get contraception.*

*I think the culture in England disempowers young people from discussing sexuality in general; within the home, and within education. I think we need a cultural shift much more in line with Holland where young people feel much more relaxed about discussing sexuality, relationships and contraception. I also believe there needs to be a greater emphasis placed upon the role of emotions within teenage sex education as young people are increasingly taught about sex as if it is a purely mechanical act. Finally I believe we have an increasingly sexualised culture, but without the liberality of the Dutch view of sexuality. Therefore children are exposed to sex in a very unilateral way. They see it but they cannot openly discuss it. I hope this all makes sense!*

*Education on life as a parent is very low*

*Lack of sex education, especially around the emotional aspect of having sex. It's also fairly hard to get certain types of contraception.*

*Lack of education. Lack of opportunities. Lack of youth clubs. Lack of good role models. Lack of care in society. Lack of awareness of access to local services.*

*Self esteem issues in young girls. They believe no one understands/loves them - but a baby of their own will. It's what I believed. I wasn't a stupid girl, I just wanted to feel special and get attention. And it worked!*

*Lack of sex education*

*Cultural - same reasons we have high rates of binge drinking compared to some other countries*

*Unsure*

*A system that has been put to help those who need it most has been displayed as a reward system.*

*Also unaware of England's pregnancy rates in comparison to Western Europe. The first things I would be inclined to look into would be access to birth control, location of health centers in comparison to high pregnancy rates, and differences in sexual education in schools.*

**Question 10. What would you suggest should be done to reduce the rates of unplanned teenage conceptions?**

	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Better access to / availability of contraception	58	73%
More young people friendly services	53	66%
<b>Better Sex and Relationship Education in schools</b>	60	75%
Better support /advice for parents to talk to their teens	46	58%

	No.	%
Improving aspirations of young people generally	56	70%
Focusing more on responsibility of boys and men	42	53%
Tougher child support agency	16	20%
Removing benefits and housing from young mothers	5	6%
More protection from abuse	37	46%
More stigma around teenage parenthood	13	16%

**Other:**

*Nearest sexual health clinic is a £4 bus journey.*

*It's disgusting that an increased stigma of teenage parents has been suggested. I fight tirelessly to lessen this stigma, teen mum (single too), degree in dietetics, own personal training company, lead fitness instructor tutor, charity volunteer - stigmas should be abolished.*

*Deeper inquiry into the life of the parents to see if they're deserving. more push for them to have to work, even if takes making jobs mandatory.*

*There are studies about what works for reduction of teenage pregnancy and I have seen in work in other countries (the US, Myanmar) that people who have goals for the future take more steps to prevent pregnancy. And, if men know about how much of their income will be dedicated to child support, they are more consistent about birth control. Most just don't know that their pay will be attached and child support taken before they are paid.*

*Be encouraged to wait longer*

*Increase price of alcohol*

*Let people know how hard it is to bring up and look after a baby/child*

*Improving aspirations should be very important, a lot of young people think and believe it is their only option of having money and a house and don't really consider the parenting and having full responsibility for a small human being aspect and how their decisions could then affect their children's lives.*

*Girls' groups in schools/ projects for young girls to work on self esteem issues.*

*Young people need to be shown what they can achieve and how much they can earn with hard work. If they were shown this more and less of how much young mums "earn", they would see how easy success can be if you focus. Focusing with a young child is not easy.*

*Increase communication and support between agencies that serve teen parents to reduce chances of 2nd unintended pregnancy.*