



From the very outset, I was impressed with Straight Talking's approach and unswerving dedication to the welfare of disengaged young people. What a marvellous way to both prevent teenage pregnancy and support teenage parents back into education and training. I wholeheartedly recommend their programme to any professional concerned with improving the life chances of hard-to-reach young people.

Baroness Joyce Brenda Gould, Life Peer, & Straight Talking President. Chair of the Independent Advisory Group on Sexual Health, and President of the FPA.

contact us

If you would like more information about our work transforming NEETS to EETS, and preventing teenage pregnancy we would be delighted to hear from you.



Straight Talking Peer Education

35 Elm Road, New Malden, Surrey KT3 3HB

Telephone: 020 8605 0900 Mobile: 07957 603705

E-mail: straight.talking@virgin.net www.straighttalking.org

Registered Charity No: 1101726 Limited by guarantee Registered in England Company No: 4978681



Ten years' experience successfully transforming

NEETS* into EETS

“Straight Talking helped me raise my expectations. If it wasn't for you I'd still be sitting at home on benefits”

Tara, teenage mum, former Straight Talking Peer Educator now a Community Police Officer



*Not in Education Employment or Training



What is Straight Talking?

There are more teenage pregnancies in the UK than anywhere else in Europe. Statistically the children of teenage parents are more likely to become teenage parents. We are working to break this cycle. We employ teenage parents to go into schools and tell teenagers what it is really like to be a teenage parent.

Why do teenagers have babies?

According to the DCSF's Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, teenage parenthood is a key social exclusion issue. Deprivation, low aspirations, low attainment and disengagement from education are key factors. We know that for many teenage parents, having a baby feels like their best option.



"Working for Straight Talking has given me a lot of confidence. I didn't like school but now I go in on a different level. I now think that education is more enjoyable. It has encouraged me to make more of myself, believe in myself and I can do things. It has shown me that this is what I want to do; become a PHSE teacher eventually. I now think that teachers aren't all bad.

From doing Straight Talking, I now know how to talk to young people. I feel the kids in the class are not afraid to ask questions and they really get a lot out of it. When I first started going into schools, I thought that if I could change just one person's attitude, I'd have done a good job.

The hardest thing was people looking down on me. I see myself as a good mother." Lauren, teenage parent and Straight Talking Peer Educator

Teenage Parents tell it like it is

Teenage mothers and fathers are the experts on young parenthood. They lead our interactive courses in schools and they give young people an educated choice about the time to become a parent. They highlight the relentless responsibilities of parenting and the issues of:

- Losing their childhood and social life
- Living in poor accommodation and financial hardship
- Isolation and loneliness
- Limiting their future through the loss of education and training opportunities

Straight Talking's programme is a **cost-effective, preventative intervention** which as part of a joined up approach, successfully convinces young people to delay parenthood.

NEETs to EETs! A success story.

For the last ten years Straight Talking has been offering teenage parents a step up into their first experience of employment.

The facts speak for themselves:

- We currently employ 53 teenage parents who deliver courses to almost 5,000 pupils a year
- Being respected in the classroom by pupils and teachers challenges teenage parents' perception of education
- 100% of teenage parents reported that being the 'expert' in the classroom resulted in increased self-confidence
- The charity encourages self-responsibility as the route to self-esteem; being professional, punctual, reliable and accountable
- We reward mature and responsible employment with incentives such as driving lessons
- We work closely with teenage parents to plan and realise their ambitions as they move into education and training.
- Our program relieves the isolation experienced by many teenage parents

95% of our teenage parents go on to access education, further employment and training

Career and education paths chosen include: employment with a local teenage pregnancy team, community policing, banking, youth work, MA, Ante Natal diploma course, internal promotion to staff managers, successful self employed beautician and degree courses in social work and teaching.

We are very proud of Rita. She has been highly praised by teachers for her delivery of our programme in schools. Rita delivered an excellent speech on behalf of Straight Talking at an event at the House of Commons and is currently in the second year of her degree course studying Criminology and Psychology. Rita successfully challenges the commonly-held image of teenage parents which can be so negative.

Rita, teenage parent and Straight Talking Peer Educator

