

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cymunedau a Threchgu Tlodi
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref : OAQ(4)/0217(CTP)

Mohammad Asghar AM
Member for South Wales East

4 October 14

Dear Mohammad,

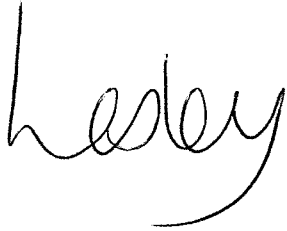
During my Oral Questions in Plenary on 24 September, you noted teenage conception rates had fallen in recent years and you welcomed this as progress towards eradicating child poverty in Wales. You asked when the Welsh Government would be in a position to report on the outcomes of the *Empower to Choose* project and I gave a commitment to write to you on this matter.

One of the objectives of the Welsh Government's Sexual Health and Wellbeing Action Plan for Wales 2010-2015 is to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies, particularly among teenagers. Our most recent data show teenage conception rates in Wales have been falling to 30.8 per 1000 girls under 18 in 2012, from 34.2 in 2011 and 36.9 in 2010.

The *Empower to Choose* project is an intervention designed to reduce repeat teenage conceptions by encouraging the uptake of Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) in teenagers presenting to end of pregnancy services. Young women who conceive as teenagers are at greatly elevated risk of further repeat teenage conceptions.

This project has the potential to have a meaningful impact upon teenage conception rates. An audit of LARC provision to pregnant teenagers has been implemented in all Health Boards and has included pregnant teenagers (under 18 when they conceived) accessing health services. In this final year of work, the aim will be to increase the referrals from maternity services and to work with Health Boards so they understand the usefulness of the referral forms.

The outcomes of the continuation of Empower to Choose project will be measured against Office of National Statistics (ONS) data on teenage conceptions, which are released on a quarterly basis. In addition, Public Health Wales will be monitoring interim indicators for the Empower to Choose project, which will also be available quarterly.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lesley', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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