

Innovative Teenage and Adolescent Pregnancy Alleviation Programme (ITAPAP)

“Teenage Pregnancy, the need for Renewed Action”

Introduction

Welcome to Innovative Teenage and Adolescent Pregnancy Alleviation Programme (ITAPAP). This programme is dedicated to providing informed choice, education, and training to groups, one to one support to teenagers, parents, grandparents, God parents and community leaders. ITAPAP is born out of my passion to give something back to society and to impact my generation in a positive and lasting way.

ITAPAP is a not for profit organisation providing education and mentoring programs for teenagers and adolescents in the United Kingdom. As a specialist Nurse/Midwife with over 25 years of experience who see herself as a champion, an ambassador and the long awaited authority for the cause of teenagers and young people, I believe that once a parent is always a parent therefore will extend my parental discipleship and discipline role to every young person I come in contact with (Proverb 22:6). I will like to make positive input into the lives of our young people. (Proverb 24:3-4). Our pilot studies and interviews with young people revealed that making health services available to young people is not enough. Their unexpressed health and health care needs need to be anticipated, and services need to be provided wherever and whenever needed, with tact, sensitivity and confidentiality.

This involves having the right professional staff and partners, ensuring they have the right skills and using the right technologies, from hotlines to social media, not as occasional bolt-on projects but as a central part of both mainstream and specialized services. As evident from the recent riot and the discussions that have followed, we all seem to agree that Britain is a broken society, has Moral decadence, Lack of discipline and there is need for an independent enquiry into why this is the case. ITAPAP can help through its Listening and learning exercises aimed at changing and unlearning unhealthy cultures such as, a climate of selfishness, me first, Moral irresponsibility, ethics of irresponsibility, poverty, lack of opportunity, and Gross inequality in our society. We work to Influence the culture, encourage transparency, find a way of diverting teenagers from pregnancy and give them better focus. Good parenting is essential, and parents need to be encouraged to always know where their children are. Children say everyone can change, and that they would rather be taking flowers to happy events like wedding not funeral.

Investing in the health of adolescents helps to prevent the vicious cycle of ill-health and socioeconomic deprivation. It helps to produce health, but also to generate wealth because young people are central to the present and future wealth and well-being of our societies. Investing in young people's health is the right thing to do, from both the human rights and the economic perspective. It is investing in the future of society. I see myself overwhelmed every day with the burden of a teenage girl who falls pregnant and misses out on what and who she could become in life and I want to do something about it. BY 2014, I want to see the rate of teenage

pregnancy fall by up to another 10%. To do this I need favour, donations, sponsors, support and help, would you come with me on this journey?

I believe that only through personal relationships can a sense of individual responsibility be re-established. This will give young people the commitment to follow through on a path to adulthood with a sense of pride and accomplishment. Through repeated failures in the classroom and the development of destructive habits, at-risk young people have lost faith in the possibilities that await them if they are successful in putting their lives together. To accomplish this goal, young people must be in a caring, inclusive learning environment that promotes their best effort and reinforces personal respect.

I am fascinated by people and committed to reaching out to all in friendship and love, fired on by the awareness of my personal struggles, brokenness and feeling of helplessness. I feel drawn especially to those who are disadvantaged, and hope to be of support by holding their hands and showing them understanding, kindness and sympathy in their situations, so that they can achieve their highest potential.

It breaks my heart to see the future of our young people blighted. Sexual and reproductive health is very personal, so people may have trouble finding or asking for accurate information about it. This may also help explain why these issues are still not addressed openly, and services are inadequate, fragmented and unfriendly in many places.

People are sexual beings all their lives. The purposes of sexual health care should be the enhancement of life and personal relationships, and not merely counselling and care related to procreation or sexually transmitted infections. Reproductive health implies that people are able to have a responsible, satisfying and safe sex life and that they have the capability to have children and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so.

High rates of adolescent pregnancy remain a challenge for health care providers. For most sexually active adolescents, pregnancy is unintended. Emergency contraception, also called the "morning-after-pill" is a way to prevent pregnancy after unprotected intercourse. But we know that in spite of wide availability of this intervention, Britain has the highest teenage pregnancy rate in Western Europe, according to a study into the sexual health of women. As the figures today show, we have issues with unemployment and the worst hit are the young people as they drop out of school and education too early and without qualifications to compete effectively in the labour market. ITAPAP is a direct response to the growing number of teenage pregnancy in UK and the failure to reach the target of halving the rate by 2010. The goal of the program is to engage them young and empower them before they make any mistakes or wrong choices. For those who are already challenged by teenage pregnancy, the focus will be slightly different at each stage, but the goal remains the same; empower the young person to make positive changes in his/her life so that they can achieve their highest potentials.

ITAPAP will focus primarily on young people aged nine to nineteen. It is projected that within three years, 50% of the teenagers we work with will be in secondary school. This age group is particularly problematic and a perfect time for mentoring to be effective.

ITAPAP's mentoring programs will offer weekend residential for families, parents, teenagers, and any other section of the local community which will also include local churches and school. During that time they will participate in weekly planned activities to strengthen the relationship between them and improve the young person's confidence and hopefulness. Mentors will receive continuous training throughout the year and will participate in monthly network meeting to report the young person's progress.

There will also be conferences, workshops, one to one support, signposting to relevant agencies, coaching, workforce development, road shows, 24 hours help line and outreach going on throughout the year so that no one is left behind even if they are hard to reach. Particular attention will be paid to young people in care or who are different because of some form of disability. Over time, ITAPAP will create a learning environment that will be an invaluable resource to young people, aspiring mentors and the community at large.

Innovative Model

ITAPAP will deliver its ethos through partnership with parents, God parents, schools and faith community through initiation programmes. At age 10-13, every parent in the programme will be invited to register their young people for the initiation ceremony which will be inclusive in nature.

It will start with an outing, a date with the child by their dad if girls, and mum if boys and culminate in a very good setting i.e. hotel with all the young people in that group and their families for a proclamation by the young people of what/who they want to do/be in life and parents commitment to support them through that. There will then be a motivational speech by a role model to all and a prayer session by a minister. There will be a 3 course meal and some entertainment in form of music, drama etc.