



“Younger marginalized men who become fathers are not only perhaps the most at risk, but are also the most invisible”

Ferguson & Hogan, 2004

Fatherhood Institute

Invisible Fathers Action Plan

1. Midwives, health visitors and teenage pregnancy support services should routinely engage with, and separately assess the needs of, young dads-to-be to help them become and remain involved throughout pregnancy and the post-natal period.
2. Government guidance should explicitly state that all services who deal with young men (such as youth services, youth offending teams, homelessness and housing teams, leaving care services and Connexions) should identify and work appropriately with them as fathers, and routinely refer on to services that can support them as parents (eg teenage pregnancy services, Children’s Centres).
3. The Government should set challenging medium-term targets for local services (teenage pregnancy services, children’s centres, maternity services, Connexions, targeted youth support services etc) to engage with, assess and offer services to young dads
4. The Government should require local authorities to publish data on how they are performing against the targets outlined in point 3 above.
5. We need increased routine learner support to enable young fathers to better support their families and avoid long term poverty and social exclusion, including the Education Maintenance Allowance and Care 2 Learn.
6. Local authorities must ensure that housing-related support services for teenage parents (including floating support services) are accessible to young dads as well as young mums.
7. Midwives, health visitors and teenage pregnancy support services must specifically offer advice to young fathers as well as young mothers, to prevent unwanted further pregnancies.
8. We need statutory PSHE in schools, including sex and relationship education which specifically targets boys with information about the challenges of fatherhood
9. The Government should publish clear, practical guidance and models of good practice for local authorities about all these issues.
10. Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinators should offer more advice to local services to implement effective approaches to supporting young fathers (with support from the Fatherhood Institute).