

# Somerset Teenage Parent Supported Housing Pilot

Funded by the Department of  
Education

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# Somerset Teenage Parent Supported Housing Pilot

## **Aim:**

To provide an enhanced support package to teenage parents to reduce the immediate and long term effects of early parenthood.

- **Teenage Parent Floating Housing Support**
- **Teenage Parent Buddy Scheme**
- **Teenage Parent Peer Education**

## **Cost:**

- Year 1- (3 months) - £25,411
- Year 2 - £163,600
- Year 3 - £169,800

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# Somerset Teenage Parent Supported Housing Pilot

- Emily Hutt - Teenage Parent Development Worker
- Gill Slocombe - Teenage Parent - Buddy Scheme Coordinator
- Jemma Lang - Girls and Young Women's Development Worker

# Somerset Teenage Parent Buddy Project

## What's different about this project?

- 2 co-ordinators
- 80 volunteers

# What challenges have we had?

- Identifying suitable volunteers
- Ensuring a quality experience for parent
- Managing volunteers expectations
- Getting referrals
- Having a volunteer available where there is the need
- Short term funding/hitting the ground running

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## What they say. . . . .

“ I couldn't live without my buddy” **Charlotte**

“She's like a Mum but doesn't tell me off, though sometimes I know she's thinking I shouldn't be doing something” **Kerie**

“He's always happy when he comes back from being with Paul” **Tyrus' partner**

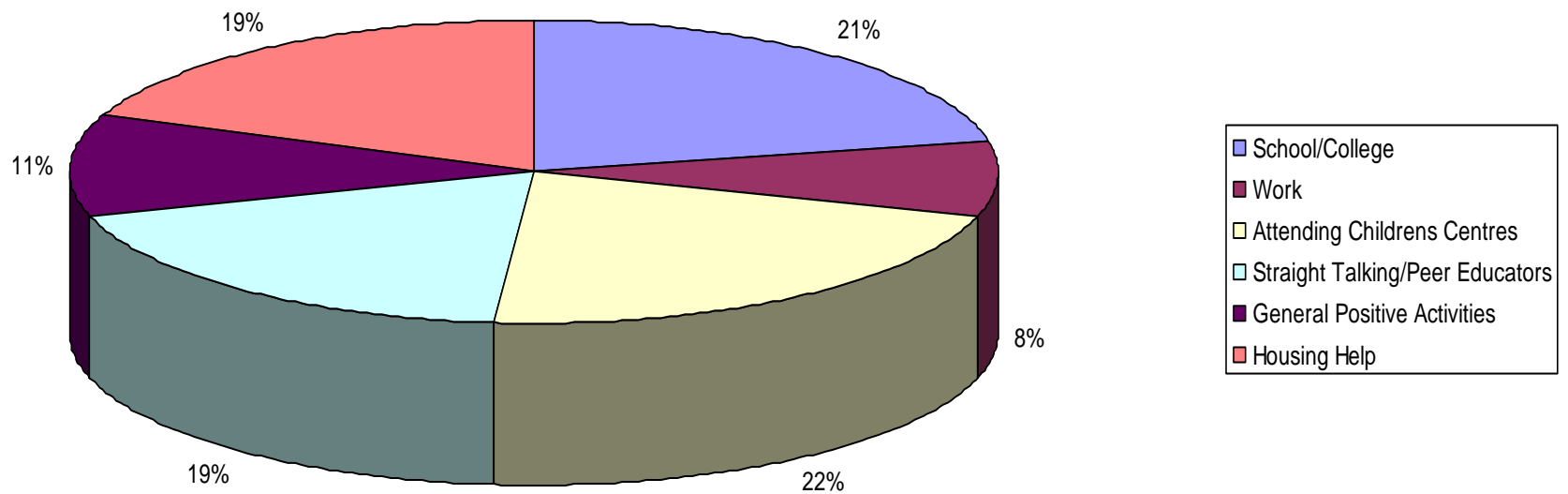
## What they say cont . . . . .

“She has helped me to do things I didn’t think I could do”

**Tania** (speaking about a baby massage course)

“She supports me and doesn’t judge what I do” **Viki**

# Positive Outcomes Arising From Participation On The Teenage Parents Buddy Scheme (Total: 37)



# Somerset Teenage Parents Peer Education Project

## Preparing services

- Children's Centres
- Health services
- Leaving Care
- Local Service Teams

## Our preparation

- Map services for teenage parents
- Their commitments
- Our shared vision

# How we engaged with teenage parents

- Clear referral route for peer education project
- Promotional events – hosted by peer educators
- Street campaign – together with local Children Centre's and Local Service Team
- FE colleges

# Outcomes

## Core, Improved

- EET opportunities
- Health and wellbeing
- Social and support network
- Stability within the family home

## Broader, Improved

- Aspirations
- Self esteem
- Positive life choices
- Healthier relationship choices
- Sexual health and contraception

The commitment, of the teenage parents, to their children enabled us to empower and support them to achieve these outcomes and more.

# What they say. . . . .

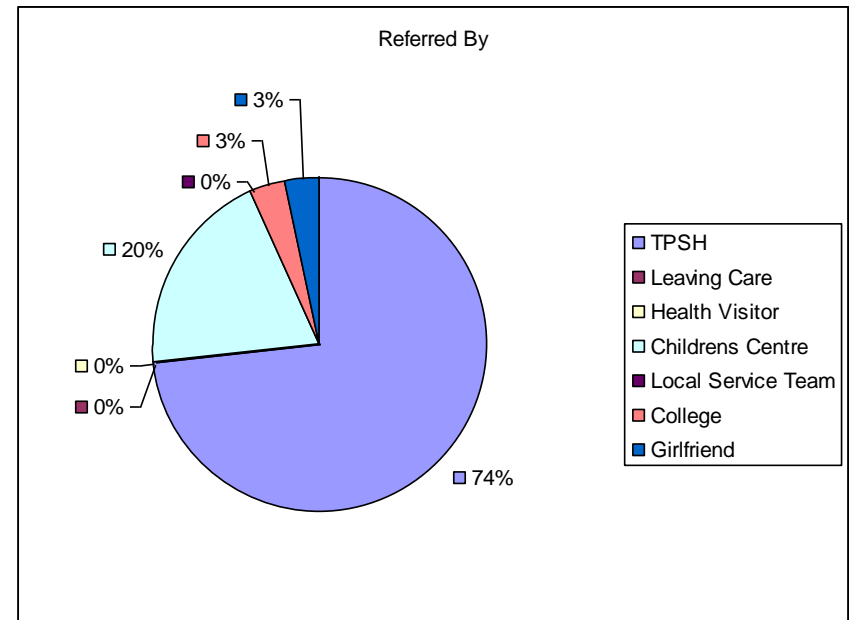
- “I think the project is invaluable” **Sophie**
- “It makes people feel like we can achieve” **Sophie**
- “Its nice to know I’m helping people” **Charley**
- “Now I’ve got a whole lot more understanding of what’s available and how I can ask for support”  
**Stacey**

# Factors influencing outcomes

- Housing
- Parental skills and abilities
- Benefits
- Networking and community support
- Standard of multi agency support
- Domestic abuse
- Teenage parent's health and well being
- Children's health and well being

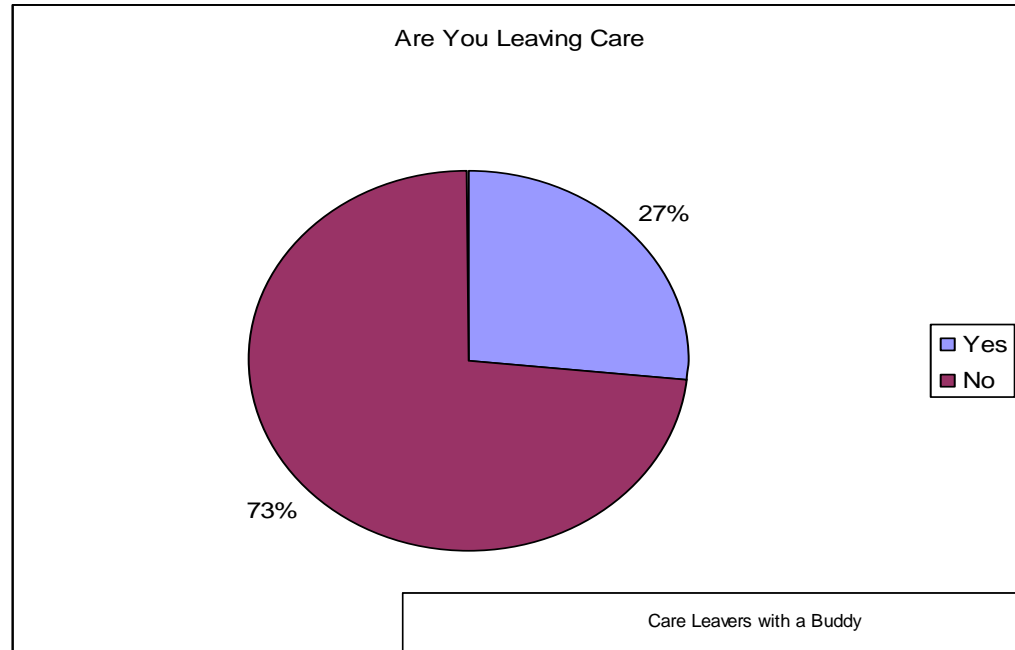
# Referral routes for year 2

Referred By	
TPSH	22
Leaving Care	0
Health Visitor	0
Children's Centre	6
Local Service Team	0
College	1
Girlfriend	1

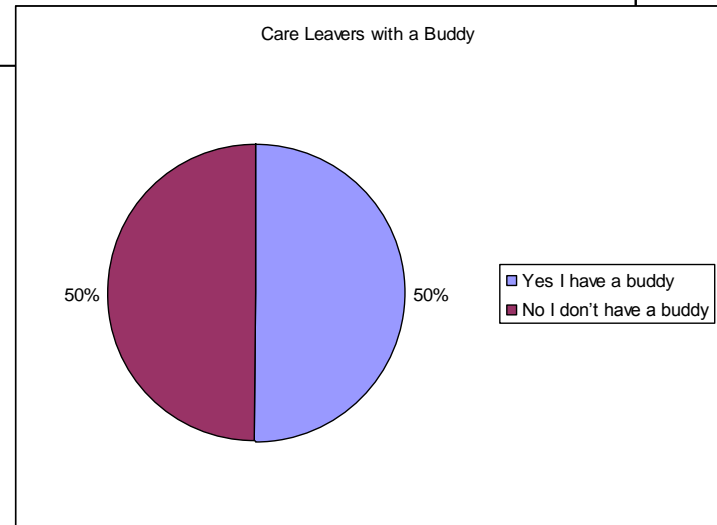


# Leaving Care

Are You Leaving Care?	
Yes	8
No	22

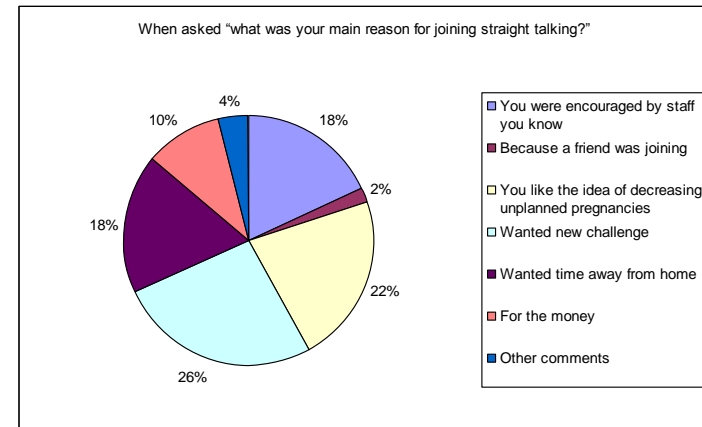


Care Leavers with a Buddy	
Yes I have a buddy	3
No I don't have a buddy	3



# Reasons for involvement

When asked “what was your main reason for joining straight talking?”	
You were encouraged by staff you know	9
Because a friend was joining	1
You like the idea of decreasing unplanned pregnancies	11
Wanted new challenge	13
Wanted time away from home	9
For the money	5
Other comments	2



# Relationship with Children's Centres

