

# An emerging policy to address young people's **Risk Taking Behaviours**

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What you can do, or dream you can do,  
**Begin it:**  
Boldness has genius, power and magic in it.

Goethe



“ We need to learn from our own mistakes, and be protected from serious harm like being left with a disability from an accident but not wrapped up in cotton-wool either.”

Young people’s consultation



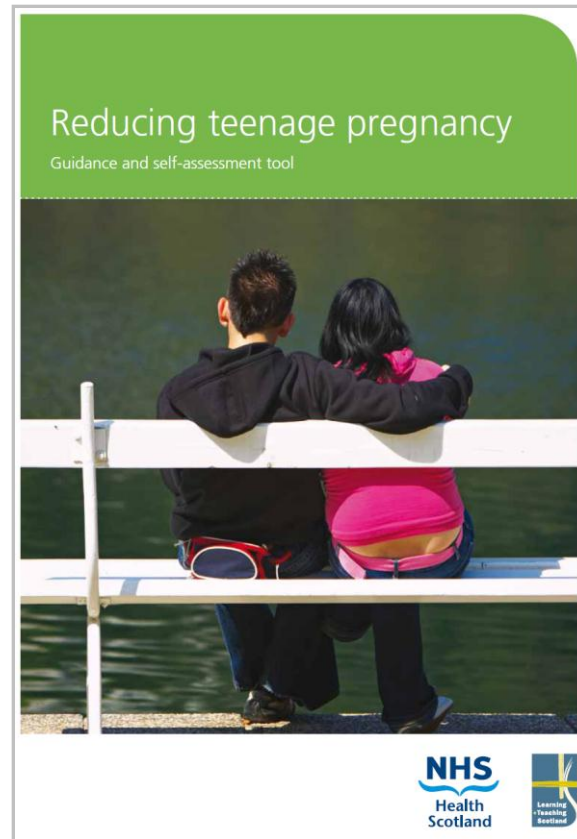
# Where did we start?

- Desire to experiment
- Common sense approach
- Pooling existing knowledge
- Consultation
- Building on foundations



# Key Messages

- Rights of the child
- Emotional wellbeing
- Risk and resilience
- Health inequalities
- Service delivery
- Self evaluation



# Key Messages

“It’s just pointless to tell young people from Edinburgh to not drink alcohol or have sex. Sooner or later they are going to be tempted or pressured to do it because sex and drink is everywhere – they need support to say **“no I’m not ready”** or **advice on how they do it safely.**”

“When young people are told not to do something, they do it even more – that’s just adolescence.”

Young people’s consultation



# Routes to implementation

- Strategic leadership
- Hearts and minds
- Enquiry + feedback
  - Schools
  - CLD
  - Disabilities
- Universal and targeted responses
- Practical guidance notes



# Challenges and opportunities

- Diversity of professional groups
- Scope of risk and resilience factors
- Harnessing existing resources
- Changing the mindset





The recurring theme which emerges from consultation with children, young people and adults who have been in care in the past, is the difference that **one individual** can make.

What matters is that they **care**, they take an **interest** in and **believe** in the young person and **persevere** through challenging times.

These Are Our Bairns  
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