

----- Original Message -----

>> Subject: Re: Respect Yourself Guidance

>> Date: 2019-10-31 15:15

>> From: Monica Fogarty <monicafogarty@warwickshire.gov.uk>

>> To: "info@clickoff.org" <info@clickoff.org>

Thank you for your email. Please can I apologise for the delay in replying to you. I am sure you can imagine that it has been a very busy time.

I would like to start by giving you some important background information.

The Respect Yourself website was produced working with young people who told us they wanted a safe place in which to pose questions that would be answered honestly. Developers worked extensively with them to provide the information young people needed in the language that they understood and were comfortable with.

Young people requested that a sextionary be included that is explicit and frank and while some of the terms are unsavoury, the rationale from the young people for including them was that understanding those terms would help to keep them safe both on and off line.

\_Respect Yourself\_ is based on a Dutch model where they have considerably lower rates of teenage pregnancy than the UK.

In 2009/10 when the \_Respect Yourself\_ website was first proposed, the rate of teenage conception in the UK was 38.2 per 1000 among 15-17 year olds. In the Netherlands, however, it was 11.3 per 1000 among 15-19 year olds. The rate of terminations in the Netherlands was also less than half that of the UK (7.3 per 1000 compared to 16.2 per 1000 in the UK) in the same period.

Warwickshire County Council therefore, along with its partners in the NHS, sought to commission work that mirrored what was undertaken in the Netherlands to see if a similar approach could replicate their excellent results here.

The results may well bear testament to the approach. In 2017, the conception rate among our under 18 year olds stood at 17.5 per1,000, less than half of what it had been before the website was developed.

Similarly, Sexually Transmitted Infections in Warwickshire stand at 548 per 100,000, against a national average of 784 per 100,000. The change in behaviour of young people has made a very significant contribution to this improved performance.

The \_Respect Yourself\_ website receives between 22,000 and 30,000 hits each month but following recent media coverage and ensuing social media activity we made the decision to take down the web pages and review the content. We are in the process of commissioning an independent review. The comments we receive will feed into the review.

Kind regards,

Monica Fogarty  
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