

How-to Guide

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Title	Young Parents' Support Base
Organisation	Smithycroft Secondary School
Category	Fully Validated
Poverty Impact	Mitigation
Introduction to the Project	
<p>The Young Parents' Support Base (YPSB) supports young parents in attaining the best possible start in life for themselves and their children by helping them balance their academic and parenting responsibilities. The project provides a range of services, including childcare facilities, parenting and personal development classes, as well as peer support services. The program also offers academic support to young parents, ensuring that they have the resources they need to succeed in education while also caring for their children. It is part of Glasgow City Council's strategic approach to supporting vulnerable young people to remain in education across the city, under its young people's sexual health strategy.</p>	

Young Parents' Support Base



Initial Idea

Who had the initial idea?

The Young Parents' Support Base (YPSB) supports young parents in attaining the best possible start in life for themselves and their children by helping them balance their academic and parenting responsibilities. The project provides a range of services, including childcare facilities, parenting and personal development classes, as well as peer support services. The program also offers academic support to young parents, ensuring that they have the resources they need to succeed in education while also caring for their children. It is part of Glasgow City Council's strategic approach to supporting vulnerable young people to remain in education across the city, under its young people's sexual health strategy.

How did the idea for the project come about?

A gap was noticed in the support systems set up for young people who become pregnant in education. Many of these young parents would not continue with their education, ultimately perpetuating the cycle of poverty, as some may struggle to re-engage with education and face further structural difficulties in the future. The Support and Reintegration Office made it clear that a more robust system was needed to support young people who become parents at an early age in Glasgow.

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Were plans informed by any published reports / papers / research evidence or practice from elsewhere?

No	
Yes	✓

Marianne Flynn and Heather Douglas conducted in-depth research on pre-existing nurseries for young parents in Scotland, specifically the Wester Hailes Young Mum's Unit in Edinburgh and Little People Nursery in Dundee. Their research contributed to the Glasgow Protocol's "Meeting the Needs of Young Parents" document. This document outlines the stages and protocols for supporting young parents in Glasgow and serves as the blueprint template for the project. This document is available online and can be accessed by all schools to support young parents.

Glasgow City Council, (2011). 'Meeting the Needs of Young Parents, Guidance Notes'. Available at: [594 \(gfis.org.uk\)](http://594.gfis.org.uk)

In later years, the Young Parents' Support Base played a key role in creating the Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People Strategy in partnership with the Scottish Government. This strategy is the first of its kind in Scotland, providing targeted support for young people who are pregnant or parenting. The project also contributed to the development of "Someone to talk to, someone to listen," guidelines that are available to all educational institutions aiming to support young parents.

Scottish Government, (2016). 'Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People Strategy'. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/pregnancy-parenthood-young-people-strategy/documents/>

Scottish Government, (2021). 'Someone to talk to and Someone to listen - Supporting young pregnant women and young parents in school'. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/someone-talk-someone-listen-supporting-young-pregnant-women-young-parents-school/documents/>

Was anyone else involved in developing the initial idea of the project?

No	
Yes	✓

Heather Douglas, Glasgow City Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership.

Young Parents' Support Base

Were those with lived experience of poverty involved in developing the initial idea of the project?			
No			<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Young parents contributed to the initial planning and development of the project through a Young Parents Support Forum which allowed these individuals and their families to express which services and support they required.			
Was funding required to support the development of the initial idea of the project?			
No		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please provide details of the funding that was used to support the development of the initial idea of the project.			
Which organisation provided funding?	The project originally received funding from the Big Lottery Fund (matched from the European Social Fund).		
How much was required?			
What was the specific source of funding?			
Were specific resources – other than funding - needed when developing the initial idea of the project?			
No		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please provide details of the resources that were required when developing the initial idea of the project. <i>If not needed, please add N/A</i>			
Staff/Volunteer Time	N/A		
Facilities / Workspace	Work Office.		
Equipment	Computers/internet usage.		
Local Knowledge	Knowledge of existing young parents' support initiatives and the scale of young parents in education who needed additional support.		
Food and Drink	N/A		

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Did any barriers have to be overcome when developing the initial idea of the project?	
<i>No</i>	
Yes	✓
<p>A significant barrier to the initial development of the project was a lack of referrals from schools in Glasgow, particularly from some non-denominational schools. Previous coordinators had faced historical issues with some of the denominational schools, where staff were reluctant to refer students to young parents' services. There seemed to be a certain level of protectionism, whereby some services were hesitant to share their young parents with the YPSB.</p>	
Did anything in particular enable development of the initial idea of the project?	
<i>No</i>	
Yes	✓
<p>Building strong relationships was key for the initial development of the project. The YPSB aimed to strengthen its relationship with schools across Glasgow to encourage more referrals and develop a more comprehensive support system for young parents and their children. They emphasised that their focus is on supporting young families, not just increasing the number of referrals. By building trust with schools and other organisations, the YPSB were able to increase awareness of their services and help more young parents in need.</p> <p>The midwife responsible for teenage pregnancy in the city at that time played a significant role in supporting the initial development of the YPSB. She handled referrals from schools where pregnancy was notified and had extensive experience in supporting vulnerable young people. Her experience enabled her to understand the needs and barriers they face, which was crucial in building relationships within the YPSB and their work with social work services and health staff.</p>	
How long did it take between having the initial idea and starting the project?	
<p>It took approximately two years between the feasibility research, the pilot project, and the acquisition of official funding and support from the Glasgow City Council.</p>	
Who made the decision to introduce the project?	
<p>Glasgow City Council</p>	

Early Development – Pilot Project or Feasibility Study

Was there a pilot project or feasibility study?	
No	
Yes, a pilot project	
Yes, a feasibility study	✓
What did the pilot study or feasibility study involve?	
<p>The YPSB team first identified young mothers in education who had announced their pregnancy. They then assessed their situation and decided to either support them in their own school or move the young parents to Smithycroft. A nursery room was allocated within the school where young parents could drop off their children at 8:30 am and register for class by 8:50 am. This allowed the young parents to participate in education with their peers while ensuring that their children were safe and cared for. They also scheduled homework periods after school hours, allowing young parents to spend evenings with their children.</p>	
Who was responsible for the design and/or delivery of the pilot or feasibility study?	
<p>Yes, Marianne Flynn and Heather Douglas' research on pre-existing nurseries and support services for young parents in Scotland was the feasibility study. The initial development of the service in 2010 acted as the pilot project until the YPSB gained funding from Glasgow City Council two years later. Original Base Co-ordinator Deborah Blackhurst, Marianne Flynn, and Heather Douglas.</p>	
Were those with lived experience of poverty among those involved in the design or delivery of the pilot project or feasibility study	
No	
Yes (feel free to add details to the box below)	✓
<p>Young parents with lived experience of poverty were involved in providing feedback.</p>	

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Was funding required to support the pilot project or feasibility study? <i>(tick one of the boxes below)</i>			
No <i>(if no, skip next question and go the question on 'Resources')</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <i>(please answer the next question)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please provide details of the funding that was used to support the pilot project or feasibility study.			
Which organisation provided funding?	Funding from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHS GGC), the Big Lottery and the European Social Fund.		
How much was required?	<input type="text"/>		
What was the specific source of funding?	<input type="text"/>		
Were specific resources needed to support the pilot project or feasibility study? <i>(tick one of the boxes below)</i>			
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please provide details of the resources that were required for the pilot project or feasibility study. <i>If not needed, please add N/A</i>			
Staff/Volunteer Time	N/A		
Facilities / Workspace	A nursery room, an office, and a young parents' room.		
Equipment	Computers/internet access		
Local Knowledge	Young parents who have announced pregnancy while in education. Baseline research surrounding the support of young parents in Scotland, the barriers they face and how to alleviate them		
Food and Drink	Food was provided to young parents and their children.		

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Was the pilot project or feasibility study evaluated?		
	No	
	Yes	✓
<p>The YPSB project was evaluated by the European Social Fund. The evaluation aimed to assess the number of service users, the impact of the project on the educational attainment and school attendance of young parents with children in Glasgow, as well as other targets.</p>		
Was there evidence from the pilot project or feasibility study that confirmed that it was working / it would work?		
	No	
	Yes	✓
<p>In the first two years of the service, they supported around 60 young parents in their schools across the city and had 21 more study at Smithycroft. They also received positive anecdotal feedback from the young parents and their families.</p>		
Who made the decision to continue with the project beyond the pilot or feasibility study?		
Glasgow City Council.		
Was the design of the project modified following the pilot project or feasibility study?		
	No	
	Yes	✓
<p>The pilot project highlighted the need to continue supporting students who became pregnant at an early age. This was supported by positive feedback and evaluation from stakeholders, as well as increased acceptance and referrals from other schools. Feedback from service users also emphasised additional barriers faced by young parents, including transportation restrictions. In response to these barriers, the YPSB secured additional funding to provide a taxi service for young parents and their children, along with other improvements to the final project design.</p>		

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Accessing the Service and Engaging with Service Users

Is there a referral process?	
No	
Yes	✓
School, collaborative agency, and self-referrals.	
Is referral the only way that potential clients are made aware of the project?	
Yes	
No	✓
Other than referral, how do potential clients come to know about the project?	
<p>There is a pregnancy notification form that all schools in Glasgow should be aware of. This form is sent to the YPSB head of centre and Lisa McCracken, who serves as the head of child protection for education in Glasgow. Other agencies, on the other hand, do not need to complete the notification form. Instead, they complete a standard YPSB referral form which includes details such as the young person's age, stage of life, social and historical issues, and health concerns.</p> <p>In addition to agency referrals, the YPSB also receive self-referrals from young women, young fathers, and families seeking support for young parents in Glasgow. They have made it as easy as possible for people to self-refer by providing information on the YPSB website and a hotline for them to call and make a self-referral.</p>	
What is the most common way through which users typically access the service?	
<p>All schools in Glasgow are strongly encouraged to actively recommend support services for teenage pregnancies and young parents. The YPSB services are also readily available online for any young person or family to easily access and contact. Additionally, the YPSB hosts monthly networking events for young parents, families, and potential partners to visit the base and learn about their history, progress, future plans, and the support offered to young parents and their children. This also allows attendees to meet the YPSB staff and ask any relevant queries.</p>	

Young Parents' Support Base



Do you take steps to keep in touch / reach out to service users?	
No	
Yes	✓
The YPSB uses a combination of in-person and online contact methods to connect with its support base. It engages with young parents through face-to-face interactions, online platforms such as young parents' forums, and social media apps like WhatsApp for texting and phone calls.	

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Working with People with Lived Experience of Poverty

Are those with lived experience of poverty involved in <u>delivering</u> the project?	
No	
Yes	✓
<p>The YPSB offers work experience and volunteering opportunities for young parents to participate in delivering the project through group work and support activities. The participation of other young parents allows the YPSB to more accurately identify how to fully support the service users.</p>	
Are people with lived experience of poverty involved in <u>managing</u> the project or project governance?	
No	✓
Yes	
Are people with lived experience of poverty involved <u>in any other aspect</u> of the project? <i>If so, please describe below.</i>	
No	
Yes	✓
<p>As part of the Pregnancy and Parenthood Strategy and the "Someone to Talk to, Someone to Listen" guidelines, the YPSB engaged several young parents to actively participate in research. This involved conducting consultations with other young parents to gain insights into their specific needs, as requested by the Scottish Government. The YPSB then compiled comprehensive reports based on these consultations and delivered them back to the Scottish Government for further consideration and action.</p>	

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Leadership, Governance and Partnership Working

Who is responsible for managing the project?		
Dave Smeaton, the YPSB Base Co-ordinator and Head of Centre.		
Is this the only responsibility of the person managing the project?		
	Yes	
	No	✓
<p>The YPSB Base Co-ordinator is active on various boards related to young people's sexual health in Glasgow. This includes being a member of the Greater Glasgow Health Board's sub-group for sexual health and well-being for young people. Additionally, he is involved in a steering group that supports families through pregnancy, which is a social work group focused on assisting vulnerable families in the city. The Base Co-ordinator also serves as the designated child protection coordinator for the base.</p> <p>In addition to these responsibilities, the coordinator dedicates a significant amount of time to researching and securing funding for YPSB. Furthermore, the coordinator is accountable to the key inspectorate and regularly provides them with relevant data, research, and procedures to support the base.</p>		
What proportion of the manager's overall workload is given over to this project?		
	Most of it	✓
	About half of it	
	Just a small proportion of it	
Is there a Project Steering or Advisory Group?		
	No	
	Yes	✓
<p>The steering group is composed of heads and leads from many services in Glasgow, including an Early Years lead, an education lead, a social work lead, a health lead, as well as the Base Co-ordinator for the YPSB. The Base Co-ordinator provides regular feedback and updates to the steering group regarding the base's direction, accomplishments in the previous academic year, and future. Other information provided to the steering group includes the number of young parents using the services, as well as their levels of attendance, engagement, and qualifications.</p>		

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Are any other governance arrangements in place to review strategy and performance?	
No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Links to Wider Policies, Strategies and Statutory Requirements

In your opinion, is the project aligned with national and/or local anti-poverty strategies and priorities (e.g., local authority or health board priorities)?	
Don't know	
No	
Yes	✓
The project is part of the Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People Strategy (2016). This strategy was introduced by the Scottish Government and is aimed at decreasing the cycle of deprivation associated with teenage pregnancy in Scotland.	
In your opinion, has the project benefitted from being part of this anti-poverty strategy?	
Don't know	✓
No	
Yes	
Is the project part of any other strategy?	
Don't know	
No	✓
Yes	
In your opinion, has the project benefitted from being part of this strategy?	
Don't know	✓
No	
Yes	

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Is the project delivering a service that is a statutory commitment?	
No	
Yes	✓
<p>The YPSB encourages their statutory services, such as the Health and Social Care Partnership and the Family Nurse Partnership, to provide them with regular feedback on the support provided to young parents.</p>	
In your opinion, what has been the impact on the project of having this statutory commitment?	
Don't know	✓
None	
Negative	
Positive	

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Funding

Has external funding been secured to support the work?	
No	✓
Yes	
Please provide details of the external funding that was used secured to support this work?	
Which organisation provided funding?	The project is funded by Glasgow City Council, the Health and Social Care Partnership, the National Lottery Community Fund, the Parental Employability Support Fund, and Education and Early Years Scotland.
What was the specific funding stream/source/scheme?	The YPSB is centrally funded by Glasgow City Council and gains external funding from third-sector parties. For example, the Parental Employability Support Fund covers the costs of the YPSB Teacher and the Creative Family Links Worker, and the Cordia Partnership also covers food costs for the young parents and their children.
How much funding was secured?	The exact cost of the project has yet to be confirmed. While some might view the cost of the young parent support program as high with various resources and staff needed, a closer examination of the expenses associated with the program reveals that it is a worthwhile investment. The program provides essential support to young parents and their children, with a particular focus on education, child protection, and housing. The impact of the program is significant, with many young people able to remain in education and children receiving the necessary support to come off child protection. The program also provides support to young people facing poverty, helping to keep them safe in their communities. The savings generated by supporting young parents in these ways far outweigh the program's expenditures. As such, the program represents a valuable investment in the future of Glasgow's young parents and their children.

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For how long has funding been secured?	N/A	
Is future funding from the same external source a possibility?		
	Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>
	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is future funding from the same external source based on pre-agreed outcomes or outputs being delivered from this work?		
	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>The YPSB Head of Centre is responsible for reporting back pre-agreed outcomes to the steering group on the support provided to young parents. This report includes an assessment of attendance numbers, levels of engagement, and qualifications attained by the young parents. Additionally, the YPSB focuses on softer targets such as supporting young parents' mental health, facilitating engagement with nursery learning, assisting in the transition to nursery for their children, and promoting involvement in local communities and activities. These targets are essential in measuring the overall success of the project and determining future funding agreements.</p>		
Has a specific sum been secured from the host organisation to support this work?		
	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide details of the funding that was used secured from the host organisation to support this work?		
How much funding was secured?	N/A	
For how long has funding been secured?	N/A	
Is future funding from the host organisation a possibility?		
	Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>
	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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Is future funding from the host organisation based on pre-agreed outcomes or outputs being delivered?	
No	✓
Yes	
What are the future - longer-term - prospects for this work if existing funding sources were no longer available?	
N/A	

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Staffing and Resources

Do existing staff from the host organisation contribute toward the work of this project as part of their broader work for the organisation?	
No	✓
Yes	
Are existing staff from the host organisation paid extra (for example, taking on extra hours) to contribute toward the work of this project?	
No	✓
Yes	
Have additional paid staff been employed to contribute toward the work of this project?	
No	
Yes	✓
Along with the Head of Centre/Base Co-ordinator, the YPSB have a Team Leader, Social Care Worker, Creative Family Link Worker, Clerical Support Worker, YPSB Teacher, a part-time Administrative Assistant, and two Child Development Officers.	
Are volunteers involved in delivering the project?	
No	
Yes	✓
Young parents are regularly involved in group work and support volunteering activities within the base. The volunteers can provide a more accurate insight into the support needs of other young parents in the YPSB.	

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Are specific resources – other than staff/volunteer time and money - needed to support the delivery of the project?	
No	Yes ✓
Please provide details of the resources that are required to deliver the project? <i>If not needed, please add N/A</i>	
Facilities / Workspace	A nursery, work office and a young parents' room.
Equipment	Computers/internet access.
Local Knowledge	Identifying local resources in Glasgow.
Food and Drink	Free meals are provided to young parents and their children.
Are any of the resources needed to deliver the project provided in-kind, rather than budgeted from project funds?	
No	Yes ✓
Were new IT systems, additional software, or upgrades to existing software (databases, Apps) required to deliver this project? .	
No	Yes ✓

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Was additional training – for staff or volunteers - required to deliver this project?	
No	
Yes	✓

Additional staff training was essential to ensure that the YPSB child development officers were equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to fully support the young children and their parents. These officers play a crucial role in the learning journey of young children in their nursery, including outdoor learning, growth, and development. However, they also serve as mentors and supports for young parents, as some may lack family background and support. These parents may have various challenges within their family and community, and their officers provide an enhanced role to assist them. Therefore, their officers need a diverse set of skills in their toolkit. These skills range from effective communication with young people to supporting their specific needs. They are also trained in promoting positive mental health and intervening in situations such as suicidal ideation or self-harm. Ensuring that the YPSB officers are well-trained in these areas is crucial to providing comprehensive support and care.

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Monitoring and Evaluation

Is there baseline data to describe what things were like before the start of the project?		
	No	
	Yes	✓
<p>Yes. The YPSB collects baseline data for some of its group work, such as Mellow Parenting, some of the antenatal work, and Positive Parenting work. In these cases, service users are asked to complete the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire. This helps the YPSB team understand where the young person is in their life and how they are coping with various aspects, including anxiety and stress. However, it is important to note that they do not collect large amounts of data due to capacity and time constraints.</p>		
Is the difference that the project is making measured or monitored by the host organisation?		
	Yes	✓
	No	
Who within the host organisation is responsible for monitoring the impact of the project?		
The YPSB Head of Centre		

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How often is the impact of the project monitored or measured by the host organisation?

The impact of the YPSB's service is evidenced through feedback and groupwork from past service users. The YPSB Head of Centre has received anecdotal feedback from young parents, highlighting their return and acknowledgement of YPSB's work. As these parents move into the later stages of parenthood, they recognise and share the profound impact that YPSB's support has had on their lives. The opportunity to connect with other young parents and the realisation that they are not alone in their journey has greatly influenced their perspective as young parents. The exchange of advice and personal stories from peers who have faced similar challenges is particularly important for many service users. This collective wisdom and experience boosted their confidence and self-efficacy, instilling a belief in their own capabilities. The group work facilitated by YPSB played a crucial role in combating social isolation and further strengthened the support network.

The YPSB also utilises a range of consultation and feedback methods, varying in complexity from everyday suggestion boxes and graffiti boards to more formal external evaluations. They have found success in using SurveyMonkey, a user-friendly platform for staff and young parents. Additionally, online platforms like WhatsApp groups and accessible online parent forums are effective for receiving direct feedback. Axiom has also conducted formal consultations and evaluations. The YPSB strives to encourage regular feedback from their partners, including statutory services and third sector partners such as social work services.

What methods, techniques or strategies are used by the host organisation to measure the impact of the project?

A Dual-collection method

What information is collected by the host organisation about the project?

Number of users	Yes	✓	No	
Profile of users	Yes	✓	No	
Experience of users	Yes	✓	No	
Outcomes for users	Yes	✓	No	
Anything else	Yes	✓	No	

N/A

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Has the data that has been collected by the host organisation been used to adapt the way the project works?	
No	
Yes	✓
<p>It is crucial to identify the areas in the city with the greatest need for their service and to adapt the project accordingly. This allows the YPSB to plan for future service delivery and allocate resources effectively. Additionally, age groups play a significant role. Currently, the YPSB are observing a decrease in their outreach to young parents who are still in school, while there is an increase in young parents who have completed their schooling. By analysing this data, they can determine the types of services their outreach team should prioritise. For example, they may focus on providing employment-based or financial support to these young individuals. Moreover, the data helps them identify nurseries with which they should establish stronger relationships. Considering the geographical locations of their young parents is also essential in this regard.</p>	
Has an external organisation been employed to formally evaluate the project?	
No	
Yes	✓
<p>Axiom Limited was employed to provide an external evaluation of the base.</p>	
Has the insight from the external organisation's evaluation been used to adapt the way the project works?	
No	
Yes	✓
<p>The external evaluation allowed the YPSB to pinpoint potential areas of improvement more accurately. For example, the evaluation provided by external evaluation highlighted required improvements regarding the extracurricular activities the service users are engaged in, their health and well-being, and their overall experience. This valuable feedback helped the YPSB make informed decisions and implement necessary changes to enhance the support services offered to young parents.</p>	

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Is there an intention to employ an external organisation to evaluate the impact of the project in the future?	
Don't know / no current plans	
No	
Yes	✓
Is there an intention to undertake your own formal evaluation in the future to estimate the impact of the project?	
Don't know / no current plans	✓
No	
Yes	

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Impact

To what extent have the aims of the project been achieved?	
Fully met	
Making progress toward meeting Aims	✓
Not making progress	
<p>The YPSB has achieved its aims of supporting young parents to attain the best possible start in life for themselves and their children to a considerable extent. The base has provided a range of opportunities addressing various health and social needs, ensuring comprehensive support for all young parents. Additionally, the program has effectively supported young women in continuing or returning to education throughout their pregnancy and after the birth of their baby. Through these initiatives, the YPSB has played a crucial role in empowering and assisting service users in their journey as young parents in education and provides them with the skills and resources to attain a promising, safe, and stable future for themselves and their children.</p>	

Young Parents' Support Base

What difference has the project made?

For the past 12 years, the project has supported approximately 40 young parents per academic year. It has made a significant impact, helping young parents stay in education while their children receive the necessary care. The program also offers service users essential healthcare, finance, well-being, and employment services, helping to maintain a stable future for young parents and their children. The biggest difference the project has made is supporting the needs of both the young parents as well as their children through free nursery provisions. The YPSB is committed to prioritising their nursery provision and strongly encourage young parents to take advantage of this offer for a free nursery placement. Young parents have the option to choose the YPSB nursery at Smithycroft School or, if preferred, they can access a Family Learning Centre at their own school. This flexibility allowed the young parents to access nursery services on a full-time or part-time basis, which is essential as it provides childcare support while young parents pursue education. Research shows that the earlier children access nursery, the sooner they achieve important milestones, adapt to the world, build relationships, and have experiences with other children and adults. At the YPSB, they advocate for young people who become parents at an early age and prioritise supporting the needs of their children who may not have a voice of their own. Their goal is aligned with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Glasgow's commitment to supporting children's rights and respecting schools. The YPSB are not only supporting young parents who may struggle to express their thoughts and wishes but also to vocalise and support the needs of their children. In conclusion, ensuring prioritised access to nursery provisions is of utmost importance for the well-being and development of these children and the educational attainment and wellbeing of the young parents.

The YPSB also provides a range of services to young parents, impacting their lives positively. The YPSB provide essential financial support services to ensure the young parents' awareness of and access to necessary financial resources. Additionally, they prioritise their health needs by offering comprehensive health support and services. Moreover, the YPSB understand the importance of stable housing for young parents who have transitioned out of school and offer housing supports and benefits to assist them in securing suitable accommodation. Benchmarking these services against established standards ensures that they are consistently delivering high-quality support to young parents. By addressing their financial, health, and housing needs, they strive to create a nurturing and empowering environment for them to thrive in their roles as parents while pursuing their educational goals.

Young Parents' Support Base



Have conditions or demand changed since the project was introduced?	
No	
Yes	✓
<p>The demand for the YPSB services has remained consistent. However, the YPSB's nursery at Smithycroft Secondary School has a capacity for only nine children. Therefore, the Head of Centre encourages more schools to adopt their services within their own institutions. This would eliminate the need for young parents to change school services or travel long distances before lessons and provide efficient local support for young parents and their children.</p>	
Has the project had the capacity to meet these changing conditions and demand?	
Yes	✓
No	
<p>The overall support offered by the YPSB at Smithycroft Secondary School has remained consistent. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic there was a decrease in teenage pregnancies. For those young parents already using the YPSB service, they faced amplified challenges and limitations, particularly in terms of mental health issues and rates of abuse during the lockdown period. Although young parents have now returned to the support base, they exhibit more hesitancy and require additional encouragement. The emergence of a new generation of learners and the shift towards online education have affected their engagement with the services. In response, the has intensified its efforts to provide greater support, encouragement, and confidence-building for young parents.</p>	
Has the project changed through time?	
No	
Yes	✓
What changed	<p>The number of referrals for young parents across Glasgow has increased. However, the service is currently limited in terms of how many young parents they can support at once.</p>
Why has it changed	<p>The scale of referrals made across Glasgow and young parents supported by the YPSB increased due to a growing acceptance of teenage pregnancy, particularly in denominational schools.</p>

Young Parents' Support Base



Has the project had any unexpected or unintended outcomes?	
No	
Yes	✓
<p>An unexpected outcome for the YPSB is the realisation how other educational institutions view teenage pregnancy and its effects on young parents' school attendance and future educational paths. The services provided by the YPSB have played a role in shifting some of these perceptions. Following the opportunity to create a role for a YPSB teacher and a creative family links worker, the YPSB noticed that when young women become pregnant, their school attendance usually decreases. After notification of pregnancy, many schools' express concerns about the young women's ability to cope with their education and suggest that they may be better suited for a different educational path, such as moving on to college. This is challenging because the YPSB's goal to best support young parents is to keep young people in mainstream education for as long as possible, as it provides the greatest safety net. As an unintended outcome, they now have the ability to invite young mothers-to-be to join the YPSB while remaining registered at their own school. They can spend six weeks learning with them, catching up on missed learning before the pregnancy. This allows them to get up to speed, build confidence, and think about their own educational journey and future aspirations. It also provides them with key evidence to demonstrate to their schools the importance of giving these young women another opportunity to continue their education.</p> <p>Additionally, YPSB realised that it sometimes benefits them when young parents are not ready to transfer to Smithycroft Secondary and feel more comfortable coming only to the YPSB. They can experience a nurturing environment, meet other young parents, and learn about their journeys. This may make them start to consider that this is a place where they can continue their educational journey. This is another unexpected consequence of the work that they do.</p>	

Young Parents' Support Base



In your opinion, is the project having an impact on tackling poverty?	
No	
Yes	✓
<p>Providing support to young parents, maximising their education, and offering a seamless pathway towards further education or employment can significantly influence their life outcomes. It is important to remind young people, who may feel overwhelmed by the news of pregnancy, that they are still responsible and that the choices they make in the coming years will have a profound impact on their child. It is also crucial to consider how to support the children of young parents who come to the base. Supporting and nurturing the growth of the next generation of Glaswegians is of utmost importance. Ensuring that these children are placed in the best-supported childcare setting possible is essential and plays a significant role in addressing child poverty.</p>	

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Learning from Experience

What is working well?

The free nursery services within the YPSB are working best to eliminate young parents' barriers to education as well as the well-being and effective socialisation of their children. YPSB prioritise free nursery provision and strongly encourage young parents to take advantage of this opportunity. The base also allows young parents to access nursery services on a full-time or part-time basis, providing essential childcare support while they pursue education and ensuring a safe and nurturing environment for their children.

The lessons and services provided by the YPSB staff are instrumental in promoting the well-being, access to opportunities, and overall effective development of young parents and their children who attend the base. Key health and social messages to the staff are vital for the success of the project. This includes not only how they interact with the children and young parents but also the health and social messages they convey regarding the choices young parents make during the antenatal period and after the baby arrives. The lessons passed on by the YPSB have a profound impact on how young parents access health, housing, and financial support.

One of the most effective strategies when working with the Scottish Government was the involvement of young parents in research activities who were eager to volunteer their time. The young parents' involvement served as a strong indication to the government that there were young individuals and parents who were actively seeking to instigate change. Rather than being just another professional gathering information, these young parents, who had first-hand experience, were able to truly represent the concerns of other young people, which had a profound impact. By sharing their own stories and understanding the challenges faced by their peers, these young parents created a supportive and inclusive environment where meaningful conversations could take place. This not only gave a voice to the concerns of young people but also fostered a sense of community and empowerment, inspiring others to actively participate in instigating positive change.

The YPSB's taxi service is effectively addressing the transportation challenges that young parents in Glasgow face when it comes to accessing education. A key aspect of the service is the small transport budget provided by Glasgow City Council. The service is based in the Northeast of Glasgow, but young mothers and fathers travel from across the city, including the South Side, Northeast, and Northwest. Public transport, especially the bus services used by the young parents, forced them to arrive at the base extremely early to avoid missing the 8:50 am morning registration. This presented a significant challenge for young parents and one of the key barriers to young parents attending education. To address this issue, the service provides transport that allows young parents to be picked up by taxi. This not only ensures that they arrive at YPSB on time, but also provides a safe and secure travel environment for them and their children, allowing young parents to fully engage in education.

Young Parents' Support Base



What, if anything, is working less well?

In general, the Young Parents Support Board (YPSB) has been highly effective in supporting young parents, however, it may be acknowledged that certain limitations exist within the program. The YPSB at Smithycroft faces constraints in terms of capacity, which restricts the number of cases they can support within Smithycroft Secondary School. Additionally, there is a concerning issue of stigmatisation surrounding teenage pregnancy, particularly in denominational schools. This stigma negatively impacts the number of referrals the YPSB receives for young parents or pregnant students who require additional support and childcare.

What are the key learning points that you'd like to share with other practitioners?

Mapping services within the local area: it is crucial to identify and understand the services available for young parents and their families.

Highlighting the availability of these services: it is important to ensure that young parents are aware of the support available to them.

Consulting with young people and their families: it is necessary to involve them in the decision-making process and consider their perspectives.

Listening to experienced services within the communities: it helps to learn from other organisations that have already been working with young parents.

Taking the "temperature of the room": it is important to be aware of the young parents' current situation and needs and adjusting the project accordingly.

Are there plans to develop or expand the project in the future?

No

Yes

✓

Moving forward, a key area for the YPSB is to focus on making their services more sustainable. On the one hand, they want to make mentoring and support from young parents engaging with groups more sustainable. To achieve this, they are considering strategies to encourage more experienced and older young parents to participate in mentoring and support activities.

Moreover, the goal is to secure continued funding to enhance the YPSB outreach staff's employment status, transitioning them from part-time to full-time positions. Growing the project is important to securing funding and matches a desire to expand further. This includes potentially increasing the YPSB teacher's position from 0.3 to 0.5 or even full-time, allowing them to extend this valuable service to other schools in Glasgow. Such an expansion would be a significant achievement for the project, extending its reach beyond the current setting.

Young Parents' Support Base



How easily do you think this project could be replicated in another setting?

The YPSB head of Centre believes replicating the project in a different setting would be straightforward. He suggests that practitioners and local governments should assess the service cost and consider the consequences, also in financial terms, of not providing it for young parents and their children.

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