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Dear Colleague

Invite to Seminar on the Role of Parents in Sex Education

You are invited to attend a seminar on **Wednesday 26 October 2005**. The seminar will be held at the Lagan Valley Island Centre, Lisburn from 9.45a.m.-1.15 p.m. Refreshments will be available from 9.15 a.m. when registration will take place.

The seminar is organised by the Health Promotion Agency in association with the Sexual Health Information Group (sexual health promotion staff from HSS Boards and Trusts, GUM at RVH, and Barnardos). It aims to acknowledge the important protective role of parents in preventing adolescents' sexual risk-taking behaviour and teenage pregnancy.

The seminar is designed to support the Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Strategy and Action Plan 2002-2007. Within the strategy Action 6 calls to "facilitate the further development of community based programmes and courses on parent/child communication". In addition, a need for this issue to be addressed has been highlighted in feedback from a previous seminar on effective interventions in preventing teenage pregnancy organised by HPA in February 2005. Many participants of the earlier seminar stated their interest in programmes that focus on parents and adolescents with regard to sex education.

Northern Ireland rates of teenage pregnancy and STIs among young people still remain at a worrying level. Sexual risk-taking behaviour, defined as underage sexual intercourse, unprotected sexual activity and frequent change of sexual partners, raises concern as a contributing factor to these problems. Research has shown that parent-child connectedness, parental disapproval of adolescent sexual intercourse and open and interactive parent-adolescent communication about sexual matters are related to later sexual debut and more frequent use of condoms and other contraceptives. Thus the seminar will highlight the importance of the parent-adolescent relationship for sex education and provide examples of work undertaken.

We are delighted to have secured the services of several speakers from a diverse range of organisations. Their presentations will cover general lessons learned from longstanding programmes as well as specific information on promising projects that prepare parents for tackling issues of sex education with their adolescent children.

An opportunity will be provided at the seminar for discussion between participants so that knowledge and experience is shared.

The seminar will be of interest to those who work with young people in statutory, voluntary or community services. A registration fee of £10 per person is charged.

If you would like to attend please reserve a place by completing the online booking form as soon as possible, and no later than 7 October 2005.

Places will be filled on a first come first reserved application system. We will confirm your place and forward on a programme for the seminar. In the event of all places being filled we will notify you and place your name on a waiting list.

We look forward to welcoming you to the seminar, and to the opportunity to reflect on the evidence and its implications for our work.

Yours sincerely,

Diana Gossrau-Breen
Health Development Officer

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Health Promotion Agency

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Terms and Conditions

- Confirmation of booking: upon receipt of training event fee, a letter confirming your place with further details and a map of the location will be sent to you.
- Cancellation: 75% of the course fee will be reimbursed up to 14 days prior to the course. Fees are non-refundable after this date, but you may nominate someone to attend in your place.
- Subsidised fees are only available to applicants in Northern Ireland and details can be given on request.

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Your Details

First Name:

Surname:

Job Title:

Organisation:

Type of
organisation:

Work
Address:

Postcode:

Work Tel:

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Please specify any dietary or access requirements

Payment Details

Please mark the appropriate box.

I am forwarding a cheque for the course fee
(Cheques should be made payable to: **Health Promotion Agency for Northern Ireland**)

I wish to be invoiced **Invoices should be settled within 30 days.**
(Please indicate who should receive invoice)

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