

Dear Colleague

## **Invitation to attend a seminar**

### ***The sexual health needs of young people at risk of social exclusion***

You are invited to attend a seminar on **Thursday 11 January 2007**. The seminar will be held at the Lagan Valley Island Centre, Lisburn, from 10am -1pm. Refreshments will be available from **9.30am** when registration will take place.

The seminar is organised by the Health Promotion Agency for Northern Ireland in association with the Sexual Health Information Exchange Group (SHIEG), membership of which includes sexual health promotion staff from HSS Boards and Trusts, the Genito Urinary Medicine (GUM) clinic at RVH, and a range of voluntary and community organisations.

#### **The aims of the seminar are:**

- to highlight local research into the needs of young people at risk of social exclusion;
- to share local practice in relation to how these needs are being addressed.

The seminar is designed to support the *Teenage pregnancy and parenthood strategy and action plan 2002-2007*. In addition, a need for this issue to be addressed was highlighted in feedback from previous SHIEG seminars.

In Northern Ireland, rates of teenage pregnancy and STIs among young people 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.

This seminar will highlight the importance of programmes for young people at risk of social exclusion including young gay men, young people at risk of sexual exploitation and young people with learning disabilities.

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 organisations. A registration fee of £10 per person is charged.

To reserve a place at the seminar please use the enclosed booking form or book on line at [www.healthpromotionagency.org.uk](http://www.healthpromotionagency.org.uk) no later than **Friday 5 January 2007**. Places will be filled on a first come, first reserved application system. We will confirm your place and forward a programme for

the seminar on receipt of your booking form. 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 faithfully

Deirdre McNamee  
Senior Manager: Public Health