

Influencing Effective National policy: Lessons from Europe

Alison Hosie

Dept of Sociology & Social Policy

University of Newcastle Upon Tyne

alison.hosie@ncl.ac.uk

0191 222 7921

Report webpage:

<http://www.hebs.Scottish.nhs.UK/research/cr/crscripts/FTReportTocM.cfm?TxtCode=1253&Nav=1&school=documents>

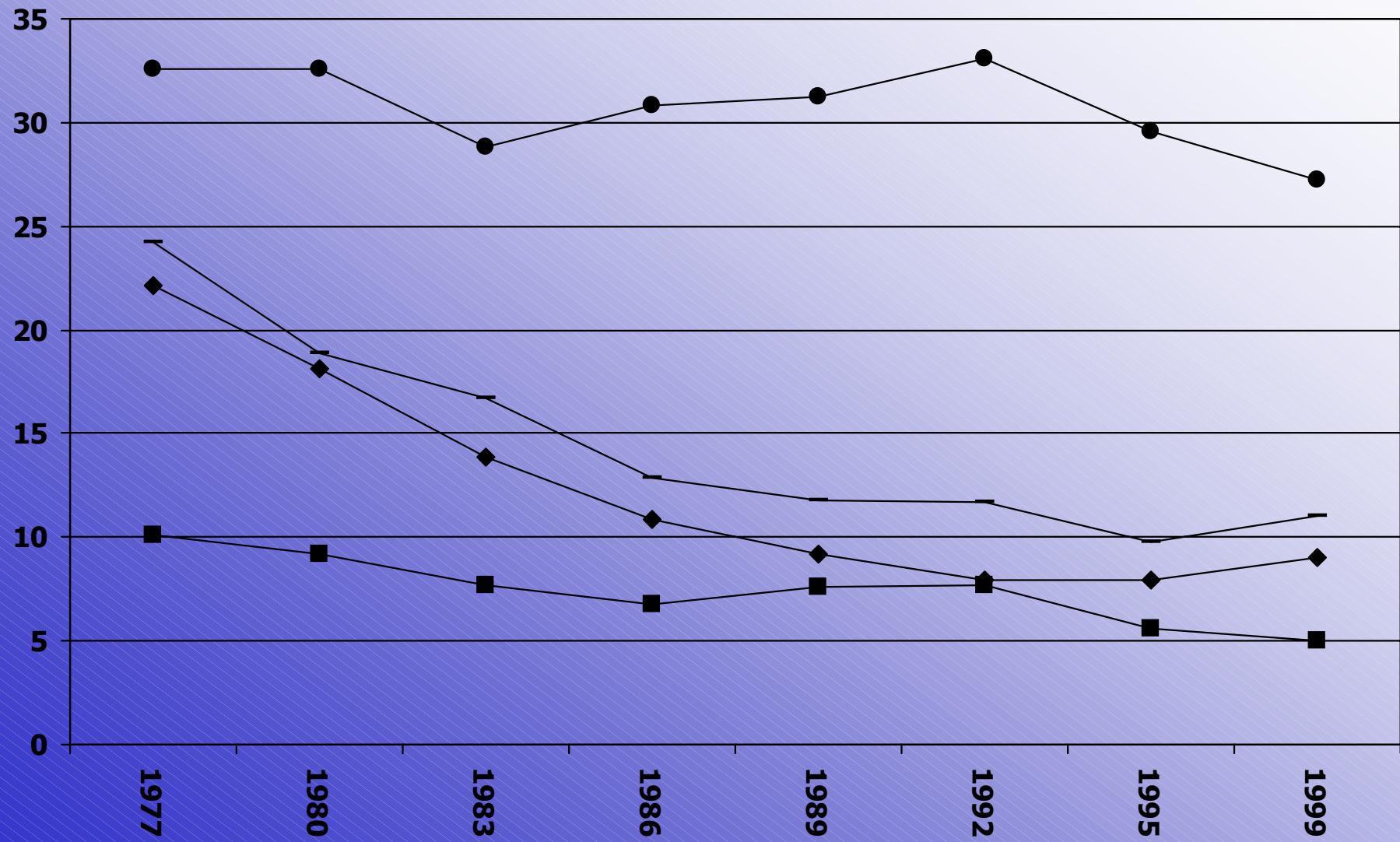


Three Key Pre-requisites to contraceptive use

- **Sex education: knowledge and skills**
- **Sexual health: access to services**
- **Education: one potential source of motivation**

Birth rate per 1000 women aged 15-19 trend for 4 European countries, 1977-1999

● Scotland — Finland ♦ France ■ Netherlands





Sex education	Finland	France	The Netherlands	Scotland
Access - sex education	9	4	8	3
Socio-sexual attitudes	9	4	9	4
Public climate - sex education	9	5	9	5
Provision amount	Comprehensive	Limited	Comprehensive	Limited
Responsibility for policy development	School, government, municipality	School	School	School

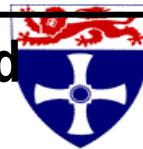


Sex education	Finland	France	The Netherlands	Scotland
Curriculum location	Biology, Health & Family Ed	Biology	Biology, Social care	Biology, PSE
Teaching environment	Mixed + Single	Mixed	Mixed (some single)	Mixed
Teacher training	Subject pre-service Voluntary In-service	Subject pre-service Voluntary In-service	Subject pre-service Voluntary In-service	Subject pre-service Voluntary In-service
Teaching Methods	Didactic + Active-learning	Primarily Didactic	Didactic, learning-based, role-play	Primarily Didactic
Content	Biological, Social/ethical Sexual health + Positive	Biological, HIV/AIDS + Negative	Biological, Social/ethical, Sexual health + Positive	Biological, HIV/AIDS, Limited on Relationships + Negative
Focus on young men specifically	yes	no	yes	no
Use of sexual health experts	Occasional	Occasional	Common	Occasional



Additional requirements for young people's access to sexual health services

- **Geographical location of a service and 'visibility' of a service**
- **Suitable opening times**
- **Confidential services**
- **Informal and user-friendly services**
- **Professional attitudes and linguistics**
- **Services which were inclusive and recognised the needs of young men.**



Sexual health	Finland	France	The Netherlands	Scotland
Availability of general public primary care services	Wide access	Wide access	Wide access	Wide access
Availability if youth specific clinics	Being developed	Limited	Well developed	Being developed
On-site school nurse clinic provision	Universal	None	None	Very limited
Confidentiality to under 18s	Guaranteed	Guaranteed except abortion	Guaranteed	Meant to be Guaranteed
Cost of contraceptives	Some free/ low	Some free/ low	Some free/ low	Some free/ low



Sexual health	Finland	France	The Netherlands	Scotland
Condom availability	Wide	Wide	Wide	Wide
Condom Advertising on TV	Yes (1 st in mid-1980s)	Yes (1 st in 1987)	Yes (1 st in 1969)	Yes (1 st in 1987)
Legal age of consent	16 (14-15 not prosecutable)	16	16 (in practice 12)	16
Reported contraceptive use at 1 st intercourse	<85%	<90%	<85%	45-55%
Estimated average age of first intercourse	16.5	16 (m) 17(f)	17.5	16.5



Associations between higher levels of education and:

- Higher levels of sexual knowledge**
- Higher age of first intercourse**
- More effective contraceptive efficiency**
- Abortion as the more common outcome
of pregnancy**
- A higher age of first birth and smaller
number of children over a woman's
fertile life course**

Relationships between a high % of 16-18 year olds continuing in education or training and :



- **Significantly lower rates of teenage pregnancy**
- **Significantly higher rates of contraceptive use amongst young people at first intercourse**
- **Significantly higher proportions of abortion to birth as an outcome of pregnancy**
- **Significantly higher age of first birth**



Education	Finland	France	The Netherlands	Scotland
Age at end of compulsory schooling	16	15	17(18)	16
Age range of upper secondary	16-19	16-18/19	16-17(18)	16-17(18)
Annual Proportion remaining in school post-16	<90%	<90%	<85%	<55%
Access to vocational education at upper secondary	High	High	High	Being developed, limited. Stigmatised.



Key message for the strategy

- Holistic
- Awareness of the 'wider picture' of young people's lives
- Pragmatic
- Positive
- Young people orientated