
OVERVIEW OF HEALTH & LEISURE PORTFOLIO

Purpose of the Report

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the main areas of work under my Health and Leisure Portfolio were as follows:

Healthy Darlington

2. The Healthy Darlington Business Group reviewed and refreshed the Healthy Darlington Delivery Plan and updated this with progress to date across all agreed actions. Across all 69 actions, the majority are either on target or exceeding target.
3. The Director of Public Health has convened a working group of key partners to undertake the refresh of the Darlington Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) so that it continues to describe and reflect the key challenges for the health and wellbeing of the people of Darlington.
4. The Junior One Life Programme has successfully completed its first 12 week programme. This programme works with young people who have been referred due to them being identified as clinically overweight or obese. The staff work with the young people and their families with a planned programme of evidence based lifestyle and motivational interventions to improve their health.
5. A presentation was given to the Senior Managers Network meeting by Public Health about H1N1 (Swine flu) pandemic in conjunction with other lead departments from within Darlington Borough Council.

Public Protection Division

Pandemic Influenza

6. I have been consulted on the work underway to deal with the ongoing pandemic and to prepare for a potential more serious second wave later in the year. The current pandemic, if it follows the pattern of previous pandemics, will affect our population in two or even three waves, the first of which now appears to be subsiding as numbers of new cases in the UK are dropping. A potential second wave, co-inciding with our winter and seasonal flu could affect many more people. Officers are implementing Darlington Borough Council's Pandemic Flu plan so that we:
 - (a) Ensure continuity of essential services
 - (b) Develop the Council's resilience to high sickness levels caused by flu
 - (c) Support members of the public and key partners such as the Primary Care Trust, and

- (d) Help to slow down the spread of the disease through provision of advice and information

Tobacco Control

- 7. Under the Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991 the Council has a duty to consider the extent to which it is appropriate to carry out a programme of enforcement. I have been consulted on the details of the enforcement programme carried out this year and the proposals to continue this enforcement programme over the next twelve months, which includes:
 - (a) A programme of inspections to premises selling tobacco
 - (b) A programme of inspections to premises where cigarette vending machines are sited
 - (c) The investigation of complaints in respect of alleged offences (including test purchasing)
 - (d) A programme of checks on retailers using test purchasing
 - (e) Raising awareness of traders and children through the use of publicity
- 8. In the last year, 273 inspections of premises selling tobacco were made by officers in Trading Standards, and 50 infringements were noted and acted upon.

Sports Development

Locality Cluster of Activities April 2009 – 2010

- 9. A diverse range of positive activities are being provided by the Sports Development Team within the locality programme. Summer Programme Activities have been delivered across Darlington including Dance, Cricket, Swimming, Street Cheer, Bike Skills, Tennis, Dodgeball, Rock It Ball, Football, Gymnastics and Bouldering Camps. All Camps and sessions have been delivered in community venues including local Primary and Secondary Schools, Community Centres, Children's Centres, Leisure Centres and Local Churches.
- 10. A comprehensive programme of extended activities has been planned for September 2009 across localities including a vast range of after school clubs and community based sessions.

Darlington Community Games 2009

- 11. On Thursday 9 July 2009 Darlington Sports Development Team in partnership with Darlington School Sports Partnership and NHS Darlington delivered the Community Games at Eastbourne Sports Complex. The aim of the Community Games was to encourage young people to become more active and take part in sport and physical activity on a regular basis. More than 500 pupils from 23 primary schools in Darlington took part in the event which included football, tennis, tag rugby, bouldering, athletics and cricket.
- 12. To prepare for the Games, pupils took part in more than 120 hours of coaching provided by the Sports Development Team with support from schools' PE co-ordinators. Young people have the opportunity to now go on to join local sports clubs and make sport a regular part of their life.

Primary Festivals

13. On Wednesday 24 June and 1 July 2009 the Darlington Primary School Athletics Field and Track events were held at Eastbourne Sports Complex with 24 schools taking part and over 600 participants from Year 3 – 6. The event was organised by Darlington Sports Development Team alongside the Darlington School Sports Partnership.

Zone Active

14. More than 80 separate sports camps were delivered throughout Darlington by the Zone Active Project during the summer vacation with funding from NHS Darlington. Activities such as Street Soccer, Cricket, Dance, Multi Sport sessions and Climbing have been provided in various community venues including Lingfield Green, Redhall, North Lodge Park, Gurney Pease school and Eastbourne Sports Complex. Zone Active has also supported Groundwork and the Youth Service on their summer programmes.

Partnership with NHS Darlington

Teen Card

15. The partnership between Darlington Sports Development, Youth Services, Arriva and Local Motion is providing young people with the opportunity to access subsidised travel across the Borough at off peak times and additionally provides access to subsidised leisure provision. In the first quarter there have been 102 young people accessing swimming using the Teen Card and 136 young people accessing the Pulse Suite.

Children Centre Swimming

16. Hundreds of parents and children are accessing the subsidised swimming programme. The programme is encouraging families to become active and lead healthier lifestyles. The Children Centres are now offering further opportunities for families to access health and fitness through Gymnastics, Climbing and Walking.

Darlington Investors in Health

17. Darlington Sports Development Team are currently working with a number of businesses to support progress with the Darlington Investors in Health Award. The businesses that are currently involved in the initial pilot programme are Cummins, Darlington Borough Council, Darlington Primary Care Trust, Student Loan Company, CastleBeck, Sherwoods and The Northern Echo. Businesses are supported through provision of Mini Health MOT's, provision of exercise classes, lead walks, advise on implementing exercise into everyday work and support for varying levels of fitness and well being.

Family Initiative Supporting Children's Health

18. Darlington's FISCH programme will commence in September 2009. Promotion of the programme has taken place over recent months and 5 local primary schools will initially take part in the programme. This project supports families to adopt healthy lifestyles and acts as an intervention for cases of childhood obesity.

Older People's Programme

19. An investment of £20,000 from the National Health Trust has supported Tees Valley Sport and Darlington Borough Council's Sports Development Team to work with a variety of providers of services for Older Adults to look at preferred exercise opportunities for adults aged 75 years plus. Three consultation days took place to discuss what would be the preferred way for older adults to exercise and keep mobile and active.
20. Focus groups were completed with older adults and carers to develop a base to work from to pilot a new exercise programme that can be delivered by carers. A training package is being piloted in September with three organisations including Age Concern, Lifeline Services and Middleton Retirement Village to determine if this training should be rolled out to all organisations that work with older adults to support in promoting Physical activity and social well being.

Darlington Doorstep Walks

21. Darlington Doorstep walks now has 300 members and 58 walk leaders, 40 of which are within specific organisations around Darlington so that the scheme can provide support in leading walks for service users. .

Events

The Race For Life (in aid of Cancer Research UK) - Sunday 14 June 2009

22. Working in partnership with Cancer Research UK and Quakers Running Club, Cultural Services assisted in the organisation of The Race for Life on Sunday 14 June 2009
23. South Park was the venue for the event which attracted 4,000 women who walked or ran the 5km course and it is anticipated that over £175,000 will be raised in support of Cancer Research UK. Darlington Community Wind Band provided music to accompany the runners during the race.

Darlington Community Carnival - Saturday 27 June 2009

24. Working in partnership with Darlington Community Carnival Committee, the events team assisted with the organisation and delivery of a very successful Carnival in its 27th year.

The Romans at the Museum – Sunday 19 July 2009

25. The Romans at the Railway Museum was a first time event born out of raising awareness of the Roman Fort Site at Piercebridge to the broader Darlington Community with the aim to make it appealing to a family audience. The event was a huge success attracting over 1000 visitors during the course of the day with excellent feed back from those attending.

Darlington by The Sea – Thursday 23 July 2009

26. Following the success of 2008, the popular Darlington by The Sea event returned to the Market Square on Thursday July 23 and attracted several thousand people throughout the day. A variety of attractions and activities all with a seaside and nautical theme provided entertainment for a largely family audience. The event also received widespread positive media coverage including local press and coverage on both BBC and ITV's regional news.

Big Picnic – Friday 31 July 2009

27. On Friday 31 July over 1000 people enjoyed Darlington's first Big Picnic in South Park. Alpha Radio supported the event by providing music as families played and ate together. The countryside team helped many children make kites to fly in the park, while Zone Active provided cricket and football for the sports enthusiasts who were there. Groundwork's Play Rangers provided crafts and activities so everyone had something to do or play with.

The Darlington 10km – Sunday 9 August 2009

28. The 22nd Darlington 10km attracted a record entry of 1242 runners and over 150 people also took part in the two supporting events, The Junior 3km and The Family Fun Run. Sherwoods of Darlington were the headline sponsor for the 7th consecutive year and the event is now established as one of the best supported road races in the region.

Arts Centre & Civic Theatre

ArtsSpark

29. On Wednesday 15 July, Darlington Arts Centre presented the ArtsSpark Showcase, a celebration of ArtsSpark Youth Theatre and Dance activity by young people. Over 80 young people aged between 5 and 19 took part in the showcase event, where each of the Youth Theatre and Dance groups had the opportunity to share their work with each other as well as a full audience of family and friends. The Showcase was a huge success providing the young people with a chance to share ideas, inspire each other, and develop ideas to work together in the future.
30. The Arts Team, in partnership with Youth Services organised an event for young people as part of the Department for Children, Schools and Families 'Open Weekend' initiative that took place on 11 July. The 'Open Weekend' initiative involved local authorities and their partners delivering positive activities over the weekend to improve access for young people to positive activities on a Friday and Saturday night.
31. In partnership with NECA (North East Council on Addiction), a project is underway to create a series of murals reflecting life in Darlington as seen by the adult participants who are recovering from substance abuse. With the support from Arts Development the artist will guide the project to produce work, which will enthuse those involved and offer positive goals and expectations for their future.

Holiday Workshops

32. A diverse range of holiday workshops have been provided at Darlington Arts Centre. From drama to dance, arts & crafts to creative writing, music to ceramics – the approach of something for everyone whatever their age or ability has been targeted. The most popular workshop has been the family gallery Arts for All; each Monday throughout the summer holidays families have participated in Myles Meehan and Lounge Gallery inspired workshops, parents and carers working with their children to create imaginative and inclusive art.

Visual and Public Art

33. Darlington Borough Art Collection has been re-catalogued using Modes, which is the Museum and Libraries Archives Council recommended system. This makes the information easier to access and will enable us to develop more detailed electronic records on the paintings.
34. An exhibition of artworks from Darlington Borough Art Collection has been exhibited in the Myles Meehan Gallery during Friday 10 July until Saturday 22 August. This exhibition has received a lot of public interest and positive feedback, attracting 3258 visitors. Education workshops based around the artworks were held throughout the exhibition.
35. Four paintings from the Darlington Borough Art Collection have been conserved by Northumbria University and were exhibited in the exhibition above. The conservation has meant that we could see the signature on one of the paintings previously recorded as unknown and successfully identified the artist.

Councillor S Harker
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Health and Leisure