

DARLINGTON LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP  
DELIVERING 'ONE DARLINGTON : PERFECTLY PLACED'

**ASPIRING DARLINGTON THEME GROUP  
DELIVERY PLAN 2008 – 2011**

## ASPIRING DARLINGTON

### Introduction

**Chair:** Cllr Chris McEwan, Lead Member for Children’s Services, Darlington Borough Council  
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### Overview

Aspiring Darlington is about raising the level that people can expect to achieve and to ensure that young people have equal chances of success through their formative years. The Children’s Trust is the body which will drive forward actions to address priorities and to ensure all agencies are working together effectively. The priorities reflect the need to engage with children and their parents or carers as well as to create a smooth transition through the different phases of their lives. This includes ensuring schools are of the highest possible standards as well as having strong links with employers to ensure that young people develop the skills and knowledge required for their future lives.

<b>ASPIRING DARLINGTON</b>						
<b>SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY INDICATORS</b>						
<b>Performance Indicators</b> [Those from National indicator set shown with a *]	<b>2021 Target</b>	<b>Baseline (2006/07)</b> Unless indicated otherwise	<b>LAA Improvement Targets</b> [All in this table are designated]			<b>Partners signed up to targets:</b> Members of Children's Trust LSP Theme Group: [Lead Partner shown with a *]
			<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	
<b>NI 075*</b> Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths (Threshold)		46.1%	50.2%	58.7%	59.2%	Learning and Skills Council*
<b>NI082</b> Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19		50.8%	55%	60%	65%	Darlington BC (Children's Services)*
<b>NI 102*</b> Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stage 2 and 4.		KS2 36.7 KS4 36.5 (Summer 2007)	33 33	30 30	27 27	Darlington BC (Children's Services)*

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**LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT INDICATORS**

Priority	Performance Indicators [Those from National indicator set shown with a *]	Baseline (2006/07) Unless indicated otherwise	LAA Improvement Targets [All in this table are designated]			Partners signed up to targets: Members of Children's Trust LSP Theme Group: [Lead Partner shown with a *]
			2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	
Aspiring Darlington	<b>NI 091*</b> Participation of 17 year-olds in education or training	79% (2006)	81%	83%	85%	Learning and Skills Council* Darlington College and other partners of Children's Trust
	<b>NI 063*</b> Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placements	50.8%	55%	60%	65%	Darlington BC (Children's Services)*
	<b>NI 080*</b> Achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19	41.5%	46.1%	47.6%	49.1%	Learning and Skills Council* Darlington College and other partners of Children's Trust
	<b>NI 006*</b> Participation in regular volunteering	New PI (1)	Baseline 20%	----	23%	eVOLution Darlington BC (Chief Executive's Department)* via Place Survey
	<b>NI 116*</b> Proportion of children in poverty (2)	20.7% (DCSF/DWP)	18.8%	17.7%	16.6%	Darlington BC (Assistant Chief Executive – Regeneration)*
	<b>NI 057*</b> Children and young people's participation in high quality PE/sport	New PI (3) 87% 06/07 89% 07/08	Baseline 90%	91%	92%	Darlington BC (Children's Services)*

- (1) Collection will be through the new (biennial) Place Survey. Baseline to be established in 2008/09, results in 2009 allowing target to be set for 2010/11.
- (2) Sources of data for an income based measure will be developed nationally for use from April 2009. Interim measure is to be proportion of children who live in families where out of work benefits are received.
- (3) Schools and School Sports Partnerships report school data through an annual School Sport Survey. Community provision for 16-19 year olds will be collected by a separate new survey.

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**STATUTORY EDUCATIONAL INDICATORS**

Priority	Performance Indicators [Those from National indicator set shown with a *]	Baseline (Summer 2007)	LAA Statutory Targets			Partners signed up to targets: Members of Children’s Trust LSP Theme Group:  [Lead Partner shown with a *]
			Education and Early Years			
			Summer 2008	Summer 2009	Summer 2010	
Aspiring Darlington	<b>NI 072*</b> Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal Social and Emotional development and Communication, Language and Literacy	52.6%	62.5%	55.8%	56.0%	Darlington BC (Children’s Services)* PVI settings Schools Primary Schools [Local authorities report data to DCSF]  Secondary Schools Academy  [Data for Key Stage results via individual schools]
	<b>NI 073*</b> Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (Threshold)	72.7%	76.0%	78.0%	79.0%	
	<b>NI 075*</b> Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths (Threshold)	<b>46.1%</b>	<b>50.2%</b>	58.7%	59.2%	
	<b>NI 087*</b> Secondary school persistent absence rate	<b>8.1%</b>	7.5%	6.8%	5.0%	
	<b>NI 092*</b> Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest	<b>37.7%</b>	39.0%	34.0%	33.0%	

<b>ASPIRING DARLINGTON</b>						
<b>STATUTORY EDUCATIONAL INDICATORS (CONTINUED)</b>						
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Performance Indicators</b> [Those from National indicator set shown with a *]	<b>Baseline (Summer 2007)</b>	<b>LAA Statutory Targets</b>			<b>Partners signed up to targets:</b> Members of Children's Trust LSP Theme Group:  [Lead Partner shown with a *]
			<b>Summer 2008</b>	<b>Summer 2009</b>	<b>Summer 2010</b>	
Aspiring Darlington	<b>NI 093*</b> Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	<b>87.8%</b>	90.0%	88.0%	89.0%	Darlington BC (Children's Services)*
	<b>NI 094*</b> Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	<b>78.5%</b>	80.0%	83.0%	84.0%	Primary Schools [Local authorities report data to DCSF]
	<b>NI 099*</b> Children in care reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2	<b>25.0%</b>	33.3%	60.0%	50.0%	[Data for Key Stage results via individual schools]
	<b>NI 100*</b> Children in care reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2	<b>37.5%</b>	33.3%	60.0%	75.0%	Secondary Schools Academy
	<b>NI 101*</b> Children in care achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths)	<b>0.0%</b>	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	

**ASPIRING DARLINGTON**

**Priorities and work strands**

**Short to Medium Term Work Strands**

Work Strand 1: Ensure all children receive high quality teaching and learning

Work Strand 2: Easing transition from primary to secondary school

Work Strand 3: Improving parenting and communications with parents

Work Strand 4: Engaging with employers

Work Strand 5: Routes to higher education in Darlington

Work Strand 6: Early intervention and preventative work

Work Strand 7: Supporting aspiration, life-long learning and personal development

Work Strand 8: Learning environments

**WORK STRAND**

**1. Ensure all children receive high quality teaching and learning**

Ensure all children receive high quality teaching and learning, improving academic progress and reducing the disparity in performance between schools, phases and vulnerable groups highlighted

Ref	Issues / Actions	Milestone	Lead Officer(s)/ Agency	WS NI	Source Strategy/ Action Plan	Resources
1a	To establish a Darlington school leadership college	June 2008	Andy Dunn Children's Services Darlington BC	NI 072 NI 073 NI 075 NI 076 NI 078 NI 084 NI 089 NI 092 NI 093 NI 094 NI 099 NI 100 NI 101 NI 102 NI 104 NI 105	Children's Services Departmental Service Plan	Within existing resources
1b	For Governing bodies to carry out self review programme, so identifying CPD	Review September 2008				Within existing resources
1c	To further develop SIP and Lead Officer intervention to ensure Darlington Schools Ofsted reports are largely good and outstanding	Review September 2008				Within existing resources
1d	To develop the Foundation Stage strategy	September 2008				Within existing resources
1e	To link the best performing schools with those in need of improvement to ensure that skills are transferred	September 2008				Within existing resources



**WORK STRAND****2. Easing the transition from primary to secondary education**

Improve transition across all setting phases and services especially for vulnerable groups

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Issues / Actions</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Lead Officer(s)/ Agency</b>	<b>WS NI</b>	<b>Source Strategy/ Action Plan</b>	<b>Resources</b>
2a	To implement the findings of the Director's Transition Commission	Sept 2008	Andy Dunn Children's Services Darlington BC	NI 072 NI 093 NI 094 NI 099	Children's Services Departmental Service Plan	Within existing resources
2b	Data arrangements in place for schools by September 2008 to include establishing a transition model: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a transition model for all schools, informed by existing good practice in Darlington</li> <li>• Ensure that children in year 6 spend at least a week in secondary school during the second half of the summer term</li> <li>• Work with Community Services and Health to improve the transition to Adult Services for young people with LDD</li> <li>• Ensuring smooth transitions through use of the CAF</li> </ul>	Mar 2009				Mar 2009

**WORK STRAND**

**3. Improving parenting and communications with parents**

Increase engagement of children, young people and their families and carers in the design and delivery of services including the improvement of parenting skills

Ref	Issues / Actions	Milestone	Lead Officer(s)/ Agency	WS NI	Source Strategy/ Action Plan	Resources
3a	To review and revise the Consultation and Engagement Strategy, including systems for engaging and involving those with disabilities	Report CTB April 2008	Mervyn Bell Children's Services Darlington BC		Consultation and Engagement Strategy	Within existing resources
3b	To submit the revised strategy to Children's Trust. To provide CTB with progress with implementation CES	Report CTB May 2008 Report CTB March 2009				
3c	Increase engagement of children, young people and their families and carers in the design and delivery of services including the improvement of parenting skills	May 2008				
3d	To maintain 'What's Changed' logs to monitor impact of engagement on service design.	<b>Report June 2008</b>				
3e	Identify and map areas of greatest need for the enhanced provision of parental engagement	December 2008	Anita Hamer Children's Services Darlington BC		Parenting Strategy	Within existing resources
3f	Develop a Parents' Charter setting out responsibilities across all agencies providing services to parents and carers	March 2009				
3g	Develop a Parenting Practitioner Forum  Develop Parent Forums in each Locality Area	Deliver PPF Sept 2008 March 2009				
3h	Develop a Darlington Quality Standard for work with parents and carers	March 2009				Within existing resources

**WORK STRAND****4. Engaging with employers**

Enhance people's skills in relation to the job market, by tackling the disparities in employment prospects and economic opportunity across Darlington

Ref	Issues / Actions	Milestone	Lead Officer(s)/ Agency [Lead Partner shown with a *]	WS NI	Source Strategy/ Action Plan	Resources
4a	Complete feasibility study around the development of a skills centre with a view to further development of alternative and vocational provision	2008-09 Report 14-19 Trust	Andy Dunn * Children's Services Darlington BC	NI 075 NI 078 NI 079 NI 080	Children and Young people's Plan	Within existing resources
4b	Access for all Y9 and Y11 students to 1:1 IAG with careers qualified staff	2009-2010 Report 14-19 Trust	Darlington College and other Children's Trust Partners	NI 081 NI 082 NI 084		Within existing resources
4c	Engage with employers more effectively improve range and quality of work experience offer.	2009-2010 Report 14-19 Trust		Nik Grewer* Darlington BC		NI 085 NI 090 NI 091 NI 117
4d	To develop an Engineering Skills Project, working with approximately 6 key engineering employers within the Town offering subsidised work placements to young people and some form of cash incentive to the individuals upon completion.		2009-2010 Report 14-19 Trust			Darlington College and other Children's Trust Partners
4e	To develop vocational diplomas in areas including Engineering, Information Technology, Creative Media and Hospitality					

**WORK STRAND**

**5. Routes to Higher Education in Darlington**

Accelerate progress with all aspects of the implementation of the 14 -19 Strategy

Ref	Issues / Actions	Milestone	Lead Officer(s)/ Agency [Lead Partner shown with a *]	WS NI	Source Strategy/ Action Plan	Resources
5a	Implement the revised 14-19 strategy agreed by 14-19 Trust	From April 2008	Andy Dunn * Children's Services Darlington BC	NI 075 NI 079 NI 080 NI 081 NI 082 NI 085 NI 090 NI 091 NI 117	Children's Services Departmental Service Plan	Within existing resources
5b	Develop protocols around cross institution delivery of 14-19 offer	March 2009	Darlington College and other Children's Trust Partners			
5c	Develop further and raise awareness of borough-wide 14-19 Prospectus	December 2008				
5d	Ensure consortium plans are in place for effective delivery of 2009 Diploma offer	September 2009				
5e	NEET strategy Action plan 2008-10 implemented	2010				ESF funding £647,812 for work with vulnerable groups
5f	Review KS4 Engagement strategy funding	March 2009				Within existing resources
5g	Support routes into Higher Education and the development of University provision in Darlington	March 2009				Within existing resources

**WORK STRAND****6. Early intervention and preventative working**

Develop strong systems to ensure early intervention and preventative work is appropriately targeted in the areas of need

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Issues / Actions</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Lead Officer(s)/ Agency</b>	<b>WS NI</b>	<b>Source Strategy/ Action Plan</b>	<b>Resources</b>
6a	Develop and implement integrated working  Develop a Project Team to progress Integrated Working	Report CTB Jan 2009 Report CTB May 2009	Gill Walker Children's Services Darlington BC Mark Cain Locality Lead PCT	NI 045 NI 050 NI 053 NI 056 NI 057 NI 063 NI 087 NI 092 NI 102 NI 104 NI 105 NI 110 NI 111 NI 112 NI 114 NI 117	Locality Strategy	Within existing resources
6b	Capture range of data to inform the identification of local need	Locality Profiles February 2008/ Sept 2008				
6c	Review current staffing arrangements for locality working  Appoint Integrated Area Managers  Develop Integrated Teams	Report to CTB May 2009  May 2009  October 2009				PCT will fund one IAM
6d	Complete accommodation audit to support locality working	Report to CTB Autumn 2009				

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6e	<p>Reduce School Absence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the number of persistent absentees through better targeting and bespoke action planning</li> <li>• To work with parents and settings to improve the support for school attendance.</li> </ul>	<p>Updates to CTB March 2010</p>	Gill Walker	NI087	Children's Services Departmental Service Plan	existing resources
6f	<p>Extend opportunities and access to cultural, sports and formal/informal youth activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop and deliver a wide range of initiatives across all YS areas</li> <li>• To ensure that there is a programme in place for key school holiday periods</li> <li>• To extend the range and scope of programmes and activity at weekend periods</li> </ul>	<p>From April 2008</p> <p>Easter 2008 and every holiday period thereafter</p> <p>July 2008</p>	Mike Crawshaw /Mervyn Bell	NI057	Children's Services Departmental Service Plan	<p>existing resources</p> <p>YCAP resources will support this action</p>
6g	<p>Maximise Leisure opportunities for children and young people with additional needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To continue delivery of Inclusive Leisure Fund opportunities</li> </ul>	<p>Programme agreed by May 2009</p>	Kevin Kelly	NI057	Children's Services Departmental Service Plan	existing resources

<b>WORK STRAND</b>							
<b>7. Supporting aspiration, lifelong learning and personal development</b>							
Support aspirations through life-long learning and opportunities for personal development							
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Issues / Actions</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Lead Officer(s)/ Agency</b>	<b>WS NI</b>	<b>Source Strategy/ Action Plan</b>	<b>Resources</b>	
7a	To increase engagement in the arts	March 2009	Ruth Bernstein	NI 009 NI 092 NI 161 NI 162	Sustainable Community Strategy/  Children's Services Departmental Service Plan	Within existing resources	
7b	To develop community provision	March 2009	Ruth Bernstein				
7c	To increase skills provision for adults	March 2009	Ruth Bernstein				
7d	To commission an Adult Learning Review	Dec 2008				Sustainable Community Strategy	Within existing resources
	To implement the recommendations highlighted from the review	Commence February 2009	Ruth Bernstein				
	To develop a working group from Aspiring (Children's Trust Board) and Prosperous to progress these actions.	Review report to CTB Jan 2010					
7e	To develop a Volunteering Strategy	April 2010	Karen Grundy eVOLution		Sustainable Community Strategy	Within existing resources	

**WORK STRAND**

**8. Learning environments**

Provide high quality learning environments

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Issues / Actions</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Lead Officer(s)/ Agency</b>	<b>WS NI</b>	<b>Source Strategy/ Action Plan</b>	<b>Resources</b>
8a	To provide new or substantially refurbished secondary schools throughout the Borough	2012	George McQueen Children's Services Darlington BC		Capital Strategy (Primary Capital Strategy, Building Schools for the Future)	BSF not yet allocated
8b	To implement our Primary capital strategy to provide suitable learning spaces	2009-2010			Primary Capital Strategy £12.544m	
8c	To carefully manage, in partnership with Governors, Devolved formula Capital	March 2010			Capital Strategy	
8d	To pursue pathfinder capital to build/expand our experience in sustainable/carbon-neutral building developments	March 2010				