
OVERVIEW OF HEALTH & LEISURE PORTFOLIO

Purpose of Report

1. During the last eight-week cycle, the following were the main areas of work under my Leisure Portfolio:

Background

Events

Race for Life – Sunday 10 June 2007

2. The Darlington Race for life organised by Cancer Research UK, the Leisure and Arts Events Team and the Quaker Running Club was held in the South Park on Sunday, 10 June 2007. The event attracted over 4000 female participants of all ages and abilities raising sponsorship for Cancer Research UK. Entertainment was provided by music from Hurworth Concert Band in the bandstand and Century Radio.

Community Carnival and Launch of Darlington's New Town Centre – Saturday, 30 June 2007– Sunday, 1 July 2007

3. Darlington celebrated the launch of its new look town centre, with live entertainers, magicians and musicians, on Saturday, 30 June 2007 and Sunday, 1 July 2007.
4. On the Saturday, the annual Community Carnival, which celebrated its 25th anniversary, processed through the town centre, stopping to see the official openings of Life Pulse, the Water Cascade and the naming of the new performance space 'Joseph Pease Place' by the Mayor. Performances included: street artists, music, human statues, balloon modelling, stilt walkers, costumed performers and acrobats.

Street Art Programme – summer 2007

5. Following the success of last years Street Art an exciting and varied programme of entertainment was organised by the Leisure and Arts Events Team in the newly created performance space Joseph Pease Place with additional walkabout characters performing throughout the town centre.
6. The event commenced on Wednesday, 4 July 2007 with an operatic performance of Two Gentleman from Verona and culminating on Monday, 3 September 2007 with a musical trio a varied programme of music, children's entertainment and workshops, street theatre, drama and dance was programmed each Saturday and Monday throughout the summer.
7. Amateur performers also took advantage of the Street Art programme and were given permission to busk in the town centre.

Diabetes UK Great North Walk – Sunday, 15 July 2007

8. Following the success of last years Great North Walk Nova International approached Darlington to host the walk for a second consecutive year. The event started and finished at Springfield Park. The walk was organised by the Countryside Team, Leisure and Arts Events Team and Nova International and attracted over 3000 participants who took part in either a 9 mile walk or a 3 mile Junior walk, developed to encourage more young people to participate and a 3 mile wheels friendly route.

The Sherwood's Darlington 10km Road Race – Sunday, 12 August 2007

9. A record entry of 1119 participated in The Darlington 10km Road race, which for the fifth year running was sponsored by Sherwood's. 2007 was the 20th year for the road race and it was third year in succession, that a record entry was recorded.
10. The 10km is supported by a Family Fun Run and a junior 3km race, which attracted almost 200 entrants. All races started and finished in the newly pedestrianised area of the town.
11. The race was again organised in partnership with Rotary Club of Darlington and it is hoped that around £4,000 will be raised for Rotary's nominated charity which this year is Butterflies, a support service provided by St Teresa's for young people affected by cancer.
12. The event also received excellent support from Darlington Police and its associate sponsors, Alpha FM, The Northern Echo, Mizuno and Highland Spring.

The Woodlands Hospital Darlington Cycling Festival

13. Leisure and Arts and the Council's Local Motion team have worked in partnership to organise this year's Cycling Festival. The main sponsor of the event is 'Woodlands Hospital of Darlington'
14. This year's festival ran from April through to September and has attracted hundreds of people of all ages and cycling abilities. The festival consists of 17 different events ranging from family cycle rides to the 100 mile Hell of the North and also included a film presentation at the Arts Centre and a successful Cycle Fun Day, which was held at South Park in June.

West Park Open Day – Sunday, 5 August 2007

15. The Visual Arts Officer supported the West Park open day, organised by the Countryside team to compliment the activities organised for the local community.

Street Theatre Day – Saturday, 25 August 2007

16. The Town Centre came alive on Saturday, 25 August 2007 with National and International Street Artists performing in Joseph Pease Place, High Row, Blackwellgate, Northgate, Skinnergate and Grange Road.

17. Thousands of people enjoyed the sunshine whilst watching or taking part in Street Shows including Bruce Airhead and his six-foot balloon of which he slide inside, Bedlam Oz and the giant slinkies, Rex Boyd's adventures of Robin Hood and many more walkabout characters which caught the audience by surprise as they wandered about the town.

Arts Development

Arts Spark

18. Children and young people's activities at Darlington Arts Centre have been re- branded under the name and identity ArtsSpark, as part of the plans for the Arts Centre to become a centre of excellence for young people. The new identity will be used to create a brand for all existing activities for young people as well as raising awareness of many new initiatives on offer, to promote Darlington Arts Centre as a safe, welcoming environment for all young people.
19. As part of ArtsSpark, the Arts Centre will be launching the "ArtsSpark" Membership Scheme from September, to engage and encourage attendance and participation by young people at activities and events. The ArtsSpark membership scheme will be open to all young people from 5 to 25 and will provide a benefits package including discounted tickets, a special event programme, a membership newsletter and a membership card.
20. As part of the events package for the ArtsSpark Membership Scheme, the ArtsSpark Forum will be launched in the autumn; The ArtsSpark Forum will consist of a regular programmed event for young people, but will also provide an opportunity for Darlington Arts Centre to access and engage the views and ideas of young people. This forum will act as a catalyst for enabling young people to become more actively involved in decision-making within the Arts Centre and ArtsSpark activities.
21. The Arts Award - The Art Award, a national qualification set up by Arts Council England to recognise young artists and arts leaders has been launched at Darlington Arts Centre, as part of the ArtsSpark scheme. The Arts Award is open to young people aged 11-25, and provides the opportunity for young people to gain a nationally recognised qualification at levels 1, 2 and 3 of the National Qualifications Framework.
22. Darlington Arts Centre has engaged 15 young people aged between 12 to 25 who are currently taking the Award, with participants at Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels. There are plans to recruit more young people in the new term.
23. The Youth Theatre and Dance Programme for young people at Darlington Arts Centre is to be relaunched from September. The new ArtsSpark youth theatre and dance classes aim to provide a broader range of activity as well as a stronger relationship between the creative disciplines, with improved opportunities for performance and creative sharing.
24. There will be two new contemporary dance classes for ages 8 to 16, as well as the introduction of a concessionary price for young people eligible for the Live Darlington Card. All young people who are members of the youth theatre and youth dance courses will receive automatic FREE membership of the ArtsSpark Membership scheme.

Arts Centre Workshops

25. The summer holiday programme began at the Arts Centre on 23 July 2007. Many children had enrolled and the workshops have proved to be busier than ever.
26. Courses included: Ceramics and storytelling, Circus skills, Collage creations, Clay play, Friendship bracelets, Chinese dragons and the music box (Drama week).

“Show me happy” Photography Workshops

27. Two “show me happy” workshops were hosted and publicised by the Arts Centre. “Show me happy” is a mental health anti stigma campaign, which addresses people’s attitude to mental health covering a large part of the North East.
28. The workshops are based around a photographic competition asking the general public to illustrate through the medium of photography what makes them happy.

Longfields Extended Schools Programme

29. The Extended Schools Programme within the Longfield School Cluster continues to deliver a diverse programme of activities for young people. Since Easter numerous new clubs have started and an extensive consultation process has taken place in each of the schools. A new junior table tennis club has started at the Dolphin Centre with Longfield as the satellite club and a new Gymnastics club will commence in September on Saturday mornings at Longfield for 5 – 16 year olds. The summer programme of activities has attracted over 200 children and courses have ranged from Basketball, Table Tennis, Gymnastics, Trampolining, Cricket, Volleyball, Tennis and Skiing.

International Football Tournament 10 – 12 August 2007

30. Eastbourne Sports Complex hosted an international football tournament for young people from Finland, Poland and Germany, in addition to teams from across the Tees Valley. The event was planned and delivered by Darlington Town Twinning Association alongside Darlington Partnership and the Leisure Services Team. The tournament was made possible following a successful grant funding application to the Europe for citizens programme of £13,500 and sponsorship from local private and public enterprises.

A Chance to Shine - Cricket

31. In Partnership with Darlington Railway Athletic Cricket Club; the Extended Schools programme; and Durham County Cricket Board, over 50 children from across Darlington attended the Chance to Shine Cricket Scheme. This was a weeklong summer camp aimed at encouraging children to join the Darlington RA junior section.

Darlington Community Games 2007

32. Over 300 children took part in the inaugural Darlington Community Games on Wednesday, 25 July 2007 at Eastbourne Sports Complex in Darlington. The games were supported by the Big Lottery Fund, Zone Active and Community Partnerships and were aimed at encouraging children into clubs following the games. Pupils from Heathfield, North Road, St Johns, Firthmoor, Skerne Park, Dodmire, Corporation Road, Harrowgate Hill and St Teresa's Primary Schools took part. Sports included were Volleyball, Boccia and Kurling, Football, Tag Rugby, Netball and Cricket.
33. In preparation for the games pupils received training at after schools clubs and performance camps through the Extended Schools and Zone Active Programmes. Sports clubs managed to sign up over 100 children. Plans are already underway for the Community Games to be repeated and extended next year.

Darlington Sport and Physical Activity Strategy – Darlington to receive funding from Sport England

34. Following the appointment of the Physical Activity Development Officer, the Darlington Community Sports Network (CSN) continues to be successful. The Network now has four themed sub-groups, which will ensure that the action plan for the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy is delivered. The Sports Development Team are currently formalising a funding application to Sport England to develop projects commissioned by the CSN and ultimately increase participation in sport and physical activity.

Great Activity Challenge

35. The following events are planned throughout the winter for the Great Activity Challenge that is funded through Sport England and aims to raise participation in sport and physical activity, particularly for those in underrepresented groups:

Mobile Fitness Frenzy; A Chance to Kurl; One Life Scheme; VIP Cricket Festival; Zone Active Walks; Women's Badminton Festival; Men's Badminton Festival; Exercise for new Mothers; Gem Taster Week; Adult Sportsability Taster Session and Bowls Bonanza.

Park East Action Week

36. In partnership with various agencies across Darlington, the Sports Development Team provided activities within the Park East area of town. Football coaching was delivered in South Park in partnership with Darlington Spaire Lads that culminated in a festival. Many of the children have been signposted to the various teams within their age group. The Mobile Skate Park was also successful and managed to attract more youngsters who will use the static facility at South Park.

Community Sports Coach Update

37. In the period from the 1 October 2006 to 31 August 2007, the Community Sports Coach (CSC) has delivered a variety of sport and physical activity based sessions. These sessions include:

- Key Stage 1 multi-skills club at Dodmire Infants School (5-7 years)
- Multi-skills club at Beaumont Hill Special School (11-16 years)
- Key Stage 1 multi-skills club at Cockerton CE VA Primary School (5-7 years)
- Key Stage 1 multi-skills club at Red Hall Primary School (5-7 years)
- Delivering multi-skills, multi-activity and sport specific sessions as part of the Zone Active School Holidays programme (7-14 years)
- Delivering Level 1 Award in Sports Leaders course to Year 10 boys at Longfield Sports College
- Delivering Level 1 Award in Sports Leaders course to Year 10 girls at Longfield Sports College
- Delivering Level 1 Award in Sports Leaders course to Year 10 GCSE group at the Education Village
- Speed, Agility, Quickness (SAQ) club at Dolphin Centre on Thursday evenings (7-11 years)
- Key Stage 1 multi-skills club at Hurworth Primary School (5-7 years)
- Key Stage 1 multi-skills club at St George's Primary School (5-7 years)
- Key Stage 1 multi-skills club at Bishopton/Redmarshall Primary School (5-7 years)
- Physical Education delivery to years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 at Haughton School
- Delivering cricket coaching to children at Corporation Road Primary School
- Level 1 Award in Community Sports Leaders Award (CSLA) at the Education Village, Darlington
- Mentoring CSLA candidates and casual coaches

38. Due to the success of the Community Sports Coach role, Local Area Agreement funding has been secured to extend the post for another year and is looking to continue the post till 2009.

Zone Active Project

39. The number of visits to the Zone Active Project totals 7363 since April 2007, with 3878 visits to the Get Everybody Motivated project alone.

40. Breakfast and after school clubs continued to run up until the summer break in Skerne Park and Dodmire. After school clubs also ran in St John's, St Teresa's and Firthmoor and there was additional coaching provided throughout the schools that helped children train for the Community Games. Coaches provided coaching in Netball, Volleyball, Tag Rugby, Kwik Cricket and Football to help schools select teams. These clubs took place during curriculum PE lessons or at lunchtime.

41. The Sportsability Club ran successfully for the 10 weeks of the programme. Eleven young people with disabilities attended on a weekly basis. Local community clubs attended for four weeks of the club to provide taster sessions and encourage pathways into mainstream sport. This was extremely successful with 50% of participants looking to attend a community club. The taster sessions included a Dance school, Taekwondo club, Athletics club, and Gymnastics club. Sports ability club will start again in September and all previous participants will be invited back.
42. During evaluation it was identified that the young people who attended were apprehensive to attend community clubs and the sportsability club will support further to build confidence and support the young people into clubs. If further support is needed young people will be supported by the Inclusive Opportunity Fund.
43. The SWITCH (young people with drug and alcohol abuse problems) Team are continuing to train and work hard towards becoming an acknowledged team. They have partnered with the local football club Sprae Lads and Lasses to allow them to enter a district league. They are frequently playing friendlies and have had kit donated to support their progression. They have recently participated in two tournaments and were winners in the Youth Service tournament and runners up in the Community Games festival held at Teesside University.
44. The Zone Active Summer Programme began on 23 July 2007 and finished on 31 August 2007. During the summer programme there have been diverse activities for young people to experience. Various camps were delivered, which included Street Dance, Gymnastics and Trampolining, all of which attracted many young people. On a weekly basis multi activity sessions ran in each Zone Active ward allowing all young people from 8-16years to attend. Climbing and Skiing sessions were run once a week during the programme and allowed young people to try these activities for the first time.
45. Skiing sessions ran weekly at Silksworth Dry Slope, Sunderland and this allowed the young people to work towards a skiing trip that took place at Snowzone in Castleford during the final week of the programme. Climbing sessions ran at Eastbourne Sports Complex Climbing Boulder that allowed young people to work towards a day out at High Force Education Centre where they climbed the High Ropes Course and participated in team building and problem solving activities.

Get Everybody Motivated (GEM)

46. GEM continues to run on a weekly basis within the community, in residential homes and in sheltered accommodation throughout town. A new class has started in Heighington and two more are due to start in Lifestyles Daycare and Sadberge. Units for GEM accreditation have been submitted to the Open College Network and have been approved as an OCN Level 2 Progression Award; recruitment is underway to allow the first accredited course to run later this year.
47. GEM is due to provide the physical activity element of a weight management programme for 8-11 year olds. Recruitment to the programme will be through the GPs and Practice Nurses. The programme is based around youth obesity and will look towards behaviour change for the whole family; the programme will focus on nutrition, physical activity and healthy lifestyles. We are currently liaising with the PCT and other programmes to link into the tackling obesity strategy.

Sponsorship

Eastbourne 6-a-side Football Summer Tournament

Sunday, 1 July 2007

48. The second successful tournament, sponsored by Capita Symonds, was held at Eastbourne Leisure Complex. 20 teams entered. The event was won by Athletic Bilbao. John Ranson, Performance Director for Capita Symonds, presented the prizes for this and the Monday Night League, which they also sponsor, at Eastbourne, on Monday, 13 August 2007.

Darlington Railway Centre and Museum

Museum Refurbishment Programme

49. Work on refurbishing the roof over the main museum building has now been completed and work on the train shed roof will be completed by mid-end October.
50. The museum researchers have completed the first draft of the text for the museums new displays and they have also sourced illustrations and objects to complement each section of the text. This information is now with the designers who are both editing the text and creating interesting, exciting, and educational storylines. The designers are also looking at interactives, sound effects and audio-visual productions to help bring all the various things to life.
51. The main contract in the museum is now progressing towards the end of the first phase with new storerooms, study centre, temporary exhibition galleries and reception area due to be handed back to the museum on 24th September. Following this, museum staff will be furnishing out the storeroom and study centre areas.
52. A number of hard hat tours have been held in recent weeks, all of which have proved popular with the public. A further stakeholders' meeting has also been held in order that all parties connected with the museum are kept informed of progress.
53. Two short video programmes have been produced about the redevelopment project in general, and the locomotive moves in particular. These will shortly be uploaded onto the museum's website.
54. Teachers have been working with the Access Officer to ensure that new displays will have a lot of links with the National Curriculum, and also on a topic plan for teaching about George Stephenson.

Events

55. The final visitor count for Thomas the Tank Engine event was 4445 visitors over the two days. Four hard hat tours were run at the museum over the Heritage Open Days weekend on the 8th and 9th of September, with 38 members of the public taking part.

Learning and Access

56. The summer programme of outreach activities went well, with 12 sessions for 197 children and 96 adults. These sessions have been taking place in Darlington's Libraries, and also at the Coleridge Centre in Skerne Park, Croft on Tees and the Quaker Meeting House.

Collections

57. The plans for the movement of the Ken Hoole Study Centre and the stores are now well underway, with a prospective start date for the moves being Monday 24 September after the completion of decoration work.

58. The new Documentation Assistant has settled in well and is making excellent progress with creating new records for the backlog of objects, and updating existing records for objects already in the collection. Recent work has been on accessioning books and newspaper articles for the archive.

59. A working lathe (probably from North Road Works) has been donated to the collection, which will feature prominently in the new display. A large trunk with a 'Darlington' label has also been donated and has been cleaned ready to go on display when the Museum re-opens.

Councillor Nick Wallis
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