
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 Cultural Services Portfolio:

Events

World Championship Thai Boxing Show – Sunday, 2 September 2007

2. The event, organised by Darlington and Boxing Martial Arts Club, brought some of the worlds best Thai fighters to the Dolphin Centre with an audience of nearly 1000 spectators in attendance. Darlington's Michael Dicks, ranked second in the world, retained his title.

Darlington Amateur Swimming Club Regional Gala – Saturday, 6 October 2007 and Sunday, 7 October 2007

3. The Gala was once again a huge success with some of the regions best young swimmers participating in this annual event. Around 700 spectators attended over the weekend, which took place in the Centre's swimming pool.

The Mayor's Ball – Friday, 19 October 2007

4. The Mayor's Ball is one of the main attractions in the region's events calendar. This year it was themed 'An Evening on the Orient Express', chosen by Darlington's Mayor, Councillor Swift, who took inspiration from Darlington's strong history relating to railway. A 5-course meal and entertainment was provided for the 400 guests in attendance and was organised by The Dolphin Centre Events Team.

Darrien Wright's Mass Dance Class – Saturday, 15 September 2007

5. Working in partnership with the Education Centre for Children with Down Syndrome and Darrien Wright, winner of BBC's Strictly Dance Fever, a charity event was organised by the Cultural Services Events Team at short notice in the Market Square, to raise funds to stage a charity event to be held at Darlington Football Stadium. Darrien Wright held a two-hour dance class for young dancers and participants, whilst money was being collected for the Down Syndrome charity event. The event proved to be very successful with a view of repeating the concept during the October Half term.

Rhythm and Blues – Sunday, 16 September 2007

6. This year's Rhythm and Blues event, which was organised by the Arts Centre Rhythm and Blues Club and the Cultural Services Events Team, was held in the Market Square, Dolphin Centre and surrounding pubs on Sunday, 16 September 2007. The event attracted thousands of people to an extremely successful afternoon and evening of music.
7. In the Market Square, four top quality rhythm and blues bands performed on two stages, this included Memo Gonzales and the Bluescasters, who attracted a huge audience for their rip – roaring mixture of Blues, Swing and Rock and Roll; Chris Farlow and the Norman Beaker band were the headline band.
8. Live music was held in the local pubs and Dolphin Centre throughout the afternoon and late evening, with 16 Horsemarket proving to be a popular venue for the Dolphin Centre.

October Half Term Activities – Saturday, 20 October 2007 – Saturday, 27 October 2007

9. To complement the French Market, additional street art was programmed into Joseph Pease Place on Saturday, 20 October 2007. Jon Hicks, a professional street artist, paints icons upside down using style, dexterity and immaculate timing to music before revealing the finished result.
10. Darlington's Hip Hop, street dance and break-dance group provided demonstrations in Joseph Pease Place on Thursday, 25 October 2007.
11. A free mobile skate park was programmed into the Market Square on Monday, 22 October 2007 and Tuesday, 23 October 2007. On Wednesday, 24 October 2007 and Thursday, 25 October 2007, circus skills workshops were provided in the square and on Friday, 26 October 2007 Darrien Wright provided a free mass dance class for the public complemented by a demonstration from the Art Centre Street Dance Group.
12. The children's fairground proved successful and operated from Wednesday, 24 October 2007 to Saturday, 27 October 2007.

Civic Theatre Centenary Programme - September

13. The Civic Theatre celebrated its Centenary on 2 September 2007, with a special concert entitled '100 Years Of Music and Variety in Darlington'. The audience for the concert were given a buttonhole and a chocolate favour on arrival and were greeted by members of our staff, who were dressed in period costumes.
14. Chris Lloyd, Deputy Director of the Northern Echo had been commissioned to write a book about the history of the Civic Theatre and this was published in September. Chris also gave a free illustrated talk at the Civic Theatre, which included performances by Paul Harman, Artistic Director of CTC Theatre Company and Hannah Barron, who portrayed the ballerina Anna Pavlova.

15. On Saturday, 29 September 2007 the Civic Theatre held a concert, 'Can't Chain Up Me Mind' with Grand Union Orchestra, to mark the bicentenary of the abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade. Musicians from the orchestra held a residency in Darlington in the week leading up to the concert. One hundred children from Darlington Schools took part in the workshops and created a piece of music, which they performed at the Civic Theatre prior to the main concert; 546 people attended the concert. The Residency was partially funded by Arts and Business.
16. Local artist, William Pym, was commissioned to produce artistic hanging baskets for Darlington Civic Theatre to celebrate the Theatre's Centenary. The seven hanging baskets are based on the cornucopia or horn of plenty and have been installed on the exterior of both the Parkgate and Borough Road frontages.
17. An original watercolour painting of Darlington Civic Theatre has been commissioned by painter Ian Fennelly and will be used to produce prints, which will be sold to the public to commemorate the theatre's centenary. The original artwork will be on display in the theatre and following the Centenary season will be used to raise money for charity.

Takeoff 2007 – Wednesday, 10 October 2007 – Friday, 12 October 2007

18. Darlington Arts Centre hosted the 20th Takeoff Festival, Theatre for Children and Young People working in partnership with CTC Theatre Company. Seventy-three delegates attended the three day Festival, coming from Germany, Canada and all across Great Britain.
 - The Festival included eight productions (six Theatre, two Dance) for audience ages 5 - 18 years;
 - 650 pupils attended from eight local schools. Included within the Festival was the installation 'FIVE' A Laboratory for the Senses, a specially commissioned piece of dance/theatre and over 1,000 5 year olds from Darlington schools attended over a three-week period.
 - Ludus Dance working with 10 groups of 30 pupils held workshops in The Education Village.

ArtsSpark

19. The new branding and identity for ArtsSpark has been launched; with new promotional material created for the ArtsSpark Youth Theatre and Dance sessions, as well as the ArtsSpark Membership Scheme. This has had a positive impact on the attendance for the Youth Theatre and Dance courses, with over 75 young people attending this term.
20. Two members of the new Contemporary Dance class, who are part of ArtsSpark Youth Dance, took part in their first public performance during half term, when they performed in the Market Square on Friday. Debbie Waistell, who teaches the Contemporary Dance sessions, choreographed the dance piece and the two girls working with Debbie in the sessions created the performance. The performers also took part in a Dance workshop in the Market Square led by Darrien Wright.
21. Tim Smith, our Youth Dance Leader for Breakdance for Boys and Hip Hop and Street Dance for girls, also performed in Joseph Pease Place during half term alongside the Youth Dance Assistants, to promote the ArtsSpark Youth Dance sessions.

Public Art

22. Planning permission has been granted to produce an artwork at Firthmoor consisting of 5/6 wooden seats, featuring carved imagery that has been developed with the local community.

Visual Arts and the Borough Collection

23. Drawing workshops were held in the Myles Meehan Gallery every Saturday throughout October as part of the Big Draw and were well attended. An exhibition featuring some of the work created in these sessions is currently on display in the Glass Corridor, Darlington Arts Centre.
24. The Public Catalogue Foundation has catalogued all of the oil paintings in the Borough Collection and they will be featured in a catalogue about publicly owned collections in Durham and Darlington.

Education and Outreach

25. Work has taken place with Extended Schools Cluster Co-ordinators to assist and support schools in gaining Arts Mark.
26. Work has taken place with Inclusive Opportunities to enable children with difficulties to access holiday and term time arts activities.
27. Support was given to Community Partnerships and Fairshare in the planning of an International Day, which took place at the Forum in October.
28. In partnership with “Steam Shed” inclusive Theatre Company, drama has been introduced in after schools clubs in seven Darlington schools.

Sports Development

Longfield’s Extended Schools Programme

29. The Extended Schools Programme within the Longfield School Cluster continues to deliver a diverse programme of activities for young people. A new programme of activities started in September including activities such as Archery, Climbing, Skiing, Badminton and Table Tennis. Two Trampolining clubs now take place at Longfield School as well as a Gymnastics Club, which runs on a Saturday, attracting over 40 children. An Inter-School Badminton tournament will take place towards the end of the year involving the three primary schools.

Sustainable Community Strategy

30. Following the completion of the Enquiry Group process, the ‘Health Group’ chaired by Peter Barron has identified a number of key priorities. Cultural Services Officers have commenced work to facilitate the implementation of these priorities as follows:
 - The Community Games will be developed into the Darlington Community Games as a mass participation event for young people in the run up to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Sports Development team has already secured

funding to deliver this celebration event and a comprehensive programme of coaching within communities prior to the Games. Planning is now underway within the Sports Development team to develop and implement this programme.

- A comprehensive data collection exercise is being carried out to provide an audit of all grass roots sports facilities within Darlington – a draft of this directory will be available during w.c. 5 November 2007.
- The Darlington Sports Club directory is also being comprehensively updated to provide a public database of sport and physical activity opportunities for Darlington residents. Updated draft will be available during w.c. 5 November 2007. Cultural Services Officers are working in partnership with Peter Barron to agree on an action plan to publicise these public information sources.
- Sports Development Officers are working in partnership with Darlington PCT and DDYCA to develop proposals to extend the programme of community-led physical activity. A grant funding application has been drafted alongside Sport England and will be submitted at the end of November. Consultation is being carried out through the Community Sports Network to investigate the preferred method of delivery for residents e.g. coach led programme, community gym etc.
- The Community Sports Network will be used as a forum for consultation on relevant planning applications – reinforced through Sport England as the statutory consultee – and be able to make recommendations to cabinet.
- Sports Development Officers are working alongside the Schools Sport Partnership to review provision in Schools and look at the effectiveness of the SAQ (Speed, Agility, Quickness) model.
- The provision of all grass football pitches for competitive games within Darlington is now managed through the Cultural Services Team at Eastbourne Sports Complex in partnership with relevant league officials. Provision has been improved at Springfield Park with the installation of new goalposts; the Glebe Road site has also been improved with new posts for adult and junior pitches. Work is in progress in partnership with Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College to develop community use at Abbey Road playing fields.

Gymnastics at the Dolphin Centre

31. Two new Gymnastics Clubs have now begun at the Dolphin Centre on a weekly basis. Aimed at children aged from 5 to 11 years. The clubs take place on a Wednesday after school and on a Sunday morning.

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

32. 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 is currently formalising a funding application for £185,000 to Sport England to develop projects identified by the CSN and ultimately increase participation in sport and physical activity. The stage one application will be submitted at the end of November with the stage two application due to follow in February 2008.

Sport England Activity Challenge

33. The following events have taken place over the last few weeks as part of the Sport England Activity Challenge that is funded through Sport England and aims to raise participation in sport and physical activity, particularly for those in under-represented groups:

Mobile Fitness Frenzy; A Chance to Kurl; VIP Cricket Festival; Zone Active Walk; Adult Sportsability Taster Session & Archery Taster session. Around 60 new people have participated in these activities.

Activities still to take place include: Women's Badminton Festival; Men's Badminton Festival; Exercise for new Mothers; Adult football training and tournament; Gem Taster Week and Bowls Bonanza.

Community Sports Coach Update

34. The Community Sports Coach (CSC) continues to deliver a variety of sport and physical activity based sessions in Culture venues, and in community settings. Sessions include: Key Stage One multi-skills clubs, activity as part of the Zone Active project, delivery of the Level 1 and Level 2 Award in Sports Leadership, Speed, Agility, Quickness sessions, sport specific coaching in schools and in community settings and mentoring other coaches and leaders.
35. 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 until 2009.

Community Sports Coach Swimming

36. The new Community Sports Coach for Swimming (funded in partnership with Tees Valley Sport) – Fiona Miller has been appointed and commenced on Monday, 29 October 2007. She will work as Head Coach for Darlington Swimming Club whilst the rest of her time will be spent on improving community and school links.

Darlington One Life Scheme

37. Following a restructure of the scheme as a whole in January 2007, this scheme has continued to develop and offers clients opportunities to access lifestyle interventions upon referral from primary care settings, such as General Practitioners and physiotherapists. Current referral options include exercise, weight management and courses to help clients cope with long term back pain. Work is underway to appoint a Darlington One Life Co-ordinator to further develop the scheme, to include additional referral options such as smoking cessation and walking groups.

Zone Active

38. The Zone Active Project is now into its final phase and is due to finish in March 2008. The Sports Development Team are seeking additional funding from Sport England to expand the project to cover new areas of Darlington. Elements of the project will remain in the wards of Eastbourne, Park East and Lascelles with the support of the remaining team and the local community.

39. Zone Active continues to have a throughput of over 300 participants a week participating in a diverse variety of activities including Breakfast Clubs, After School Clubs, Belly Dancing, GEM (Get Everybody Motivated) classes and Football Leagues.

40. The Sportsability Club is currently running a second 10-week programme that has 10 young people with disabilities attending each week. The young people participate in multi activity and sports specific sessions and will decide which sport they enjoy the most and Zone Active will support these young people to access main stream clubs to continue their participation.

41. Belly Dancing sessions continue to run on a weekly basis with demonstrations and taster sessions running at the GOLD (Growing Older Living in Darlington) event and the International Day. This has generated interest in Belly Dancing and attracted new members.

42. SWITCH football club continues to work in partnership with Spraire Lads Football Club. SWITCH members consist of young people who have experienced drug and alcohol abuse or been involved in anti-social behaviour. Zone Active has supported these young people to access football training and they now play competitively in a district league. Recent reports from outreach workers have suggested that the football has proved more successful than clinical treatment, with 100% of young people attending, not drinking or taking drugs and working hard to maintain their fitness and healthy lifestyle to ensure good performance during their football sessions.

43. Zone Active Netball Club continues to train and have entered the Darlington and District Netball League held at the Dolphin Centre. The Netball Club has encouraged positive image, promoted healthy lifestyles and created a social aspect of physical activity. The team now access the gym and go swimming as a group to help fitness and confidence. Initially they would not do this due to self-esteem and not wanting to exercise alone.

GEM

44. GEM has started two new classes during recent weeks at Danby Lodge Residential Home, attracting 12 new members and working with the Community Mental Health Team to offer low-level exercise to individuals who have experienced Mental Health Problems and have been inactive for a considerable period of time. The session runs at St Cuthbert's Hall and is instructed by our GP Referral qualified GEM leader and a support worker is on hand to support individuals in all other aspects of their well being.
45. GEM sessions continue to run in all Warden Services and various residential homes throughout Darlington. Demonstrations have taken place at the GOLD positive health event and have generated interest in GEM community classes currently running.
46. The Junior One Life programme will go ahead in January. Zone Active and GEM are working with the PCT, Locality Co-ordinators, GP surgeries and practice nurses, school nurses, Teesside University, Longfield Sports College, SSCO programme and Extended Schools programme to develop an original programme to support obese children aged 8-11 years and their families. The programme will educate families on nutrition, physical activity, behaviour and other aspects of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. GEM and Zone Active will provide the physical activity element of the programme and will deliver a 30-minute and 45-minute session each week consisting of GEM exercises and sporting activities to support in weight lose, agility, balance and co-ordination, confidence building and teamwork. Children are currently being recruited using health professionals and there are restrictions on who can take part due to funding.

A child must meet the following criteria to take part in the Junior One Life Pilot:

- Attends Harrowgate Hill, North Road, Corporation Road, St Teresa's, St John's, Skerne Park, Firthmoor or St Augustine's school.
- Is aged 8-11 years
- Can take part in physical activity
- BMI >98thC but <99.6thC (and **no** comorbidities)

Darlington Railway Centre and Museum - Refurbishment

Roof Works

47. Work on the Museum roof is now substantially complete with only a small amount of remedial work to undertake around some of the chimneys and the replacement of a few broken slates. Scaffolding has now been erected over the live railway and slating has commenced on the 'hip ends' of the roof. Additional, scaffolding is due to be erected adjacent to the 'loop line' (on the live railway) this week in order that work can commence on the slating of the main (north) slope of the train shed roof.

Main Museum Works

48. In recent weeks work has concentrated on the west end of the building where plastering, rendering, electrical work, decorating and floor covering have been progressing. Following this work, on 8 October 2007 the museum received back from the contractors the new storerooms and study centre areas. In addition, further work has been progressing on the north platform at the east end of the museum where the platform edging slabs have been replaced as well as a significant proportion of the platform paving slabs. The riser to the south platform has been rebuilt and the surface repaired. In addition to the above work the painters have also been painting the main roof trusses and the main museum wall above the wooden platform, as well as the wall and canopy at the west end of the museum. Currently they are painting the canopy at the east end.

Design

49. The designers have now received the list of objects and illustrations for each of the new display themes and are at present looking at the interpretation/linking of the whole storyline and how this can be made as attractive and as interesting as possible – especially to children. The designers have attended meetings at the museum to outline their ideas on this as well as providing us with further details and drawings of the design of the three main “islands” in the new display. They are now working on the graphic panel design and allocating space for the various themes. The next major stage will be to go through each section of edited text with the designers to produce the initial completed draft for each theme (text, illustrations and objects).

Collections

50. A significant amount of time has been spent in recent weeks moving the collections from the main storage areas at the east end of the building to the new store rooms at the west end. This has involved the moving of general museum objects, photographs, plans and other archive material. Work is currently in hand preparing for the transfer of items out of the study centre to the new study centre storerooms and workrooms. Other work has included the cataloguing of some of the museums framed items, including pictures, plans and maps. Recent donations to the museum have included a collection of locomotive number plates and a variety of cast iron signs – all from the local and regional area.

A further stakeholders meeting was held on 12 September 2007 in the museum offices at which the various stakeholders were updated on the progress of the museum’s refurbishment.

Events

51. A Hard Hat Tour took place on Saturday, 13 October 2007, with 13 members of the public taking part. Several people had been to an earlier Hard Hat Tour and were impressed with the progress we have made. They were particularly pleased with the new Study Centre areas. The planning for the events programme for 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 is continuing. Plans for the re-launch weekend in March 2008 have begun.

Learning and Access

52. Two outreach sessions are planned in Half Term in Crown Street and Cockerton Libraries. Thirty-one children and 17 adults attended the Halloween themed activities at Crown Street Library on 24 October 2007.
53. The Museum Access Officer has been awarded a grant of £2,000 with the Learning Links Programme from MLA NE. This involves partnership working with a teacher to develop activities and resources for the museum and the school. Abbey Infants School is the partner school and we are developing a Rail Heritage Trail for children based on the Trail for the public in the Discover guide. This will include two walking routes and activities for children and resources for teachers.
54. The Design and Technology Outreach workshops in schools are going well.

Sponsorship

R ‘n’ B Festival – Thursday, 13 September 2007 – Sunday, 16 September 2007

55. BBC Radio Tees provided pre-publicity on air and via their bus, along with presenters to host the Sunday afternoon event in the market square.

Vibe Awards – Monday, 8 October 2007

56. Local businesses sponsored the annual award ceremony, held at the Civic Theatre. These included Sherwoods, Darlington College of Technology, Alpha 103.2, The Northern Echo and The Dolphin Centre and all sponsoring categories.

Mayor’s Ball – Friday, 19 October 2007

57. Scott Wilson and Charles Hollywood enjoyed joint sponsorship of the event. Alpha 103.2 provided pre-publicity, the master of ceremonies for the evening. Sponsorship-in-kind via gifts for the roulette and black jack was very kindly provided by a number of local companies.

Centenary Season

Darlington Civic Theatre – September - November 2007

58. Blackett Hart & Pratt Solicitors sponsored the season, which was also supported by Darlington Building Society. The following companies provided sponsorship for one night, two night, three night and week long productions: Capita Symonds; Stagecoach; Shepherd Construction; Todds Highway Maintenance; Polam Hall; Yarm School; Lloyds TSB; John Wade Group; Stratstone Land Rover; Northgate PLC; The Forum; Roman and Blackwell Grange Hotel.

Fireworks Event – Saturday, 3 November 2007

59. Kindly sponsored by Shepherd Construction, Century fm media partners and Alpha 103.2 media partners.

Local Area Agreement

60. The health elements of the LAA continue to make good progress and remain on target.
61. A process for conducting a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Darlington has begun. Adult Services, Director of Public Health and Policy Unit are developing the work.
62. All schools in Darlington are being offered Healthy Schools Standards Assessment training; the outcome of the training should increase the numbers of schools involved.
63. Darlington College is piloting an innovative service for young people. Clinical partners provide advice and sexual health services alongside general advice and support for the students.

Community Sports Network

64. The Darlington PCT is working with the Community Sports Network to take forward the “Active Culture” agenda.

Climate Change and Environment

65. Following a Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny meeting, officers from Darlington Borough Council and Darlington PCT are producing an Action Plan including active leisure (reducing car use), reduction in winter deaths (improved heating and insulated homes) and healthy cooking/eating programmes (reducing waste). Both organisations are challenged to reduce their carbon footprints.

Key Message

66. There are differences in health between Darlington residents and the rest of England and differences within Darlington.
67. The reasons are complex and can be summarised as:
 - Inequalities in opportunity – poverty, family, education, employment and environment (the wider determinants of health).
 - Inequalities in lifestyle choices – smoking, physical activity, food, drugs, alcohol and sexual activity.
 - Inequalities in access to services for those who are already ill or have accrued risk factors for disease.
68. To deliver health goals and reduce the gap we must tackle health inequalities.

Prosecutions Food Safety

69. In October, Food Hygiene offences committed by two food businesses were concluded in the Magistrates Court.

70. Mr Sirajul Miah and Mr Ahmed Jakaria, the proprietors of Surma Foods, 134 Gladstone Street, Darlington, pleaded guilty to possessing food for sale that was unfit for human consumption and have been fined a total of £1,8000 with an additional £516 costs awarded to the Council. (The men were not in court together – Mr Sirajul Miah was fined £1,000 on 18 July 2007 and Mr Ahmed Jakaria was fined £800 on 11 October 2007). The offences came to light in 2007 when food safety enforcement officers discovered five sheep carcasses in a refrigerator that had not been inspected and stamped in accordance with Food Safety legislation. The proprietors could only say that they had paid cash for the meat and that they had no name and address for the man who delivered it to the shop. All of the food was formally seized by the officers and presented to Magistrates who agreed to its condemnation and then disposal.
71. Mr Geoffrey Longstaff, proprietor of Coffee @ Elliotts, 10 Grange Road, Darlington, was fined £1,200 with £577 costs being awarded to the Council after being found guilty of failing to comply with an Improvement Notice requiring a wash hand basin to be provided in the food preparation area – an offence under Section 6(2) of the Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006.

Trading Standards

72. Trading Standards successfully prosecuted Mr Herbert Hutchinson, Whitehouse Farm, Eastgate, Co. Durham for exposing an unfit lamb (one of the horns was growing into its neck) for sale and exposing 12 lambs for sale without any form of identification (ear tags) at Darlington Farmers' Auction Mart on 1 March 2007. Mr Hitchinson was fined £150 for the unfit lamb and £480 for the lambs without any ID and ordered to pay £350 towards costs.
73. Trading Standards and Age Concern are holding an Electric Blanket Safety Testing Event on 8 and 9 November 2007. Over the two days, residents will be able to have their electric blankets tested for safety, free of charge. At last year's event, a third of the blankets were found to be dangerous.
74. On 1 October 2007 the age at which tobacco products can be purchased was raised from 16 to 18 years. On the run up to this date, trader awareness was raised by visits and distributing information on the age change. Also, public awareness of the change in age was raised.

Councillor Nick Wallis
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Health and Leisure