
OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND 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

Civic Theatre Centenary

2. A very successful Gala event took place at the Civic Theatre on Sunday 4 November 2007 to celebrate the Centenary season. The cast included Brian Conley, Paul Zerdin, Jane McDonald and local stars Zoe Birkett and Darrien Wright.
3. The Darlington Civic Theatre in partnership with Ian Dickens Productions Limited co-presented a special production of Catherine Cookson's The Fifteen Streets. The Fifteen Streets showed at the Theatre between 25 November 2007 and 1 December 2007. Twelve professional actors were cast alongside ten local amateur actors and 13 children. The show was seen by 3,537 people.

Arts Centre Autumn Programme

4. The Arts Centre had a very successful Autumn season, notably there were sell out performances by Russell Howard, Scamp Theatre's Private Peaceful, Ralph McTell, London Classic Theatre's Abigail's Party, Du Port d'Amsterdam au Ciel de Pairs by Flossie Malavialle and When the Lights Went Out, a play about Divali by Tara Arts.

Public and Visual Art

5. A consultation exercise based around the four initial public art proposals for the Oval shopping centre was held on 7 and 8 December 2007 in Queen Street Shopping Centre.
6. Two artists have been approached to produce design proposals for entrance features for the Denes, as part of the redevelopment of the site and proposals will be submitted in February.
7. The Myles Meehan Gallery hosted an exhibition by Carl Von Weiler featuring 'blown drawings' and a sculpture installation of an ox and landscape made from clothing. The exhibition relates to the first phase of a public art commission at Skertingham Park, which has seen the development of an outdoor amphitheatre.

Culture Website

8. December 2007 saw the launch of a new improved area of the Council's website that offers all the latest information on Cultural Services in Darlington (www.darlington.gov.uk/culture). Featured on the Culture website is comprehensive information on Darlington Civic Theatre and Arts Centre, Dolphin Centre, Eastbourne Sports Complex, Sports Development and Stressholme Golf Centre.
9. On-line booking is now available for performances at Darlington Civic Theatre and Arts Centre. This facility undoubtedly improves access for customers, enabling them to book 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Full season details, along with information on courses, films and visual arts exhibitions can also be found.

Maximise Project

10. Duty Managers and Reception staff at the Arts Centre attended a 'customer focus' training seminar organised by Audiences North East, which was funded through the Arts Council. The project was aimed at customer services staff of arts organisations so they can understand the benefits to their Arts Centre of attracting diverse customers, understand their duty to provide a fair and equitable service to all customers, have a basic understanding of their legal duties in respect of equality of treatment and ways in which existing practice can be improved.

Arts Development

Higher Apprenticeships in Arts Management HAAMs

11. In partnership with the Borough Councils of the Tees Valley SAOG (Strategic Arts Officers Group) and Tees Valley Arts, 16 individuals were short listed from 95 applications and 4 were offered the opportunity to participate in the twelve month scheme, which will begin at the end of January 2008.
12. Arts development supported a successful application to awards for All with Heathfield School. The project will involve 480 young people taking part in various workshops including, stained glass, banner making and ceramics. The project will run from February to July 2008.

Sports Development

Longfield's Extended Schools Programme

13. The Longfield Extended Schools Cluster Programme of activities has provided a diverse range of activities in year one for the three primary schools Harrowgate Hill, North Road, Corporation Road and Longfield Comprehensive School. Over 1200 children and young people aged 7-16 have benefited from the project within the last year. The project looks to engage young people in after school activity who don't normally participate in sport and physical activity and not only has the project benefited within this cluster it has developed new sports clubs throughout Darlington.

14. The following after-school clubs have been delivered through the extended schools project during November to December:

- **Trampolining and Gymnastic Club**

The Trampolining Club has been set up at Longfield School on Monday and Wednesday evenings and now has over 30 members attending. Following the success of this the Sports Development Team have secured funding for a Trampolining Club to start at the Dolphin Centre; this will enable a formal link between each session. Teachers and Sport Development team coaches have also attended the Gymnastics Level 2 Award funded through the big lottery fund and this will enable teachers to deliver more after school clubs and teach trampolining during the curriculum.

Through the funding we have also secured gymnastics equipment for Longfield School and have started a Gymnastics Club, which runs on a Saturday morning. There are currently three sessions catering for 5-16 year olds and they have proven to be very successful. There are over 60 members at the club and following this Gymnastic sessions have been established at the Dolphin Centre to help cope with the demand.

- **Table Tennis Club**

A new table tennis club has been established at the Dolphin Centre on Friday evenings for beginners of all ages and Big Lottery funding is paying for the transport so the Longfield cluster can access these activities. There are more than 20 children accessing the club and this will continue once the funding has finished as Darlington Table Tennis Club train straight after the session thus creating the formal link.

- **Badminton Club**

In September 2007 all three primary school started receiving badminton coaching by coaches from Darlington Badminton Club. There will be an intra cluster competition in the New Year and it is hoped the coaches will encourage the children to come to the local clubs in town.

- **Dance Clubs**

Dance sessions have been established at Longfield School and throughout the primary schools as part of the programme and have been well attended.

- **Darlington RA – Chance to Shine**

Through the Chance to Shine scheme, transport has been provided for children to access the scheme at the Darlington RA Cricket Club where over 30 children attended.

Chance to Shine is an England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) initiative that involves delivering cricket activities to children at primary and secondary school. A minimum of 280 hours cricket activity is to be delivered in the form of schools coaching, festivals, cricket camps, inter-school games, hardball cricket games and much more. Darlington RA Cricket Club were part of the scheme in 2007 and worked with Darlington Sports Development to deliver holiday activity camps for young people.

- **Skiing, Archery and Climbing**

These sessions have run concurrently for all primary schools and have been fully booked. Skiing has proven to be extremely popular and these sessions have helped to engage children who wouldn't normally participate in formal regular sporting activity.

Darlington Community Games 2008

15. Planning is well underway for the Community Games, a mass participation event for young people in the run up to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Community Games will be held on Tuesday 22 July 2008 at Eastbourne Sports Complex and we will be rolled out to all local primary schools.

Darlington Sports Directory

16. The Darlington Sports Facility Directory has now been completed and was launched in November and is now on the Sports Development and Local Heroes Website. This is to ensure that it widens access and increases awareness of all of the sport and physical activity opportunities in Darlington.

Darlington Sport and Physical Activity Strategy – Stage 1 Applications Submitted

17. 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 have submitted the stage one bids totalling £184,000 to Sport England's CIF fund to appoint development officers who will work on Club and Coach development, equality projects, Green Exercise and the continuation of Get Everybody Motivated Scheme.

Sport England Activity Challenge

18. Sport England Activity Challenge was funded through Sport England and aims to raise participation in sport and physical activity, particularly for those in under-represented groups, it ran from 30 September to 9 December 2007 with a total of 166 adults (over 16's) taking part in at least one of a wide range of activities such as Mobile Fitness Frenzy; A Chance to Kurl; VIP Cricket Festival; Zone Active Walk; Adult Sportsability Taster Session and Archery Taster sessions. Of the 166 people taking part, 144 of them had not participated in sport for at least four weeks meaning that Darlington has more than achieved the target set by Sport England of 121 adults over the 10-week period.
19. The major successes of the challenge were the Archery taster session and the Gem taster classes, things like the chance to Kurl and VIP cricket were also popular. In all 78 of the participants described themselves as having a long-term limiting illness or disability, this was a particular success as this group is traditionally under-represented within Darlington.

Community Sports Coach Update

20. 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.
21. The Community Sports Coach delivered a Community Sports Leaders Award in October for over 20 adults and many of the leaders have now completed their volunteering hours. From this the team are arranging a Higher Sports Leaders Award, which will take place in Easter half term.

Community Sports Coach Swimming Update

22. 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. Within her role Fiona will fulfil the duties of Head Coach at Darlington Amateur Swimming Club. Since Fiona came into post we have set up the new Darlington Swimming Action Group with representatives from School Sports Partnerships, Facilities, County Sports Partnerships, British Swimming and the Schools swimming programme to drive the development of swimming in Darlington from key stage one through to the club. The club is now in the first stage of applying for the Swim 21 Accreditation Scheme and is increasing numbers at their sessions.

Darlington Sports Development Network

23. The seventh Darlington Sports Development Network was held on Tuesday 20 November 2007 at the Dolphin Centre. The evening started with a short presentation based on the 'first ever' Darlington Community Games, which was held at Eastbourne Sports Complex on Wednesday 25 July 2007.
24. The evening carried four main themes and attendees were put into small groups, attending four workshops based on Funding, Clubmark Accreditation, Inclusion in Sport and also Club Benefits Package introduced by Tees Valley Sport. A thirty minute practical session was also delivered and was aimed at inclusion in sport and ways of progressing a session.

Step into Sport

25. In partnership with the Schools Sports Partnership and the Youth Sports Trust we have had a record number of 16-19 year olds undertaking the Step Into Sport Scheme which encourages volunteering in local sports clubs and groups. Placements have been accessed at Darlington Rugby Club, Darlington Netball Club, Quakers Running Club, Darlington Sports Development, Darlington Schools Sports Partnership, Holiways Netball Club and Darlington RA Cricket Club. The students have accessed First Aid and Safeguarding Protection Workshops and have completed level 1 coaching courses in various sports.

Sportsability Club

26. The Sportsability Club is for young people with disabilities to help bridge the gap between disability activities and mainstream community clubs. The Sportsability Club has now concluded and young people will now be supported into mainstream activities. The young people will access funding from the Inclusive Opportunities fund to provide support from coaches and staff to access mainstream clubs. The sportsability sessions have worked hard on confidence building and preparation for the young people to move on. One young person has already accessed a mainstream activity through the sportsability club and a further eleven young people will aim to do this in the New Year. For future sportsability sessions funding will look to be access from partners and alternative projects.

Netball Club

27. Zone Active Netball has been a successful activity; there are 53 members registered and a regular attendance of 16 players. The Team has been training hard for a year and with the majority of players having not participated in physical activity since school they have progressed considerably to now enable them to play in a league once a week. The team has currently secured sponsorship from a local business; Travel Care travel agents have agreed sponsorship for the team to support their sustainability plans. The Team is now forming a committee and has established themselves to take different roles in the club. The women are keen to continue and more members are joining on a regular basis. An Awards for All bid is being submitted by the team to allow them to gain some funds to support the club further and allow members to access coaching and officiating qualifications too.

Belly Dancing

28. Belly Dancing has proved to be an extremely successful session with all abilities attending. Zone Active will continue to run Belly Dancing until the end of the project with the support of Maidendale House Community Centre. We will advertise the session starting in the New Year when Zone Active has finished and will look at Community Partnerships, residential groups and community centre's to support the sustainability of the Belly Dancing session.

SWITCH

29. The SWITCH Football Club is currently working in partnership with the Spraire Lads Football Club to support in competitive matches and organisation. Zone Active will continue to support the SWITCH Football Club until the end of the project. It has proved a success and is supporting in the rehabilitation of drug and alcohol abuse and the reduction of anti social behaviour. A further bid will be submitted to the Football Foundation, Community and Education Fund to apply for funding to continue the SWICTH Football club and open it out to support many more adults and children to overcome drug and alcohol abuse, homelessness, unemployment and promote healthy lifestyles.

GEM (Getting Everybody Motivated)

30. GEM has run for ten years and can continue to do so in residential homes and warden services with little input or support; however, the scope of GEM has increased significantly over the past year and now attracts more members than the Zone Active Project. GEM can now be categorised in four main areas as follows and this is how GEM can look to be taken forward.

i. **Junior One Life**

Zone Active and GEM are working in partnership with the PCT, SSCO's, Longfield Sports College, Extended School Programme, Locality Coordinators, Teesside University, School nurses and GP surgeries.

The Junior One life will commence in January 2008 and will run for a twelve week period; the Zone Active and GEM Project will lead the delivery of physical activity as part of the programme which consists of a 30 minute GEM session a week and a 45 minute sports session a week.

This programme is a pilot scheme and if it proves successful will look to be used as part of the obesity strategy for Darlington. Zone Active cannot continue to support the Junior One Life beyond the first pilot programme; however, additional funding will be applied for and physical activity can continue to be delivered by GEM providing continuation of the programme.

ii. **Residential Homes and Warden Services**

GEM sessions continue to run throughout the majority of Warden Services and various residential homes in Darlington. These classes can continue without any additional cost; however, future training will cease and the support of a GEM coordinator will not be available.

iii. **Community Classes**

There are eight existing community classes, each class attracting ten to twelve members each week. Most classes receive venue hire free of charge or as match funding and a fee is paid to attend. The continuation of community classes will depend upon additional funding or alternatively community centre's and leisure facilities providing a venue and funding a tutor based upon return from participants.

iv. **GEM Accreditation**

The GEM Leaders course is now an accredited Level two-progression qualification with the Open College Network. Funds have been accessed to support in a pilot of the accredited course starting 14 January 2008. Six candidates will complete the course, which will entail building a portfolio and completing 30 hours of contact time with a tutor.

GEM is currently seeking advice to become copyrighted and work towards giving exercise opportunities to a wider audience.

Darlington Railway Centre and Museum

Roof Works

31. Both the museum roof and the train-shed roof have now been completed following the boarding in of the roof lights on the train-shed roof. The scaffold around the museum has now been dismantled and the roofing contractors were off site by the end of December 2007. As a result of this work the museum is now completely weatherproof.

Building Works

32. The contractor's possession of the museum has now been extended to the third week in January 2008. At present the booking office, Victorian toilets and activity rooms are scheduled for completion and are due to be handed back to the museum in early January. Work is progressing on completing the kitchen/café area including plastering and electrical work and has also been started in the old meeting room area. A large area of the old concrete on platform two has been replaced with new concrete flagstones the remaining area is due to be completed by the early/mid January 2008. The painters have completed the central area of the roof and roof trusses with the two ends to complete in January 2008. Most of the museum's main walls have also been painted. The last areas to be completed will be the new reception and Audio Visual areas along with the flagging of the east end external platforms.

Design

33. The designers have recently been working on editing the story line text and the design of the graphic panels. The designers who are expected to be on site early February 2008 to commence construction of the new displays have sent out invitations to tender and tender drawings to various companies. In advance of the designers arrival museum staff will return to site 7 January 2008 to begin redisplay work in the booking office and Victorian toilets and also commence the cleaning of the Locomotives and exhibits in preparation for reopening.

Collections

34. The collections have finished being transferred into new stores and environmental conditions have significantly improved, meaning better welfare of the collections. The study centre and office has moved to the new location at the west end of the building, and the Collections Team is currently working very hard to ensure the facilities are up to standard ready for the reopening. The new locations for each individual item are being recorded and the Documentation Assistant is working on cataloguing the backlog of items. The Collection Officer is currently reviewing the pricing structure for the Ken Hoole Study Centre, ready for implementation on reopening.
35. Due to National Express taking over GNER, one of the crests from a GNER coach has been donated to the museum. This is in good condition considering its history and it will make an interesting addition to the collection. The Collections Officer is also working to secure the donation of a St John's Ambulance and North Eastern Railway competition shield, which is of great historical interest.

Events

36. The final Hard Hat Tour of the museum took place on Saturday 8 December 2007 with all 20 spaces taken. The tours have proven very successful with a total of 118 visitors attending overall.
37. Plans are continuing in preparation for the official reopening, which has now been confirmed 5 April 2008. The re-launch will be an exciting family fun day, creating carnival ambiance to include live music, a steel band, face painting, fun children's workshops and much more. The opening will be followed up with an exciting activity programme to run throughout the school holidays including fun workshops for people of all ages to engage in. An extensive events diary has also been confirmed for 2008 in accordance with Town Centre Programme, providing a wide variation of entertainment for the community to cater for the differing needs of existing and potential visitors, and to encourage repeat visits throughout the year.

Learning and Access

38. The Science/Design and Technology workshops for schools that took place in October 2007 were very successful. A freelance facilitator worked with five schools on six days and engaged with 420 children across KS1 and KS2.
39. The creative movement and dance workshops for schools to be carried out in January and February 2008 are now fully booked - our target is 240 children over eight half day sessions. These innovative workshops will link movement and dance with the movement of engines and the themes of machinery and travel in the Museum collection.
40. The Learning and Access Officer has secured a grant from the MLA NE Strategic Commissioning Programme to work with the Extended Schools Programme in Darlington. The museum will be working with a group called Mad Science to offer targeted schools free after school science workshops to enrich and extend the curriculum in a fun way. Mad Science will also be running science shows and workshops for the families of children in the scheme, as well as other visitors at the museum re-opening event.
41. In February 2008, Steam Shed Theatre Company will be working with the museum on an outreach project for young people in Darlington – a key non-visiting audience. The free workshops will build into a performance inspired by the opening day of the Stockton and Darlington Railway in 1825, to celebrate the re-opening of the Museum. The performance will also be given at the re-opening event; Renaissance in the Regions Programme in the Tees Valley has funded this project.

Public Health and Health Improvement

42. Planning is continuing locally to develop a strategy linking sport, physical activity and health. These programmes will contribute to preventing obesity, promoting mental health and building self esteem. The Community Sport Network has a target to increase participation in sport by 1% annually to 2012. Participation ambitions are focussed on the following priority groups: women, people from black and minority ethnic communities, those with limiting disabilities and those from lower socio-economic groups.

43. At the last meeting of the Health Improvement and Social Inclusion Group (held 19 December 2007) the following issues were addressed:

- Presentation by Darlington PCT Commissioning Manager regarding the PCT Local Delivery Plan 2008/09 process.
- Presentation by Darlington Partnership Chief Executive regarding draft Sustainable Community Strategy.
- Feedback from “Talking Together” engagement events.
- Discussion on latest draft Older People’s Strategy for Darlington.
- HISIG Action Plan update.
- Progress on developing a LINKs network.
- Process approved to develop a Health Improvement Strategy for Darlington.

44. The next HISIG meeting in on 25 February 2008.

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