
OVERVIEW OF HEALTH & LEISURE PORTFOLIO

Purpose of the Report

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

Healthy Darlington

Under 18 Conceptions

2. Nationally, teenage conception rates remain high and have not reduced at the rate detailed within the national strategy. Although the Darlington rates remain above target, Darlington has consistently demonstrated a higher rate of reduction compared with other authorities in the region. Multi agency work to have an ongoing reduction in under-18 conceptions continues across Darlington. Examples of this includes the following:
 - (a) Continued work with local schools and the Children's trust including the implementation of high quality SRE programme across Darlington
 - (b) Work with NHS County Durham and Darlington to develop an expanded School Nurse offer in Darlington schools
 - (c) Development of 'Drop in' health sessions for pupils in selected schools

Mental Health

3. Local actions to support the National Programme for Improving Access to Psychological Services (IAPT) include:
 - (a) Establishing a clear local priority to encourage and support people back into employment
 - (b) Funding has been received and work is underway to implement the IAPT programme in Darlington

Tobacco Control

4. Smoking remains one of the biggest contributors to avoidable disease and early death in Darlington. A partnership approach has been successfully used in Darlington to tackle this issue.

5. The Darlington Tobacco alliance supported the FRESH “Take 7 Steps Out” campaign. The key message is to keep children safe from cigarette smoke by making their home smokefree eg, by taking seven steps from the back door to smoke. The campaign promotes local stop smoking services.

Alcohol

6. An Alcohol Strategy Progress event was held on 20 July 2010. This brought together key partners to review progress made by the Darlington Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and identify changes to the Action Plan. This will be the subject of a future report.

NHS White Paper

7. Equity and Excellence – Liberating the NHS White Paper was published on 12 July 2010. It proposes a set of legislative changes which will have an impact on local organisational structures and commissioning processes over the next two years.
8. A further White Paper on Public Health is expected in the Autumn/Winter.
9. The consultation period runs until 11 October 2010.

Environmental Health

No Rogue Trader Zone – High Coniscliffe

10. A pilot No Rogue Trader Zone covering High Coniscliffe was launched in early September by Trading Standards working in partnership with the Police. The aim of the zone is to provide a geographical area of heightened awareness to the risks posed by rogue property maintenance workers and bogus callers, and a deterrent to individuals engaged in these activities. Roadside signs identifying the zone are located around High Coniscliffe. An information pack raising awareness of the dangers and how to respond were sent to each household within the area.

Fresh “Get Some Answers” Campaign

11. As part of the Fresh social marketing campaign “Get Some Answers” supporting the North of England Tackling Illicit Tobacco for Better Health programme, Trading Standards distributed a range of advertising material to traders and the public.

Real Deal Markets Charter

12. At a recent Markets Seminar on Counterfeit Goods, Trading Standards signed up to the national Real Deal Markets Charter, showing a commitment to keep markets a fake free zone by taking action against anyone found to be trading in counterfeit and other illegal goods.

Electric Blanket Testing Campaign

13. Trading Standards has successfully obtained funding from The Electrical Safety Council to run an Electric Blanket Testing Campaign this year. The campaign, organised in conjunction with Age UK and Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service will run on 26 & 27 October.

Annual Air Quality Progress Report

14. On an annual basis the Council submits to the Government a report assessing local air quality, together with any remedial actions that are necessary. Air quality is assessed against Government objectives. If those objectives are not met Air Quality Management Areas have to be declared and remedial measures put in place. The assessments are based on a number of monitoring points within the Borough looking for specific pollutants that are generally linked to domestic and commercial heating emissions, road traffic fuel and exhaust emissions and industrial combustion and process emissions. This year's report concludes that all Government objectives will be met and there is no need to declare any Air Quality Management Areas. The report is available on the Council's website at: <http://www.darlington.gov.uk/Environment/Air+Quality/Air+Quality+In+Darlington.htm>

Cultural Services

15. A further 15 Cultural Services employees have been successful in gaining an NVQ Level 2 in Customer Services through Train 2 Gain funding. The qualification has been mapped against the Code of Service and employees, therefore, have been recognised through formal qualification for carrying out their role in line with this customer services standard.
16. The new health & fitness timetable launches at the Dolphin Centre on Monday 6 September and will include a range of traditional classes, such as spinning, boxercise, circuits, water aerobics and many more. Alongside this, a local company called Fit-lab will be delivering Les Mills trademark classes from the Dolphin Centre including body combat, body attack and body balance. The Fit-lab offer will supplement the Dolphin Centre timetable to provide excellent choice and variety for Darlington residents.

Sports Development

Fitbug

17. Following the success of the Fitbug Labs for DBC staff during the drop-in sessions, Labs have now been installed at Crown Street and Cockerton Libraries. Open sessions were offered through the press, where residents were invited to come along to be shown how to use the Lab and explain how it could help people monitor their own health.
18. Other Labs have been sited at Dinsdale Court, Wesley Court and Dalkeith House sheltered accommodation, and at Bradbury House (Age UK Darlington).

Junior One Life

19. The next Junior One Life Programme has been planned to start in September at St Andrew's Church in Haughton. The programme will incorporate cooking healthy meals as a family, participating in a variety of physical activity sessions, group discussion, and sessions focused on confidence and team-building.

Family Initiative Supporting Children's Health (FISCH)

20. FISCH came to a successful conclusion for the schools taking part in the summer term with some excellent feedback from pupils and teachers about the quality of provision and the engagement of the children. In the autumn term the schools are Alderman Leach, Skerne Park, St Teresa's and Dodmire.

Stroke Rehabilitation

21. Following a successful small pilot scheme run by the One Life Team, funding has been sourced to roll out a larger scale project to use exercise to support rehabilitation following a stroke. Based on the ARNI (Action for Rehabilitation from Neurological Injury) project, the programme can provide support for the work done by medical teams such as physiotherapists once a patient is discharged. The programme's main aims are to facilitate functional capacity after a stroke, and improve a patient's ability to cope with any residual difficulties, as well as helping to maintain and improve stability, strength and mobility.

Zone Active

Summer Holiday Programme

22. Working alongside the Youth Service; Groundwork; Sport Development; Locality Forums; and the Community Partnerships, Zone Active provided activities to support a comprehensive programme of delivery within the town over the summer holidays. An evaluation of the programme and final attendance numbers will be available in mid September.

Darlington Community Games 2010 Thursday 15 July 2010

23. Community Games has become part of the event schedule for Darlington School Sports Partnership and through partnership work in Darlington, over 800 young people from 27 schools across Darlington participated in this year's event.

Sports Ability

24. Working alongside local clubs and community groups, the Sport Development Team are working towards their fourth instalment of the Sports Ability Club. The Sports Ability Club delivers a range of sporting activities suitable for all ages and abilities. The long term aims for the club are to increase the number of health and sporting opportunities offered to disabled children and young people within Darlington and working alongside local sports clubs and community groups offer exit routes into mainstream sport.

Street Soccer

25. The Zone Active project has developed strong street soccer links with the local schools in Darlington. Six week skills programmes have been delivered in Alderman Leach, Branksome Comprehensive, Springfield, Gurney Pease and St Aidens as part of a PE curriculum or offered as an after school club. Following the successful six weeks programmes, Zone Active also now run afterschool clubs at Branksome whilst offering a mid week Street Soccer club at the Dolphin Centre on a Tuesday from 5-6pm.

4X Biking

26. Go-Ride has delivered a strong programme in four different Primary Schools and five Secondary Schools in Darlington attracting over 400 pupils. The sessions were delivered as part of curriculum and were run over six weeks. Additional sessions will be available in St Aiden's and Longfield School, as well as targeting more primary schools.

Events

Darlington Cancer Research Race for Life – Sunday, 13 June 2010

27. Despite the rain over 4000 women from across the region and a crowd of around 1000 spectators visited South Park on Sunday 13 June 2010 for the 9th Darlington Race for Life.
28. Women of all ages and fitness levels took part in the 5K race and joined together to walk, jog or run to raise money to help beat Cancer. The Darlington participants together have raised approximately £200,000 for Cancer Research UK.
29. Local running clubs, traffic management, stewards and Council events and sports development staff provide Cancer Research with numerous volunteers to enable the event to happen.

23rd Annual Darlington 10K Road Race

30. More than 1400 participants enjoyed running in the Family Fun Run, 3KM and Sherwood's Chevrolet 10KM on Sunday 9 August. Families travelled from all over the region to take part in annual event in Darlington Town Centre – attracting a crowd of over 3000 spectators along the routes of the three runs.

Community Carnival - Saturday, 26 June 2010

31. Thousands of people lined the streets of Darlington's Town Centre as the 28th Community Carnival procession got underway on Saturday 26 June 2010. The theme of this year's carnival was Alice in Wonderland and Lewis Carroll's other famous creations in celebration of the author's connections to the Darlington area.
32. The parade was led by Hummersknott Samba Band followed by Red Hall and Branksome Groundwork; Darlington Probation Service; Dodmire and Cockerton Primary school; Brownies and Guides from Darlington; Darlington College; Rhythm Train and Carnival Crew Tees Valley; local dance schools and Bread and Butter Theatre Company. The New Blood Live stage supported by the Forum Music Centre also provided live music for people to enjoy.

Street of Brass – Saturday, 10 July 2010

33. Following the success of last year's Street of Brass, the Events Team worked in partnership with Durham County Council to stage its third year of The Street of Brass to coincide with the events held in Durham.
34. Bands from Italy and France performed in Joseph Pease Place and Northgate on the Saturday along with the colourful band 'Mute Antz', a band which launched Durham Brass Festival in 2009.

West Park Activity Day – Sunday 4 July 2010

35. Hundreds of people braved the winds and participated in free activities on offer at the West Park activity day organised by the events team, sports development team, countryside, and Friends of West Park with support from Bussey and Armstrong.
36. Activities on the day included 4x cycling coaching and demonstrations, Olympic torch making workshops, archery, drumming workshops and face painting.

Theatre in the Park –Thursday 1 July – Sunday 4 July 2010

37. Darlington Green Theatre returned to the South Park with an adaptation of Shakespeare's Macbeth. The promenade performance which focused around the band stand and sensory garden was funded for the first time by Darlington Green Theatre.

Romans at the Railway Museum – Sunday 18 July 2010

38. 800 visitors attended the Roman Day event at Head of Steam. The event offered a variety of activities to show what life was like in Roman times. Visitors could engage with costumed re-enactors and see replica swords and costumes, as well as trying out archery for themselves.
39. Inside the museum, visitors could see Roman artefacts acquired from the Piercebridge site and Roman themed arts and crafts.
40. Once again, the free bus tours to Piercebridge proved very popular with both tours fully booked after half an hour. The public were taken to Piercebridge by Darlington's own vintage Daimler Double Decker and met by local archaeologist and historian David Mason.

Darlington Arts Centre

ArtsSpark

41. Approximately 150 young people from ArtsSpark Youth Theatre and Dance courses took part in the end of year showcase at Darlington Arts Centre for family and friends. The showcase also featured Steam Shed Youth Theatre.
42. Young people from ArtsSpark's Contemporary Dance group were invited to take part in the first Tees Valley Youth Dance Festival at the Arc in Stockton, where they performed alongside other young people from across the Tees Valley.

Arts Engagement

43. A varied programme of arts activities for children and young people has been programmed in collaboration with Sports Development, Youth Services, Groundwork and the Locality Coordinators across the town and surrounding areas throughout the summer holidays.
44. Darlington Arts Centre hosted and helped organise an event for looked after young people in Darlington, in collaboration with Children's Services. The event involved an awards ceremony for young people, and young people and carers were also offered a free Theatre ticket for a family Theatre show after the event.

Theatre Education

45. Sixty six children from Reid Street Primary School attended a workshop based around The Gruffalo. The children and staff made puppets, head-dresses and jewellery around the characters then took their creations with them to watch the performance at Darlington Civic Theatre. From the evaluation forms it was noted that many of these children had never attended either the Arts Centre or the Civic Theatre prior to this opportunity.

Visual Arts Education Workshops

46. The exhibitions in the Myles Meehan Gallery have been supported by gallery talks and participatory workshops. Groups from a variety of schools and colleges have met and discussed the work with the artist, then used the theme or artform to create their interpretation. Other adult groups from the Domestic Violence unit and Openart Studio members have also been involved in workshops and talks.

Openart Studio

47. The SLA report to PCT showed that from January 2009 to June 2010 there were 190 members and the attendance figures over that period were 12,999. There have been two trips to MIMA for members to look at the exhibitions and be involved in a participatory workshop. Due to the success of the project, further funding has been secured to continue until 31 March 2011 with proposals being prepared to apply for funding to continue for a further three years. A DVD about the project is due for release with plans to put excerpts on U Tube.

ISA

48. Three murals have been created for ISA and these are now complete and awaiting installation at Morton Palms. The groups who designed and made the murals were residents of Middleton St George Hospital, students from St Aiden's Academy and St George's Primary School. The murals all used the theme of safety and security yet all approached in very different ways, using textiles, ceramics, paint and collage. There is due to be a photocall and press release in September.

North Lodge Park

49. Working with Friends of North Lodge Park to celebrate the refurbishment of the Bandstand, a series of community choir workshops were held for children from Reid Street Primary and Corporation Road Community Primary Schools and also adults from the community held at a local church hall. The plan is to perform in the bandstand at the launch event in September.

Arts Award

50. Eight young volunteers are working towards Arts Award at Darlington Arts Centre with the support from the Arts Team. Students from Hummersknott have already completed their Arts Award Bronze and are awaiting moderation, they are currently working towards their Silver awards. Two artists' assistants are currently working towards Gold and making excellent progress.

Arts Mark

51. All five schools who applied for Arts Mark status with Arts Council England achieved their goals. These awards were at silver or gold level and recognise the cultural and creative achievements within schools and by engaging with cultural opportunities such as Darlington Arts Centre and Civic Theatre. The application requires each school to demonstrate the importance of creativity and cultural engagement and its relevance to the curriculum. There will be a one year break 2010/11 for Arts Council evaluation of their methods and procedures.

Visual & Public Arts

52. Christian Mieves held his exhibition, *Wricked on a Desert Island*, in the Myles Meehan Gallery during Friday 4 June – Saturday 24 July. The exhibition attracted 4261 visitors and the artist gave a free artist talk on Friday 4 June, which was very well attended.

Head of Steam

53. Michael Portillo Visited the Museum to record the story of Locomotion No1 and Tornado for his Railway Journey programme on BBC2.
54. Children's BBC (CBBC) is working with HOS on a new museum treasure hunt called Relic Trails. BBC 'A History of the World' has also used HOS as a location for exploring an important museum artifact – the firing shovel from Locomotion No1 was chosen.
55. The Museum is to receive funding this year from the 'Renaissance in the Region' programme to deliver a project aimed at volunteer engagement.

Councillor S Harker
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