
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

2. The Healthy Darlington Business Group met on 24 March 2010. The Director of Public Health presented an outcome narrative on health inequalities as part of the Healthy Darlington Delivery Plan Performance Report.
3. Life expectancy at birth has increased for men and women by approximately four year for both in the period 1991-1993 to 2006-2008. Early deaths from heart disease and stroke have decreased markedly however inequalities remain between Darlington and England and within the Borough.
4. The Healthy Darlington Group reviewed the key interventions to decrease premature mortality in Darlington which include NHS Stop Smoking Services, NHS Health Checks, promotion of breast feeding, preventing under 18 years conceptions, promoting cancer screening services and reducing harm related to alcohol.
5. The Policy Manager briefed the group on the key issues for review in the Comprehensive Area Assessment of 2010 and the Local Area Agreement Refresh for 2010.
6. The Health Improvement Manager presented an update on the Darlington Investors in Health workplace award project. Darlington Investors in Health (DIH) award originated from the "Health Enquiry" process which heavily influenced the health elements of the Sustainable Community Strategy.
7. Darlington Borough Council is one of five local organisations who are promoting health in a workplace setting. A celebration event will be held on 17 June to showcase progress to date and present successful organisations with their awards. It will also be an opportunity to engage additional employers in the process.
8. The Director of Public Health briefed the Healthy Darlington Business Group on the process for producing a Darlington Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2010 (JSNA). The JSNA will provide the evidence base on which Darlington strategic plans and commissioning intentions will be based.
9. The Healthy Darlington Business Group took note that a Darlington Assembly on health inequalities and tobacco control will take place on 20th May 2010 at the Dolphin Centre.

Environmental Health

Trading Standards – Regional Scambuster and Illegal Money Lending Team

10. Authorisation has been given to the Trading Standards Regional Scambuster and Illegal Money Lending Teams to enforce specified legislation within the Borough of Darlington. This will enable the teams to deliver more effective and cohesive enforcement action against problem traders who are operating across the North East. The teams are funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and operate through Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council.

Public Protection Services – Relocation

11. During March and April, Building Control, Trading Standards and Environmental Health services relocated. Trading Standards and Environmental Health moved from Houndgate to the first floor of the Town Hall. Building Control moved from the ground floor of the Town Hall to the fourth floor. Contact telephone numbers for officers remain unchanged. These moves are part of a corporate review of accommodation needs that will generate efficiencies, including the termination of the lease for 10/11 Houndgate.

Emergency Planning and Response

12. On the evening of Monday 29 March 2010, a major gas leak was discovered around the junction of Yarm Road and Neasham Road, near the railway station.
13. The Council provided an emergency response. Initially this involved preparing for possible evacuation (which fortunately proved not be required) and assisting with road closures. The following day, staff from several areas from within the Council worked to ensure that residents without electric supplies were not vulnerable, were where necessary provided with hot food and drink and were kept informed. Local businesses were also contacted, offered assistance and kept informed. By early afternoon on 30 March 2010, power was restored to all properties.

Cultural Services

Code of Service

14. The Code of Service has now gone live across Cultural Services, with ‘We Make Customers Happy’ information boards in all venues, new customer feedback forms and dedicated pages on the Cultural Services website. Through the Customer Services Excellence (CSE) process the Service was awarded Compliance Plus, which is the highest award given by the Cabinet Office. The CSE Assessor confirmed that the Code of Service had been recognised as being worthy of national recognition and has been put forward for inclusion on the cabinet Office website as an example of excellent practice.

NVQs

15. Following the success of the last round of NVQs that were aligned to the Code of Service, funding has been secured within the Train to Gain programme through the LSC to put a further 15 members of Cultural Services staff through their NVQ Level 2 in Customer Service.

Sports Development

Street Games

16. Street Games is a national charity which develops sport with disadvantaged communities and makes sport accessible to young people regardless of their social circumstances. The Zone Active project is continuing to work alongside Street Games in developing doorstep sport within Darlington.

Sports Ability

17. Working alongside local clubs and community groups Darlington Sport Development are part way through their third instalment of the Sports Ability Club. The Sports Ability Club delivers a range of sporting activities suitable for all ages and abilities.

Easter Holidays

18. Working alongside the Youth Service, Groundwork, Sport Development, Locality Forums and the Community Partnerships, Zone Active provides activities to support a comprehensive programme of delivery within the town over the Easter holidays.

Street Soccer

19. The Zone Active Project has also developed strong 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.

Darlington Community Games and Youth Games 2010 Thursday, 15 July 2010

20. With a focus on the values associated with the Olympic Games, the Darlington Community Games has become an integral part of the sports programme for the local School Sports Partnership. We are aiming to attract all primary schools to this year's event. Community Games planning is underway and invitations were sent out to all schools in Darlington the week beginning 29 March.
21. Darlington competed in the Tees Valley Partnership Youth Games at Eston Sports Centre on Sunday 7 March 2010 against Stockton, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland. Approximately 90 young people aged between 14 and 19 years took part in various sports activities (football, basketball, trampolining, netball, street dance, table tennis and rock-it ball) throughout the day. Darlington were winners of the netball event and runners up in the trampolining, table tennis and street dance.

Fitbug

22. Darlington Borough Council in partnership with NHS Durham and Darlington is launching a new project called Fitbug, which uses interactive technology to help clients measure their progress. The first Fitlab has been installed at the Dolphin Centre, with three more to come in the Town Hall, Eastbourne Sports Complex and a second at the Dolphin Centre. The initial pilots will be through the Darlington One Life and Weight-no-More groups, with a further pilot planned for the Cardiac Rehab clients based at Eastbourne Sports Complex. They are soon to be used to support workplace health in Darlington Borough Council staff, with a launch proposed at the Drop-In sessions after Easter.

Junior One Life

23. NHS Durham and Darlington have confirmed funding for Junior One Life has been extended to support 3 more programmes over the next year. The current programme at the Education Village is running with local children and their families, with a greater emphasis on practical cooking skills and physical activity sessions, as well as education sessions.

Events

Sport Relief Mile – South Park – 21 March 2010

24. Darlington hosted their second Sport Relief Mile on Sunday 21 March 2010 in South Park. Attracting 500 participants raising money for Comic Relief, families with young children and Grand parents ran round a scenic mile circuit to complete their chosen distance of either one, three or six miles.

Arts Centre

25. The Arts Centre staged the production week and premiere of 'My Mother Told Me Not to Stare, an innovative production for young people created by our resident theatre company Theatre Hullabaloo in partnership with Action Transport Theatre Company. The production is now touring nationally and has been receiving acclaim within the sector. A free family open day was held at the Arts Centre on Saturday 20 February to support engagement with the show and was attended by 60 people. Participants took part in a shadow puppet workshop, urban illustration workshop and had a Q&A session with the creative team responsible for the production.

ArtsSpark

Dora Frankel Dance workshop:

26. ArtsSpark Youth Theatre and Dance members along with their parents were invited to an intergenerational dance workshop with Dora Frankel Dance Company, as part of their community and educational work supporting their latest dance production, Bitter, Sweet and Dark. The workshop took place at the Arts Centre and received positive feedback from the Company and participants. Participants included, amongst ArtsSpark young people and their families, members of the adult dance class at the Arts Centre and their children, as well as various dance artists from the community. Participants were also offered a ticket offer for the performance.

Launch of Excellence and Inclusion Scheme

27. The National Association of Youth Theatres' new Excellence and Inclusion Scheme was launched in Birmingham in February and Darlington Arts Centre attended the launch as one of the Youth Theatre's (ArtsSpark) that took part in the pilot project for the Scheme.

Arts Engagement

Urban Splurge

28. Darlington Arts Centre organised and presented a further two Urban Splurge events in February and March as part of its partnership work with Youth Services, to provide positive activities for young people on Friday and Saturday evenings. Over 200 young people attended the events, which included a variety of arts activities including live theatre and drama workshops, a band night, a hang drum workshop, dance workshops, and urban illustration workshops.

Branksome Girls Dance project

29. Darlington Arts Centre have worked in partnership with Youth Services and the Tees Valley Youth Dance Network to set up a dance project working with teenage girls on Friday evenings in Branksome Community Centre. The project has been successfully received and a further 5 dance sessions have been planned, with the aim of developing a performance with the group.

Foster Care Associates – Drama and dance project

30. The Arts Centre has also worked in partnership with the Foster Care Associates to deliver drama and dance workshops to a group of mixed ability looked after young people. The workshops have been taking place on an evening at the Arts Centre, with the aim of signposting the young people on to further arts activities.

Easter Holiday Activities in Localities A, B and C

31. The Arts Centre has worked closely with Youth Services, Locality Co-ordinators, and Sports Development to plan a programme of arts activities for Children and Young People in three of Darlington's Localities during the Easter Holidays.
32. Adult arts and leisure courses at Darlington Arts Centre continue to be well attended with a take up of over 70%. New courses in digital art and filmmaking have been introduced and had a 100% take up. The new term commences 26th April.
33. The Easter holiday workshops are being well received; a broad variety of arts and crafts, theatre and dance will be available for children aged 4-16 years plus a family workshop to encourage involvement with gallery exhibitions.

Arts Projects

34. The mural project in partnership with North East Council on Addictions culminated in the production of a further two murals, one of 'Locomotion No 1' which is due to be displayed at head of Steam and another depicting places and people who are important to the NECA clients; this is currently on display at NECA headquarters.

35. The Openart Studio continues to increase in popularity to the point where it has become necessary to widen the availability by opening a further day each week. With the agreement of partners NHS Durham and Darlington further funding has been secured to continue this project until March 2011. During this period trips and other opportunities will be made available and outreach opportunities offered throughout Darlington; these have already been positively received and more requests are being received from organisations such as Surestart, West Park Hospital and Age Concern.

Head of Steam

36. The Edward Pease room was officially opened on the evening of 7th April 2010. The new room is a dedicated space for our furniture and paintings and will be opened by the Great Great Grandson of Edward Pease, Captain Nigel Pease.
37. The Museum is about to change temporary exhibitions from '2C, Mixing Media' to Tattoos of the Tees Valley (history and photos of North East people and their tattoos, including how Capt. Cook and his crew became the first European sailors to have tattoos).
38. Schools continue to use the Museum's free education service with 857 children visiting since Jan 2010. Many children visited during the 'Weird Workshops' science week in March.
39. The Museum is involved in the BBC 'History Of The World' project, where famous objects from Museums throughout the North East come together in a celebration of our heritage. The Museum supplied the Fireman's shovel from Locomotion No1 for the project.
40. The Museum is currently involved in 'Family Album', a joint initiative from MLA Renaissance, Hartlepool Borough Council and Head of Steam to record memories of people living in our local community.
41. Head of Steam is also involved in the MLA Renaissance 'Single Point of Access' initiative where collection information from North East Museums are shared digitally throughout the region.
42. BBC History Magazine voted Head of Steam, Darlington Railway Museum the number one attraction in the Country in relation to the birth and development of the railways.

Councillor S Harker
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Health and Leisure