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**OVERVIEW OF HEALTH & LEISURE PORTFOLIO**

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**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**

**NHS White Paper**

2. Equity and Excellence – Liberating the NHS White Paper was published on 12 July 2010. Consultation on the paper closed on 11 October 2010. Darlington Borough Council submitted a response and also contributed to the response submitted by NHS County Durham and Darlington (NHSCDD) to the Department of Health. The Healthy Darlington Themed Group of the Local Strategic Partnership held an event to look specifically at Local Democratic Legitimacy in Health (published 22 July 2010) which proposes enhancing the role councils play in improving health.

**Tobacco Control**

3. The target for numbers of people stopping smoking in Darlington has been achieved to date, however, further work is required to tackle smoking during pregnancy.

**Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment**

4. A Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is currently under development which will analyse trends and need which will inform commissioning of pharmaceutical services for Darlington. The pharmaceutical needs assessment is being developed in conjunction with the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Darlington. The PNA will be presented to the Healthy Darlington themed Group in March 2011.

**Alcohol Awareness Week**

5. Alcohol Awareness Week (18 October – 24 October 2010) promoted the theme of “alcohol and childhood”. BALANCE (the North East Alcohol Office) co-ordinated an advertising campaign aimed at demonstrating that underage drinking is not a social norm and challenged some myths and mistakes beliefs about the issue.

## **Democratic and Customer Services**

### **Citizenship Ceremony**

6. The quarterly Citizenship Ceremony took place on 13 October 2010 at the Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College. Students from the College participated in the Ceremony and designed a programme for the attendees as part of the Council's week long Local Democracy Events. 19 Citizens, including three families, became British Citizens at the Ceremony. The Civic Party at the Ceremony included the Mayor and Councillors from various wards within the Borough. The new British Citizens originated from India, The Philippines, America, Iraq, China, Lithuania, Pakistan and The Ukraine.

## **Environmental Health**

### **Closure of Food Premises in Gladstone Street**

7. On 8 October Environmental Health Officers responded to information from another local authority that a cockroach infestation found in a restaurant that could have originated from a delivery food supplied from East West Foods, Gladstone Street, Darlington. Officers visited two shops and found them to be generally clean and tidy. On 12 October monitoring traps put down by officers proved a significant German cockroach infestation to be present in both the wholesale and retail shop and officers immediately closed both shops and the Magistrates confirmed the action by issuing a Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Order. The prohibition order was lifted following an inspection on 19 October and the shops allowed to re-open.
8. During the closure EHO's working in the Tees Valley visited restaurants supplied by East West Foods and used monitoring traps to check for cockroaches. None of the restaurants in Darlington were found to be affected.

### **Curry Lite Competition**

9. 19 Asian restaurants were invited to take part in a competition, hosted by Darlington College on 17 November, to find the tastiest curry that was low in fat, sugar and salt. The purpose of the competition was to raise the profile of healthier food options available in Asian restaurants and takeaways in Darlington. The six finalists each cooked their selected meal in front of a panel of judges.

## **Cultural Services**

### **Sports Development**

#### **Family Initiative Supporting Children's Health (FISCH)**

10. The FISCH programme for this academic year is well underway delivering to Alderman Leach, Skerne Park, St Teresa's and Dodmire. There is a total of 271 young people involved in the programme. Sessions are going to incorporate new activities such as Street Cheer, Street Soccer and information will be provided on local clubs and opportunities in the Darlington Area.

## **Run:in Darlington**

11. In October 2010 five running groups will start in Darlington giving people the opportunity to run in a safe and fun environment. The 10-week long courses will be aimed at beginner and intermediate runners who may be looking to get fit, lose weight or simply run with others. Venues across town include the Arts Centre, South Park and the White Horse Public House.

## **Fitbug**

12. Following the success of the Fitbug Labs for DBC staff during the drop-in sessions, units have been now installed for residents to access at Crown St and Cockerton Libraries. Open sessions were offered through the press, where people were invited to come along to be shown how to use the lab and explain how it could help people monitor their own health. The labs are also being used as a health improvement tool at Dinsdale Court, Wesley Court and Dalkeith House sheltered accommodation, and at Bradbury House (Age UK Darlington).

## **Junior One Life**

13. The latest Junior One Life Programme started at St Andrew's Church in Haughton, focusing on giving young people the skills to live healthy lives. The programme will incorporate cooking healthy meals as a family, participating in a variety of physical activity sessions, group discussion, and an away day where the focus is on confidence and team-building, as well as enjoying a healthy lunch together.

## **4X Biking**

14. Go-Ride have delivered a strong programme in 4 different Primary Schools and 5 Secondary Schools in Darlington attracting over 400 pupils. The sessions were delivered as part of curriculum and were ran over 6 weeks. Additional sessions have been scheduled at St Aiden's and Longfield School's as well as targeting more Primary Schools.
15. More sports development coaches will be trained in Go-Ride so the programme can be offered throughout the Borough.

## **Dolphin Centre**

16. The new Health & Fitness timetable has now launched at the Dolphin Centre. This includes the introduction of a local company, Fit-Lab, who are delivering Les Mills fitness classes such as Body Combat and Body Balance and also the new branded class that is very popular nationwide - Zumba. The Health & Fitness offer for residents is greatly improved and includes around 60 class choices per week.

## **Events**

### **Fancy A Dance – Tuesday 10 August 2010**

17. Working in partnership with GOLD (Growing older living in Darlington), Cultural Services events team supported the organisation and delivery of the annual tea dance in the Market square as part of the launch of this year's Summer Market Spectacular on Tuesday 10 August.

18. Hundreds of people flocked to the market square to enjoy a free cream tea supplied by various sponsors and danced the afternoon away to the Jazz Tones and Hayley McKay on a warm summers day. Entertainment was provided by Red Hall Dancers, GEM (Get everyone motivated) with information stalls provided by local groups and organisations.

### **Darlington by the Sea – Thursday 26 August 2010**

19. Following the success of 2009, the popular Darlington by the Sea event returned to the Market Square on Thursday 26 August and attracted several thousand people throughout the day.
20. A variety of attractions and activities all with a seaside and nautical theme provided entertainment for a largely family audience. Featured entertainment included street theatre, face painters, balloon modelers', a seaside photo booth and themed craft activities. The biggest attraction however was the 32 tons of sand that made up the beach area.

### **Darlington Community Walk – Sunday 12 September 2010**

21. Many people participated in a leisurely stroll around Darlington's new 8 mile scenic countryside route on Sunday 12 September whilst raising money for Diabetes UK or their own nominated charity.
22. This year's community walk was supported by NHS Darlington, Diabetes UK, and Darlington Ramblers, Darlington Lions, Darlington Countryside team, Darlington Lady Harriers and the Cultural Services Events team.

### **Rhythm and Blues – Sunday 19 September 2010**

23. The annual Rhythm and Blues event was held in the Market Square and surrounding pubs and Dolphin Centre on Sunday, 19 September 2010. Headlining the event was Geno Washington and the Ram Jam Band supported by The Scott McKeon Band, The Dirty Robbers and the King King and Alan Nimmo Band.  
Despite the forecast of rain thousands of people flocked to the market square for musical entertainment as well as enjoying the local performers in the pubs.

### **Darlington Dance Festival – Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 September 2010**

24. Darlington held its first ever outdoor dance festival in the Town Centre and Market square on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 September, which was hailed a huge success by the local dance schools and the general public.
25. Thousands of people watched the mass dance performance which had been choreographed by Darrien Wright in the Market Square on Sunday; this was followed by individual local dance school performances, professional dance performances by UK Latin American representatives and Musical performances from Darlington's talented singers and musicians.
26. A Caribbean dance party was held on a very cold Saturday evening, which attracted local residents and supported by many people from the West Indian community who hope to work with the Events Team in 2011 to develop the event further and apply for funding.

27. Local community dance groups performed in Joseph Pease Place throughout the weekend as well as dance themed street theatre.

### **Darlington Arts Centre and Civic Theatre**

#### **ArtsSpark**

28. A new term of Youth Theatre, Dance and Arts and Crafts started at Darlington Arts Centre in September, each week 200 young people attend the classes. The ArtsSpark membership scheme now has 2,000 members. Through funding from Arts Council, England's free theatre ticket scheme (A Night Less Ordinary), Darlington Arts has been able to issue 1,500 free theatre tickets to young people under 26.

#### **ITV Casting Director workshop**

29. ArtsSpark Youth Theatre was visited by a casting professional looking to cast the part of a young boy in a brand new ITV police drama set in the North-East. Youth Theatre members got the chance to take part in a casting workshop where participants gained new skills in acting for screen and three boys went on to further regional auditions.

#### **Frantic assembly theatre workshop**

30. ArtsSpark Youth Theatre and Dance members got the chance to take part in a workshop led by internationally renowned Theatre Company, Frantic Assembly, where they developed their physical theatre skills. The workshop was organised through Darlington Arts Centre's partnership with National Association of Youth Theatres

#### **Moonfleet performance and workshop**

31. Youth Theatre and Dance members also took part in a workshop by Theatre Company Angel Exit Theatre, when they brought their show Moonfleet to the Arts Centre. The young people also got FREE Theatre tickets for the show through the Arts Council's A Night Less Ordinary Scheme.

### **Arts Engagement**

#### **Arts Celebration event, Looked After Young People**

32. Darlington Arts Centre hosted a celebration event for an Arts project working with looked after young people from Darlington which was delivered and organised by Tees Valley Arts.

#### **Sons and Daughters Club – arts session**

33. An Arts and Craft workshop was delivered in September at the Arts Centre for young people as part of the Sons and Daughters Club a project by Children's Services that provides exciting activities for birth children of Foster Carers.

## **The Night Pirates 7-9 October**

34. Darlington Arts Centre hosted the production week and premiere of resident theatre company, Theatre Hullabaloo's new national touring show, The Night Pirates. The show sold out for all 6 performances which took place in the venue. The Arts team also worked in partnership with Theatre Hullabaloo to deliver some creative play workshops for Schools in Darlington after their visit to the show.

## **Raising the Game**

35. Darlington Arts Centre hosted NAYT's national training event for Youth Theatre Leaders, Raising the Game. The event started on Thursday 30th September and finished on Saturday 2nd of October, and was attended by approx 100 delegates from across England.

## **Courses**

36. The autumn term of arts and leisure courses for adults has proven popular with a take up of 79% across the programme and the termly courses were attended by over 1200 people.

## **Holiday Workshops**

37. The summer holiday programme for children and young people was extremely well attended, offering a broad variety of activities from dance to drama, crafts and painting. Over 500 young people attended throughout July and August.
38. The autumn half term holidays will offer opportunities in singing as a choir, painting, drawing and arts and crafts each day.

## **Theatre Education**

39. Schools, including St Aidan's Academy, Hurworth Comprehensive School and Dodmire Primary School are taking up the offer of workshops with artists using the exhibition as inspiration. Other community groups are also offered this opportunity and Family Help have taken up a workshop at the venue.
40. During the autumn half term break The Big Draw Family workshops are being offered throughout the week, encouraging families to work with different artists each day.

## **North Lodge Park**

41. Working with Friends of North Lodge Park, a community choir was created to rehearse at Darlington Arts Centre with an arts facilitator leading up their performance in September at the launch of the bandstand refurbishment. The enthusiasm from the choir has led to the project continuing. There are hopes to perform around Darlington at suitable events.

## **International Day**

42. Working with community members and residents the International Day is due to take place at The Forum on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October. A range of activities and displays are programmed. As part of this event the arts team have been developing a banner with Darlington West Indian Association. This will be displayed as a backdrop for some of their performances and will be used to celebrate their culture and heritage at future events.

## **Openart Studio**

43. This inclusive arts project which is a partnership between Darlington Arts Centre, PCT and NHS Darlington and County Durham continues to increase in popularity with membership now at over 250 and over 2,000 attendances since January 2009. In addition, outreach workshops have been delivered to a variety of groups including Surestart for young mothers, Age UK, West Park Hospital for in-care and day-care patients plus older patients with memory loss ill health.
44. This success has led to negotiations with NHS to seek funding to expand the level of service over a further three year span from April 2011

## **Visual Arts**

45. The 'Alive! Contemporary British Illustration' exhibition currently in Myles Meehan Gallery celebrates the continuing delights of British illustration, by presenting examples of work by its leading practitioners. The exhibition has travelled from the prestigious Chris Beetles Gallery, London. Example artists have included Quentin Blake, Michael Foreman and Oliver Jeffers. The exhibition also provided inspiration for our workshop linked to national Big Draw day on 9 October, which was well received with over 50 children and thirty adults attending.
46. Schools, including St Aidan's Academy, Hurworth Comprehensive School and Dodmire Primary School are taking up the offer of workshops with artists using the exhibition as inspiration. Other community groups are also offered this opportunity and Family Help have taken up a workshop at the venue.

## **The Society of Arts Annual Art for All Exhibition**

47. This extensive exhibition has just been installed in the community gallery spaces and runs from 14 October to 20 November 2010.

## **New Grounds Exhibition**

48. Dionne Swift held her exhibition at Myles Meehan Gallery, Darlington Arts Centre from Friday 30 July – Saturday 18 September 2010. The exhibition attracted 3192 visitors and received very positive feedback.

## **Public Art**

49. A new piece of public art, *Focus* by Lee and Jill Brewster has been installed on the Tower Grange Housing Development. This was commissioned as part of the planning process by Darlington Borough Council and has been informed by the residents.

## **Darlington Civic Theatre**

50. On 24 September the launch of the 2010/11 Pantomime took place. Peter Pan is the 25<sup>th</sup> pantomime which the Civic Theatre has presented in partnership with QDOS Pantomimes Ltd. It stars David Essex and the Grumbleweeds and is proving to be one of the most successful pantomimes in the theatre's history. Box office takings are ahead of this time last year by £93,426. Other shows which have performed particularly well at the box office this autumn were The Hollies Show and Ken Dodd Happiness show which both took over £30,000 in ticket sales over 2 performances and Blood Brothers, which took over £140,000.

## **Head of Steam**

51. Actors brought to life Alice in Wonderland on the Museum's official opening of Lewis Carroll: Living in Wonderland exhibition on Friday 1 October. The exhibition has attracted great interest from the local community and tourists
52. Cool Habitats day at Museum to be held on 16 October in conjunction with Natural England, Durham Wildlife Trust, RSPB (Darlington Branch) and DBC Ranger Team. The event day aims to encourage children to look after the wildlife on their doorstep. Includes making bee, bird and bat boxes, bird watching and making feeders.
53. A Family learning project is underway with the Family learning Team in Children's Services looking at adult literacy and numeracy skills and supporting children in a museum environment.
54. The Education programme for this school term includes a series of Science workshops for schools fully booked for 18 – 22 October and Forensic workshops for schools fully booked for 8 – 12 November.

**Councillor S Harker**  
**Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Health and Leisure**