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**OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS 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 Partnerships Portfolio were as follows:

**Alcohol Awareness Week - Update**

2. 19 to 23 November 2012, saw the launch of the refreshed Safer Drinking – Safer Darlington Alcohol Strategy 2012-15 and also the launch of the new, adult integrated drug and alcohol Connected Recovery treatment service. A DVD was made at the launch, including speeches from the event and a virtual tour of the treatment centre, as well as a podcast for the Northern Echo.
3. The week also saw the start of our support for sign up to Balance's campaign for the government to set Minimum Unit Price at 50p. The DAAT, in conjunction with service providers, is running an innovative campaign to advertise treatment services for adults and young people; support for families and carers; and give positive messages about drinking. The campaign will run to around February with messages on the back of every Argos till receipt issued. (up to a maximum of 126,000).

**Social Norms**

4. The first phase of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) social norms project to address alcohol in the workplace is now complete. Employers were identified through participation in local workplace health award programmes including the regional better health and work and Darlington Investors in health programmes. These employers have already made a commitment to staff wellbeing and therefore had the right culture for piloting this work. The largest employers were identified with a range of office based and manual workers. In total, there were 950 participants. The work was designed to challenge any unhealthy misperceptions, which lead people to believe that alcohol misuse is more common than it actually is. Participants also completed an evidence based alcohol screening tool, designed to highlight the level of risk associated with their drinking. Use of this tool in other settings has been shown to help change people's behaviour and reduce unhealthy levels of drinking.
5. A series of messages have now been produced based on the findings of our work, these are;
  - (a) Most (8/10) people working in Darlington did not exceed healthy drinking limits in the last week

- (b) Most (7/10) people working in Darlington did not binge drink in the last week
  - (c) Most people working in Darlington think it's NOT OK for people their age to drink more than the recommended limit
  - (d) Nine out of ten people working in Darlington think it is NOT OK for people their age to binge drink
  - (e) Over nine out of ten people working in Darlington agree that it's NOT OK for alcohol to affect your performance at work.
6. The next steps will be to promote messages across the Borough, use the messages to contribute to Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA), repeat and expand with further workplaces throughout 2013 (as practicable), support signposting to treatment services and advice from within workplace settings.
7. The young people's Social Norms survey has also developed, from a focus on drugs and alcohol, into a Healthy Lifestyle survey incorporating issues such as; sexual behaviour; bullying; diet; exercise; and smoking. In relation to alcohol, there has been a reduction from 2009 to 2012 in the proportion of respondents who said they had drunk alcohol in the last week. The total across all schools year groups has fallen from 29% in 2009, 21% in 2010, and 18% in 2011 to 16% in 2012.

### **Public Health Transition**

8. Work continues to ensure a smooth transition of new responsibilities for public health. The public health team's accommodation in the town hall has been identified and the team will be located in the town hall (and retain the Gladstone Street DAAT office) in advance of April 2013. The local authority will be receiving details of assets and liabilities for transfer in the coming weeks which will make clear all new responsibilities. Contract negotiations have commenced for the major public health contracts and for the major providers shared with Durham these negotiations will take place jointly across Durham and Darlington to ensure stability of services into 2013/14.

### **Public Health Grant Allocations to Local Authorities**

9. The public health grant allocation to local authorities will provide ring fenced funding from the Department of Health for Darlington Borough Council to meet its new responsibilities for public health from April 2013. The two year grant allocation was announced on 10 January. The 2013/14 grant allocation will be £6.989m. The 2014/15 allocation will be £7.184m. The allocation broadly meets current contractual commitments and local public health responsibilities. Medium term planning for public health services locally can now begin.

### **Public Health Outcomes Framework**

10. On 20 November the Department of Health, working in partnership with the Public Health Observatories in England, released the baseline data for the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF). The PHOF 'Healthy lives, healthy people: Improving outcomes and supporting transparency', published in January 2012, set out a vision for public health, and desired outcomes and indicators to aid understanding of how well public health is being improved and protected.

11. The framework concentrates on two high-level outcomes to be achieved across the public health system and includes 66 supporting indicators, grouped into four 'domains' that cover the full spectrum of public health:-
  - (a) Domain 1: Improving the wider determinants of health
  - (b) Domain 2: Health improvement
  - (c) Domain 3: Health protection
  - (d) Domain 4: Healthcare public health and preventing premature mortality
12. The data is presented in an interactive data tool which allows users to view data in a user-friendly format and in particular to:
  - (a) Benchmark local authorities against the England average
  - (b) Compare local authorities against other authorities in the region
  - (c) Download a summary report for a local authority
  - (d) Download data for further local analysis
13. The data tool also provides links to further supporting and relevant information to aid understanding of public health in a local population and can be accessed at <http://www.phoutcomes.info/>

### **Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group Authorisation Accreditation Visit**

14. On 20 December, Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) received its national accreditation visit. This visit is a crucial part of the CCG's road to becoming a fully authorised commissioning body. The day was made up of a formal presentation and question and answer sessions followed by a series of workshops which focussed on a number of key lines of enquiry for which the panel required further evidence.
15. The day was very successful and the CCG has only a small number of practical issues to resolve before all criteria will be deemed to be met. The feedback from the panel particularly highlighted our strong partnership working across organisations and patient and public engagement to date was highlighted as exemplary. A full validation report will be available in January.

### **Christmas Media**

16. Key messages about safe drinking and mental health and wellbeing over the Christmas period were published in local press to highlight to local people the public health risks and where to go for help. The healthy living campaign will continue throughout 2013 with important cover planned for February and March on the public health transition and on staying healthy on a budget.

## **Developing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**

17. A working group has been established and is developing the updated SNA for 2013. A number of areas are being considered including;
  - (a) Closer regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty in particular that the publication shows how the needs, views and feedback from the community were listened to.
  - (b) More consistent approach to identifying vulnerable local populations, marginalised groups and describing inequalities including explicit equality and diversity analysis.
  - (c) Community Asset Mapping needs to be integral to the publication.
  - (d) The current structure of the SNA should be retained.

## **Health and Well-being Board**

18. The Health and Well-being Board met in December and considered an update from Darlington's Clinical Commissioning Group about the authorisation process that the DCCG undertook in late December 2012. The Board also considered the Director of Public Health's Annual Public Health report and an update about the work programme for the transfer of Public Health from the Primary Care Trust to the Local Authority.
19. The Health and Well-being Board welcomed two new board members at it's December meeting, the Police and Crime Commissioner - Ron Hogg and Beverley Reilly from the NHS Local Area Team which is located in Darlington.

## **Darlington Partnership**

20. Darlington Borough Council has been shortlisted for a Local Government Chronicle award for its role in the Darlington Foundation for Jobs which was established in January 2012 through the Darlington Partnership. The initiative is being considered as an example of a good local economic Partnership with the winner being announced at the national awards ceremony to be held on 13 March 2013.
21. The Partnership has recently improved it's on line presence with a revised web site and linked Facebook and Twitter accounts. This has already resulted in significant increases in the number of people engaged with the Partnership.
22. A Partnership Assembly will be held on 25 January to consider the impact of the Welfare Reforms on Darlington. The event will be opened by Jenny Chapman MP with Mike Dixon the national Assistant Chief Executive at Citizens Advice as the key note speaker. The Partnership aims to engage public private and voluntary sectors in the event along with members of the public. The aim of the event is to understand who will be affected and to ensure that as much information and support as possible is available.

## **Equalities**

23. The inaugural meeting of the External Equalities Stakeholder Reference Group (working title) productively brought together representatives from a diverse range of backgrounds, including those from minority faiths, the Gypsy and Traveller community, refugees and asylum seekers, older people, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people - among others. The Group will have a role in both supporting and challenging the work of the Council in the future. Its next task is to comment on the Council's Equalities Analysis and the agreed objectives.

## **Welfare Rights**

24. The Welfare Rights Team have opened 84 cases during October and November and closed 91 cases, leaving a total caseload for the Team of 139 cases. Appeals continue to be supported and the Team currently have a success rate of 76% with 13 out of 17 appeals being successful. The number of appeals is expected to rise in the coming months as Disability Living Allowance is replaced in 2013.
25. Take-up in October/November was £154,616 compared to £166,390 last year but the appeals process is currently stricter and taking longer.
26. The forthcoming changes to Welfare Reform are currently taking up a considerable amount of time with work ongoing within the Council and also supporting awareness in other organisations.

## **Community Advice Project (CAP)**

27. The Community Advice Project is due to cease April 2013 and an event was held on 30 November to discuss future plans with other voluntary and public sector organisations. The event looked at the projected impact of the Welfare Reforms on the residents of Darlington and at the reduced capacity to deliver that there will be in all sectors.

## **Healthwatch**

28. The regional advocacy contract for NHS complaints has now been commissioned and the Carers Federation will be undertaking this role. It has been agreed that there will be regular contract monitoring meetings and that the lead commissioner will arrange these at a regional level and liaise with local contract managers to ensure local performance is delivered.
29. The tender for Local Healthwatch Darlington is currently taking place and the successful organisation should be in place in time to meet the 1 April 2013 deadline. A transition plan has been developed with the existing LINK that ensures the work undertaken over the last few years is not lost and that the membership continues to feel able to participate with the new Healthwatch arrangements.

**Councillor A Scott**  
**Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Health and Partnerships**