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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:

**Public Health**

2. Members of the former Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to undertake work together to develop the Darlington Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for 2013/14. This is an assessment of the current and future health and social care needs and assets of the community. The approach in Darlington is to build information about wider determinants into the Strategic Needs Assessment, including Employment, Housing and Transport.
3. Darlington employers were recognised at a Health at Work celebration event at the end of March where organisations were presented with their awards and congratulated on their efforts to improve the health and wellbeing of their employees.

**Health and Well-being Board**

4. Council approved the arrangements for the Health and Well-being Board in March 2013. The Board will meet quarterly and will include additional membership to the statutory membership outlined by the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The Board will next meet in June 2013.
5. One of the priorities outlined in the Health and Social Care delivery plan is for members of the board to work together to improve the lives of people with Long Term Conditions. This work is underway with Darlington Association on Disability undertaking interviews on behalf of the Board with 50 people with a long term condition. Once this work has been completed and evaluated this will highlight the next steps for the improvement project. Partners of the Health and Well-being Board have funded a Long Term Conditions Co-ordinator to take this work forward over the next six months.

**Darlington Partnership**

6. At the Board meeting in March 2013 Darlington Partnership reviewed the progress it had made towards its current Action Priorities and set new ones for 2013-14.

7. The Partnership Board agreed in September 2011 that, in addition to oversight of the delivery of One Darlington: Perfectly Placed, it would focus on only a limited number of 'Action Priorities', the aim being to instigate action which visibly addressed issues facing Darlington.
8. At the November Board meeting the first three were agreed for 2012-13 as follows:
  - (a) Alcohol;
  - (b) Vocational opportunities for young people; and
  - (c) Ageing.
9. Different Board members have taken the role of 'Strategic Lead' for each of the Action Priorities and prepared an evaluation to present to the Board.
10. Greatest progress has been made in 'Vocational Opportunities for Young People' with the Darlington Foundation for Jobs.
11. In the Borough itself it has:
  - (a) created 110 new apprenticeships – that's brand new employment and training opportunities for young people in the Borough;
  - (b) created 125 internship programmes with local employers, securing employment for a number of young people;
  - (c) trained 66 young people in entrepreneurial skills to encourage future business creation and growth;
  - (d) provided 1,089 pupils direct contact from local employers - this will rise to at least 600 by the end of this month with activities already agreed with the schools.

#### **Action Priorities for 2013 - 14**

12. Following a review of the current Action Priorities at the Board meeting in January 2013 and new Action Priorities the Board considered the Action Priorities for 2013 - 14 at its meeting of March 13<sup>th</sup>. The Board agreed that developing A Good Neighbouring Scheme would be its Action Priority for 2013.

#### **Welfare Rights**

13. At the end of February the total caseload of the team was 91 cases, six cases were successfully represented at appeal with all but one of these cases being successful. Overall during February £34,293 additional benefit was secured for clients bringing the total benefit figure to £960,000 which is 87 per cent of the target set for 2012/13 despite the reduction in capacity.

14. Welfare Rights has continued to support activities relating to the implementation of the Social Fund and it has delivered training on the Welfare Reforms to a variety of agencies and partnerships. These training sessions have included Darlington Partnership, Darlington Deaf Club, Adults and Children's Safeguarding Board, School Governors and Avanta who are a work programme provider.

### **Community Advice Project**

15. The Community Advice Project (CAP) is currently working through an exit strategy and looking at ways to capture the learning from this partnership project. The project has helped more people than originally anticipated and this has shown the need for increased capacity in giving free legal advice.
16. Voluntary sector partners are looking for opportunities to bid for grant funding and all partners are looking at ways to continue to use the referral processes. This will continue to improve access to services for the residents of Darlington.

### **Healthwatch**

17. To comply with the Health and Social Care Act 2012 Healthwatch needs to be a social enterprise that is independent of any parent body. Carers Federation established a panel to interview for Healthwatch Darlington Board members on 22nd April 2013.
18. The Board will comprise of ten directors including directors with particular responsibilities for specific tasks or groups within the community. This will also ensure that there is a young person lead on the Board to champion the views of Children and Young People. LINK did not cover young people's issues whereas Healthwatch is a consumer voice for young people too.
19. The Chair of Healthwatch will have a statutory role on the Health and Well-Being Board and will work with all members of the Board to ensure that the voice of residents is heard and acted upon. Role descriptions are available for all posts on the Healthwatch Board and these reflect the competencies that are required.

### **Equalities**

20. The Corporate Equality Group has continued to provide support to officers within the Council to undertake impact assessments in accordance with the Equality Scheme. This group has supported a range of equality impact assessment support to departments across the Council.
21. In addition the group has provided in-house training to Heads of Service following a 'train the trainer' methodology. This was identified as the most cost effective and efficient way to train staff and reduce the risk of legal challenge as it allows training to be tailored to the needs of each staff group

22. An advisory external stakeholder group has been developed to support and advise the Council on equality issues. This group includes representatives from a broad range of voluntary and community organisations covering all of the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.

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