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**OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND LEISURE PORTFOLIO**

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**Purpose of Report**

- 1 During the last eight-week cycle, the following were the main areas of work under my Health and Leisure Portfolio:

**Seizing the Future**

- 2 The NHS have launched a consultation process called Seizing the Future to discuss hospital provision in Durham, Bishop Auckland and Darlington. I would urge all colleagues to attend the briefing sessions that have been arranged by Health and Well Being Scrutiny. I am working with officers to develop a Council response to the consultation to do all we can to ensure that the health needs of our residents are best served by these changes. The Trust will also be arranging public meetings on their proposals in November. Once the dates and venues of these have been confirmed I would urge all members, parties and the public to attend and put Darlington's case forward.

**Public Health Team**

- 3 Liaison between myself and the Locality Director of Public Health has continued. I met with Senior Leads in the Public Health Team and was briefed on key health priorities including sexual health, smoking cessation and tobacco control. Future team visits will focus on mental health, obesity and cancer.

**Healthy Darlington Themed Group**

- 4 A meeting was held between myself, the Head of Health Improvement and Locality Director of Public Health. The key purpose of the meeting was to consider the progress to date on developing the Healthy Darlington Themed Group of the Darlington Partnership. A series of work strands have been defined for the themed group including:
  - a) Narrowing health gaps
  - b) Access to sport and leisure
  - c) Healthy workplaces
  - d) Obesity in young people
  - e) Emotional health and well being
  - f) Planning for an ageing population
- 5 Action plans are in development for each of the above work strands.

## **Fuel Poverty**

- 6 An initial meeting has been held to address fuel poverty, including rights to warmth. This has been developed as a work strand of the Darlington Older People's Partnership Board. Age Concern Darlington is leading the Fuel Poverty Action Group with membership from health, social care, housing, sustainability and the Citizens Advice Bureau.

## **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)**

- 7 From April 2008 every local authority and PCT has a new statutory duty to undertake a JSNA of their local population. Although the guidance on developing JSNAs was not published until December 2007 the concept has been flagged in earlier policies e.g. The Department of Health White Paper *Our Health, Our Care, Our Say (2006)* and The Local Government White Paper *Strong and Prosperous Communities (2006)*. Consultation on the *Commissioning and Framework for Health and Wellbeing (2007)* included further detail on the scope and process for developing JSNAs.
- 8 Darlington Borough Council and PCT started the JSNA development in November 2007. The Directors of Community Services, Children's Services and Public Health have collectively led the work to develop the first phase of the JSNA. The JSNA is defined as a tool to identify health and wellbeing needs and inequalities of a local population to inform more effective and targeted service provision.
- 9 Alongside the JSNA process being finalised, Darlington has been reviewing its community strategy, culminating in the launch of *One Darlington: Perfectly Placed, 2008-2021*, Darlington's Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). It was agreed as a principle that the JSNA would align with and inform the SCS and Local Area Agreement (LAA).
- 10 By October 2008 the JSNA will be available as a tool for planning groups within Darlington Borough Council, Darlington PCT, the Practice Based Commissioning Group and the Voluntary and Third Sector.

## **Darlington Borough Council Health Improvement Group**

- 11 The Darlington Borough Council Health Improvement Steering Group was held on Tuesday 2 September 2008, chaired by myself. Key agenda items included:
  - a) Employee Health and Well Being Group report
  - b) Healthy Schools programme update
  - c) Service action plans

## **Healthy Town**

- 12 An initial expression of interest had been submitted to Healthy Community Challenge Fund in July for funding to join the Healthy Town initiative. The submission was not successful. However, given the level of local interest and support for the submission proposals, Darlington PCT and Darlington Borough Council are currently exploring possibilities for taking the Healthy Town programme forward.

## **Sports Development**

### **Darlington Community Games**

- 13 The Darlington Community Games 2008 took place on Tuesday 22 July 2008 at Eastbourne Sports Complex. There were 18 schools taking part with 390 children participating in five sports: tennis, tag rugby, athletics, cricket and football. Pupils from Red Hall, Mount Pleasant, Whinfield, High Coniscliffe, Harrowgate Hill, Alderman Leach, Heathfield, Springfield, North Road, Mowden, Skerne Park, St Teresa's, St John's, Gurney Pease, Bishopton Redmarshall, Holy Family and St Augustine's took part.
- 14 The event ran in partnership with the School Sport's Partnership, with the aim of improving links between schools and local sports clubs, with a view to creating athletes for the future.
- 15 Susan Deacon, an athlete who represented Great Britain in athletics at the Commonwealth Games, was the Sporting Champion on the day and gave inspirational talks to all pupils in the Club Links Tent. Local clubs from Darlington were invited to attend and promote their club, with the hope of pupils signing up to join them.

### **Summer Programme**

- 16 A full comprehensive summer programme of activities has been successful with a range of sports available to children across the town. The activities included: Gymnastics; Trampolining; Star Track Athletics; Mobile Skate Park; Swimming; Diving; and Dance Mats at a range of community venues in Darlington. The courses were well attended, with consultation and evaluation being undertaken, in order to decide which activities to include in the next holiday programme.

### **Darlington Sport and Physical Activity Strategy – Three New Staff Appointed**

- 17 The Sports Development Team submitted the Stage 2 bids to Sport England to appoint development officers who will work on: a Club and Equality project, an Outdoor Activity Project and the expansion of the Get Everybody Motivated Scheme in March 2008. Darlington Community Sports Network and the Darlington Partnership endorsed all the bids and £184,000 funding has now been released by Sport England to deliver the programme. The posts have now been filled and all three new members of staff will commence work in September.

### **Zone Active Continuation**

- 18 The good practice delivered by Zone Active over the past three years will be developed as some continuation funding is available to engage residents in sport and physical activity within the three priority wards Park East, Eastbourne and Lascelles. A diverse programme of activity will be delivered in community settings with the aim of increasing participation levels.

### **Darlington Dance Mats**

- 19 The Dance Mats continue to be popular and have been rolled out throughout the Summer Programme to Haughton Education Village, Longfield Comprehensive School, Hurworth Grange Community Centre, Carmel College and Branksome Comprehensive School. The Dance Mats will remain at Branksome Comprehensive School at the end of the summer and

will provide sessions for Branksome school pupils and the feeder primary schools starting September through the Extending Activities Programme.

### **Darlington Extended Activities**

20 Funding is being mainstreamed through County Sports Partnerships to each authority in the Tees Valley to work with the Community Sport Networks to implement a programme of activities within Darlington. These activities will work towards the new PE and Sports Strategy for Young People (PESSYP) five hour offer and look to engage a cross section of young people. A range of partners within Darlington have met ranging from the Sports Development team, School Sport Partnerships, PCT, Youth Service, Local Motion and Tees Valley Sport and a full programme of extended activities was developed. Activities include Skate School, Community Based Multi Activity, Dance Mat Fever, trampolining, Street Dance and will be implemented in September.

### **Junior One Life**

21 Families from Darlington took part in a six week programme at Longfield School. Parents and Children attended sessions on nutrition and healthy eating and also took part in numerous sporting activities. The pilot was really successful and some of the children have accessed Trampolining sessions at the Dolphin Centre.

### **Darlington Trampoline Club**

22 A group of young people were successful in applying for £8k of DOSH money through the Youth Service to set up a Darlington Trampoline club for youngsters from 5 - 25 year old. Over eight coaches have attended Trampoline Club coaching and there are now two sessions on Monday and Wednesdays at the Dolphin Centre.

### **Over 45s Swimming**

23 A programme of water based activities has ran for ten weeks providing sessions including water confidence, learn to swim, swimming for health and fitness and aqua-cise for the over 45s. This was in partnership with Tees Valley Sport and the Dolphin Centre. There was an evidence based study identifying that the drop off age of swimming activities was over 45 therefore the pilot scheme was ran. Working with organisations such as Age Concern and GOLD there were 28 individuals who accessed the sessions. The programme is currently being evaluated and this will look at what sessions have being most successful.

### **Events**

#### **Theatre in the Park - Thursday 10 July 2008 to Sunday 13 July 2008**

24 Darlington Green Theatre performed 'A Canterbury Tale' a promenade performance around the newly refurbished South Park 'from Thursday 10 July 2008 to Sunday 13 July 2008. This was the second year the amateur company Green Theatre has performed in the park, which proved successful once again.

#### **Streets of Brass - Friday 11 July 2008 and Saturday 12 July 2008**

25 Working in partnership with Durham County Council to coincide with the Street of Brass in Durham, Darlington held their first Streets of Brass event on Friday 11 and Saturday 12 July

in the Town Centre.

### **Darlington Family Walk - Sunday 20 July 2008**

- 26 Due to the Great North walk moving to Sunderland after two successful years in Darlington, it was decided that Darlington would host its own walk around the scenic Skerningham Woodland and part of the Tees Forest.
- 27 Two events were held, a 2.5-mile wheels friendly route and a six mile route suitable for adults and families which I also participated in. The event attracted just over 200 participants.

### **Olympic Flag Handover – Sunday 24 August 2008**

- 28 I compared an event in the Market place to celebrate the Olympic flag being handed over from Beijing to London. The event was marked by a ‘Cacaphony of Noise’ made by ringing bells and making as much noise as possible. Four of our top young athletes paraded the flag around the square.

### **ArtsSpark at Darlington Arts Centre**

- 29 August marks the end of the first year of the ArtsSpark initiative at Darlington Arts Centre. During this period membership of ArtsSpark Youth Theatre and Dance has risen to 150 and incorporates groups for ages 5 - 18.
- 30 Young people who are ArtsSpark members have been able to access special events, workshops and ticket offers. A Youth Forum, which is part of the scheme, enables young people to participate in decision making and planning for the youth offer within the Arts in Darlington. During the year 13 young people were also able to access work experience within our organisation and followed specially designed work programmes. During the year over 3,000 people attended 54 performances by professional Young People’s Theatre companies in the new Studio Theatre.

### **Threshold**

- 31 The national launch of Threshold, a landmark kinetic water sculpture, which has been installed on the Plaza at Darlington Arts Centre, took place on Wednesday 9 July 2008. The Mayor of Darlington, Councillor Ian Haszeldine and the artist, Angela Conner, carried out the ceremonial switch-on.
- 32 As part of Big Dance, a national celebration of dance, Arts Centre dance tutor Debbie Waistell brought together 100 young people between the ages of 5 - 25 from across Darlington, to perform a site-specific dance on the plaza at the Arts Centre around the sculpture. This took place on Saturday 12 July 2008. Themes suggested by the sculpture were used as stimuli for the piece and young people were able to contribute their own choreography.

### **Visual Arts**

- 33 The touring exhibition Sow:Sew by Jeanette Appleton was exhibited at the Myles Meehan Gallery, Saturday 7 June 2008 - Saturday 2 August 2008, attracting 5660 visitors. Jeanette

led two days of workshops for adults and a gallery talk.

- 34 Clients of Carr Gomm supportive housing charity have recently held an exhibition 'Who Do you Think You Are?' at the Glass Corridor Gallery. The exhibition is a culmination of a three month photography project, led by photographer Ruby Porter, in which clients were given simple cameras, taught basic photographic techniques and encouraged to take photographs with the emphasis on being creative rather than technical. The aim of the project was to help the clients reflect who they are now and who they would like to be. Creating a new positive identity is very important to the clients who are moving on from challenging and difficult times.

### **Public Art**

- 35 A new public artwork 'Pathways', by Jill and Lee Brewster has been installed at Firthmoor. The artists worked closely with the local community, through consultation and education workshops to generate ideas and inspiration for the artwork, which has culminated in five wooden pieces carved with images showing pathways through the different environments in and around the housing estate.

### **Summer Workshops; the Myles Meehan Gallery and the Olympics**

- 36 Over the summer season free workshops have been programmed every Monday in the Mylees Meehan Gallery - they have proved very popular with the public with over 90 attendances in the first three weeks. These workshops have included painting, drawing, collage sculpture, printing, postcard making. The workshops are based on the work exhibited in the three galleries. Other summer workshops have included creative writing and film making as well as Pinatas. There was also a programme of workshops to complement the Olympics 2008 celebrating the cultures of different nations including, Mexico, China, and Japan.

### **Dream it Live it**

- 37 A week of dance activities as part of the summer programme led by Darrien Wright with 40 participants between the ages of eight and 18 this week culminated in a performance in the Arts Centre attended by an audience of 120. This was followed by a second performance in the market square where 16 dancers performed in front of 1000s of people, alongside the GOLD Tea Dance.
- 38 The holiday programme has also included a programme which uses fair trade products in the making of craft activities. The course title was 'Bags and Brooches'.

### **Tourist Information Centre**

- 39 The new Tourist Information Centre now based at the Dolphin Centre has achieved record visitor numbers. During July 18,189 visited the centre compared to 5,866 for the same period in 2007. The increased number of visitors has in turn raised the number of enquiries handled by over 100% from 4,431 to 8,421 for the month of July.

### **Sponsorship**

- 40 Roman Showers and Washrooms based in Newton Aycliffe have kindly committed to the forthcoming Northern Sinfonia season and agreed to become the official sponsor again this

year after an enjoyable 2007/08 programme. The new season commences at the Dolphin Centre on Saturday 18 October 2008.

## **Head of Steam - Darlington's Railway Museum**

### **Learning and Access**

#### **Schools**

- 41 There were 2,042 school users from April to the end of the school term in July - this is two-thirds of this year's target. This includes site visits and outreach work.
- 42 The World War Two week in July went very well. The children enjoyed the train travel and most of them and their teachers got into the spirit of the week and dressed up and brought 'rationed' packed lunches. Northern Rail had sponsored the train travel.
- 43 A grant fund of £2,000 has been secured from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council in the North East for a Learning Links project to start in September. The Museum works in partnership with local teachers to produce resources that benefit the school and the museum.
- 44 The Guided Tour Weekends will be on the first three weekends in August and have attracted nearly 400 visitors over the first weekend alone. Visitors can have a tour of the museum with an actor in costume telling the story of their lives and how the railways affected them.

**Councillor Andrew Scott**  
**Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Health and Leisure**