
OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND LEISURE PORTFOLIO

Purpose of the Report

1. Since the last meeting of Council the following activities have taken place the Health and Leisure Portfolio.

Healthy Darlington

Public Health White Paper

2. Briefings on the consultation papers in relation to commissioning, funding routes and public health outcomes have continued throughout March. Consultation on “Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our Strategy for Public Health in England” closed on 31st March 2011.

Darlington Tobacco Alliance

3. Darlington Tobacco Alliance welcomes the National Tobacco Plan, launched on 9th March 2011.

The plan sets out aspirational aims at reducing smoking, recognising that nationally, rates have levelled off in the last couple of years, trying to turn off the tap of new smokers who start every year and exploring loopholes that allow the tobacco industry to promote smoking as tempting and attractive, especially to young people. It centres around:

- (a) Stopping the promotion of tobacco
- (b) Making tobacco less affordable
- (c) Effective regulation of tobacco products
- (d) Helping tobacco users to quit
- (e) Reducing exposure to second-hand smoke; and
- (f) Effective communications for tobacco control

No Smoking Day: 9 March 2011

4. Events to support 2011 No Smoking day were held across Darlington, including the Dolphin Centre, where respiratory nurses provided advice to visitors.

Environmental Health and Trading Standards

Trading Standards

Tobacco Control

5. Trading Standards have continued their programme of intelligence led test purchasing of tobacco products using under age volunteers to check that traders are not selling to children.

In the latest operation, which included petrol station forecourts, 10 attempted test purchases were made, which resulted in three sales. These offences have been investigated and formal cautions issued.

Cultural Services

Sports Development

Health and Fitness Classes

6. The partnership with Fit Lab has facilitated a significant increase in participation in Health and Fitness classes at the Dolphin Centre. Following the launch of the programme in September 2010, peak time classes such as Zumba are generating more than 100 customers per class. The combined Dolphin Centre and Fit-Lab timetable has strengthened the product offer and is regularly facilitating in excess of 300 customers per day.
7. Following the huge success of Zumba, Fit-Lab will now be offering ZumbAtomic for children aged 4 – 12 years at the Dolphin Centre. These trademark children's courses are expected to be extremely popular and provide even more choice for young children looking to participate in fun but physical activity.

Exercise after Stroke

8. The Exercise After Stroke programme is moving forward quickly, with referrals being made to start the ARNI programme in the next few weeks. The programme is following the same format as the initial pilot but in light of recommendations in new best practice guidelines, preparation has been made to incorporate the new principles as the programme is rolled out more widely. Funding for additional training has also been secured to increase the number of qualified staff who are able to support this programme.

Family Initiative Supporting Children's Health (FISCH)

9. FISCH is delivering to four schools across Darlington (Skerne Park, Mount Pleasant, Dodmire and Heathfield). The programme is currently in Week 7 of 10. After School Clubs are successful and maintaining participation throughout the programme. Exit routes into community activities and clubs are being promoted in conjunction with Groundwork in the coming weeks. Schools are currently being finalised and timetable for the summer term programme.

Darlington Doorstep Walks

10. The Darlington Doorstep Walk Programme is running successfully with 12 weekly walks within the community. Two new Nordic walks are beginning at the start of March as these sessions are consistently oversubscribed.

Run: in Darlington

11. The running groups are very popular with over 100 different runners taking part in one of the 3 weekly sessions since the start of the year, averaging about 20 runners per session.
12. Due to popular demand, further sessions are being developed alongside community clubs to extend the range of 'running' options for participants.

Zone Active

13. This community based physical activity programme has developed further since January 2011. From 1 January to 28 February 2011, the Zone Active Project engaged with 370 participants between the ages of 4 and 72 with a total throughput of 1,412. The project delivered 156 group work sessions across 20 schemes of work averaging 18.5 participants per scheme.

Partners: Youth Service and Groundwork

14. Zone Active continues to support the Youth Service and Groundwork's community sessions by providing qualified sports coaches. Not only does this help develop effective partnership working but also helps the organisations target more young people within the Town while reducing staffing costs and duplication of similar work.

Clubs and Sessions

15. Skate School is one of the most successful Zone Active projects. The club has delivered 20 sessions totalling 49 hours since the 14 September 2010 regularly attracting 34 participants. The club is based at Carmel RC School and has grown quickly with a further session now running on a Tuesday evening at Eastbourne Sports Complex from 4:00pm to 5:30pm.

Sports Ability

16. The Sports Ability Club delivers a range of sporting activities to disabled children between the ages of 8 and 16 over a 10-week period. Wave Four of the Sports Ability Club finished on the 14 December 2010. The club attracted 17 members and delivered 8 different sports in the 10 weeks it ran.
17. Wave 5 of the Sports Ability Club began on the 8 March 2011; the club will again run for 10 weeks at the Dolphin Centre. Transport will be provided for children attending the club from the Education Village.
18. The Sports Ability Club received £650 in funding from Children's Services to help ensure the club's sustainability. The club also receives support from Darlington Association of Disability by providing two support workers on a weekly basis.

Street Soccer

19. The Zone Active project has developed strong Street Soccer links with the local schools in Darlington. Six-week skills programmes have been delivered in Longfield (x 2), Mount Pleasant and St Aidan's (x 2) as part of a PE curriculum or offered as an after school club.

Zone Active continues to run a weekly Zone Active Street Soccer Club at Eastbourne Gym as an exit route for the school programmes, the club attracts around 12 members on a weekly basis.

Tennis

20. Zone Active runs a very successful Saturday morning Tennis Club at Darlington College. The tennis club attracts up to 18 young people on a weekly basis. Zone Active is hoping to

develop the Tennis Club and its members to a junior standard by the end or 2011. The Tennis Club will act as an exit route to the Darlington Community Games 2011.

Volunteers and Coaches

21. Zone Active is continually looking to help develop the coaching network and support the progression of existing coaches alongside Tees Valley Sport. The development of the network and coaches will also allow the service to deliver a more comprehensive programme of activities, and so engaging a wider range of people a healthy lifestyle.

Events

Chinese New Year Celebrations – 7 February 2011

22. Crowds gathered in Joseph Pease Place to celebrate Chinese New Year on Monday 7 February 2011. Students from Hummersknott School brought their dragon down to help the Northern Dragon Lion Dance Team welcome in the Chinese New Year of the Rabbit.
23. The Northern Dragon Lion Dance Team performed a traditional Lion Dance to music before joining in with the students as they paraded around the performance space.

Best of Darlington Awards – 18 February 2011

24. The sixth annual Best of Darlington Awards were held at Darlington College on Friday 18 February 2011. The event, which was attended by 300 people, receiving a record number of entries, showcased the best of Darlington, all of whose stories amazed those present.
25. There were 13 categories, which included Contribution to Sport, Contribution to the Arts and Contribution to the Community, and an Unsung Hero Award for George Simpson for his huge contribution (over 35 years) to league football in Darlington.

Darlington Arts Centre

ArtsSpark

26. ArtsSpark Youth Dance took part in Northern Lights - a regional celebration of Youth Dance at Newcastle Theatre Royal in February 2011. They had the chance to watch other Youth Dance Companies from around the region as well as performing to an audience of family, friends and young people.

Arts Engagement

27. Darlington Arts Centre worked in partnership with Youth Services to provide a number of arts workshops for 'Girls Night In' Events at Branksome Community Centre at the beginning of March 2011, targeted at girls in the Branksome area aged 11 to 19 years old.
28. Darlington Arts Centre worked in partnership with Youth Services to provide a number of arts workshops for an event at Darlington Arts Centre during February 2011 Half Term, targeted at young people aged 13 to 19 years old.
29. The Arts Centre organised 18 inclusive arts workshops, both in community childcare settings and at the Arts Centre, for February 2011 Half Term as part of Children's Services Holiday

Childcare Pilot. The sessions provided a range of exciting arts and craft activities for childcare providers, such as Kids and Co and Barnardos, working with young people with and without disabilities.

Visual Arts

30. *England's Favourite Landscape* was on show in the Myles Meehan Gallery; it featured paintings with a strong element of the real and experienced landscape mixed with references to historic and contemporary English landscape ideologies, design and use. The exhibition ran from 21 January to 19 March, 2011.
31. Ann Whitfield has just installed her new exhibition *Across Northern Hills* in the Lounge Gallery. Her vibrant paintings explore and delight in the landscapes of the northern hills and her response is as much emotional as visual. All the work in this exhibition features the Uplands of the Northern Pennines and the Lake District. The exhibition runs from 8 March to 21 May 2011.
32. Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College have just installed in the Glass Corridor work from the A Level Fine Art and the Art Foundation Students. The exhibition runs until 30 April 2011.
33. The Young Curators have been successfully undertaking work to curate the upcoming exhibition of The Borough Collection in Myles Meehan. This exhibition is part of ongoing initiatives to widen access to the collection as well as heighten engagement of young people with the visual arts.

Public Art

34. Community consultation workshops with new artist Coralie Turpin (c/o tender winner's Mayflower Engineering) are underway to inform designs for the major and minor entranceways as part of the HLF funded Brinkburn Denes Project.

Education & Outreach Projects

Springthing

35. A one-day family arts workshop was held to complement the Springthing Folk Festival in March 2011. This will consist of children and parents making a woodland animal such as a hedgehog, squirrel or owl using clay.

Arts Award

36. The Arts Team is currently working with students from Years 9-11 to achieve Arts Award at Bronze Level. One student, along with two from Hummersknott School and Language College and two young people attending Darlington Arts Centre are awaiting results from moderation.

Openart Studio

37. Now coming to the end of the pilot project, Openart Studio is being used by PCT as a model of good practice, along other hubs in County Durham. Openart Studio will provide arts engagement and social inclusion to aid mental well-being.

38. Recently Openart Studio has been involved in the first World Book Night, distributing 48 books to friends, family and leaving Alan Bennett's 'A Life Like Other People's' in places such as parks, buses and trains. This, along with a reading from a local artistic director and actor, was aimed at encouraging the members to connect with their communities.

Head of Steam

39. Exterior interpretation panels have been developed at the Museum to guide visitors around the site. Information will be provided on the following: The Stockton & Darlington Railway Line; The Goods Shed; Number 2 McNay Street; North Road Station; The Porter's Room; The Breakers Yard; Hopetown Carriage Works and The Lime Cells.
40. The Lewis Carroll exhibition, Living in Wonderland finished in March 2011 and be replaced by Trenches and Trinkets: Darlington Crested China of World War Two.

Arts Enquiry Group Process

41. The Darlington Arts Project has established an Enquiry Group process, chaired by John Orchard, to find proactive solutions for the future of the Arts sector within the Borough. Wide responses to consultation have demonstrated the value of arts provision and its central role in the life of the Darlington. This group will work together between February and June to:
- (a) Develop a vision for a vibrant arts culture across Darlington, to meet the needs of the whole community, supporting local priorities and One Darlington: Perfectly Placed and contributing to the local economy, making Darlington an attractive place for businesses to locate and thrive;
 - (b) Develop options appraisals for organisational models, funding and premises to support that vision;
 - (c) Deliver outcomes in line with the Arts Council's new 10 year strategic framework, *Achieving Great Art for Everyone*.
42. The Darlington Arts Project will embrace the ethos of Darlington Together in developing capacity within the community to take ownership of the arts offer and a strategic focus for the arts. Four working groups have been established based on the collective views developed during the first Arts Enquiry Group meeting in February 2011, the key areas of focus for each theme group are:
- (a) **Creative Darlington** – recognising how and why the arts matter
 - (b) **Working Together** – developing models and solutions through partnership working
 - (c) **Spaces and Places** – creating fertile conditions through spaces and places
 - (d) **Voices and views** – ensuring broad engagement and consultation

Councillor Stephen Harker
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