
OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS PORTFOLIO

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. The transfer of public health leadership, responsibilities and functions from NHS County Durham & Darlington to the Local Authority is progressing. The workstream leads report regularly via the Transition Plan to the Darlington Public Health Reference Group.
3. We continue to work toward the effective transfer of new functions and duties to the Local Authority with due diligence being carried out to make sure the necessary assurances are in place.
4. The Darlington Tobacco Control Alliance has responded to the national consultation on standardised tobacco packaging. In the North East the average age of starting to smoke is 15 years with many starting earlier. The aim of standardised packaging is to protect children and curb a remaining avenue for tobacco promotion. I am supporting the campaign for plain packaging.
5. An assembly / workshop is taking place on 10th July at Darlington Teesside University Campus to develop a revised Alcohol Strategy for Darlington.

Equalities and Engagement

6. A draft Equality and Inclusion Scheme is being developed and will go forward to Cabinet in September following an engagement programme in the summer. This will guide future work on both equalities and impact assessment and set out a clear process for activity that ensures that we comply with our Public Sector Duty in relation to all of the protected groups within the Equality Act 2010.
7. Engagement has taken place in relation to the impact of the move of the Social Fund from the Department of Work and Pensions to the local authority in April 2013. This will impact on people who would potentially need to access a crisis loan or a community care grants. Impact assessment discussions were held in a range of community venues with a range of community groups, volunteers and service users. The information gained has been fed into the development of proposals for the future operation of the Social Fund in Darlington.

Welfare Rights

8. Despite changes to the Employment and Support Allowance which has resulted in a longer time to close cases, £63,451 was secured in May for clients in additional benefits, bringing the total to £159,667 for this financial year.

Health and Well-Being Board Development

9. On 22 May 2012, Darlington Borough Council's Cabinet approved the development of the Darlington Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board which commenced at 4pm on 12th June 2012.
10. It has been proposed that Darlington develops its shadow HWBB function on a model that focuses on joint integration arrangements between the Council and the CCG. This includes integration in its widest sense, and would include the following:
 - (a) Joint developments to improve the well being of the population
 - (b) Integrated decision-making on health and social care issues
 - (c) Joint commissioning of pathways and services
 - (d) Integrated strategic and service planning
 - (e) Potential development of a single organisation commissioning for health and social care.
11. Darlington Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board will include the following members:-
 - (a) All Members of Cabinet
 - (b) Chair of CCG, plus an additional three CCG members
 - (c) Chief Executive, DBC
 - (d) Director of Services for People, DBC
 - (e) Director of Services for Place, DBC
 - (f) Director of Public Health
 - (g) Healthwatch representative (a representative from LINK until Darlington Healthwatch is established)
 - (h) NHS National Commissioning Board
12. In addition to the formal members, it is recognised that it will be important to involve a wider range of stakeholders, and it has been agreed that the following are invitees to the shadow HWBB:-
 - (a) Voluntary Sector representative
 - (b) Representative of the Opposition parties, DBC
 - (c) Faculty Lead for Health and Social Care, Teesside University

The Chair of the Shadow HWBB is the Leader of the Council and the Vice Chair is the Chair of Darlington CCG.

Local Involvement Network (LINK) and Healthwatch

13. LINK is working with the Council to support the development of Healthwatch in Darlington and they are raising awareness about the changes to Public Health and the development of Clinical Commissioning Groups. They are holding a public event in July for the residents of Darlington to ensure that they can give their views about future ways of working,

14. Darlington is also working with colleagues in the region to take forward the commissioning of Healthwatch and officers have attended a Master class to discuss a number of outstanding issues that all local authorities are striving to resolve. These issues include the way that local Healthwatch organisations will feed into Healthwatch England that will be developed as a separate independent committee of the Care Quality Commission.

Darlington Partnership

15. Significant work has been undertaken to develop the Partnership's vision. The One Darlington: Perfectly Placed Delivery Strategy will provide the overall framework for taking forward our existing vision for Darlington and for improving the wellbeing of our community. The Delivery Strategy will continue the work and partnership activity that is contained within the Sustainable Community Strategy and will fulfil the new statutory duty placed on Local Authorities to produce a Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The Delivery Strategy will support the commissioning, design and delivery of better responses to identified local needs and to the development of local assets in a more integrated and effective way. The Delivery Strategy is due to be adopted by the Partnership at its Board meeting on 12th September.
16. Darlington Partnership has held four Assemblies to gain partnership involvement in this process. These Assemblies in total involved more than 100 people across the four, and received very positive feedback from participants.
17. The Partnership continues to make progress delivering towards its action priorities which focus on:
 - (a) Vocational opportunities for young people
 - (b) The harm caused by alcohol
 - (c) Ageing.

Action plans have been agreed to deliver a range of initiatives under each priority. For example, the Darlington Foundation For Jobs is delivering additional apprenticeship and internship places for young people. A 'social norms' campaign is being delivered through employers around alcohol and additional volunteering and good neighbouring schemes are being developed with eVOLution providing oversight.

Voluntary Sector

18. The second Voluntary Sector Liaison Meeting was held on 22 June. This provides an opportunity for Darlington Borough Council to meet with third sector organisations, to share information and discuss issues to the mutual benefit of all involved.
19. The Voluntary Sector Compact Steering Group met on 28 June, attended by representatives of third sector organisation who have a compact with the Council. The steering group meets quarterly and monitors progress of the respective compacts with the council.

Councillor A Scott
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Health and Partnerships