
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

Alcohol Awareness Week, 19th – 25th November 2012 and Darlington Alcohol Strategy

2. The theme for Alcohol Awareness Week was 'Time to talk about drinking'. A range of materials were made available to support the week. These included new Alcohol Concern posters entitled 'Hair of the Dog', a 'Change for life' booklet which was part of the national Public Health Lifestyle campaign and was also a TV advert, a document by Balance to dispel myths and promote support for minimum unit price for alcohol (this has been circulated to Members for use with constituents) and an Alcohol Awareness Week guide to encourage organisations to start conversations about drinking.
3. Locally, during Alcohol Awareness Week, we launched both the new adult, integrated drug and alcohol Connected Recovery Treatment Service and the Safer Drinking Safer Darlington Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy Refresh 2012-15.
4. Safer Drinking Safer Darlington Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy Refresh 2012-15 sets out the principle aims and objectives guiding the work of Darlington's Drug & Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) and key partners around the reduction of harm caused by substance misuse and alcohol. Underpinning actions focus on prevention interventions to reduce demand, control interventions to reduce associated offending and supply and building sustainable recovery in communities through provision of effective specialist treatment services. This will be achieved by:-
 - (a) on-going needs assessment to determine level of need and target groups
 - (b) provision, promotion and performance management of integrated drug and alcohol recovery treatment services
 - (c) engagement and retention of individuals in treatment through to sustainable recovery outcomes

5. This necessitates a multi-agency, multi-setting, holistic approach to the wider determinant recovery factors including housing, dual diagnosis, families and offending.
6. The rest of the focus for the week was by obtaining as much support as possible for the Balance “Minimum Unit Pricing” campaign by asking people to complete postcards outlining their support for the policy. This included Balance Street Teams on specified days in the Town Centre and also buy-in from all partners and local businesses to assist with getting the postcards completed. Balance also undertook “street activity” to gain support for alcohol minimum unit pricing in Darlington at the Memorial Hospital on 16th and 21st November and it will be at The Cornmill Shopping Centre from 3rd to 9th December, 2012.

Department of Health Visit

7. On 1st and 2nd November 2012, John McCracken, Policy Lead for Drugs Policy (Department of Health), visited the region. John has been supportive of multi-million pound capital investment in drug and alcohol services in the North East, including the refurbishment of the Gate in Darlington. As part of his visit, John spent some time visiting local services and visited the Gate on the morning of 1st November 2012. This presented an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the high quality local services that have been developed in Darlington.

Health and Social Care Delivery Plan

8. Each Local Authority has a legal obligation to produce a Health and Wellbeing Strategy as set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Darlington’s Health and Social Care Delivery Plan provides a plan of action, which sits underneath Darlington’s Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This delivery plan outlines priorities and key issues that will affect the health and wellbeing of the residents of Darlington and encompasses actions by the whole community including the Council, NHS, Police, voluntary sector and citizens within Darlington. The plan was approved by Cabinet on 6th November and has been informed by a range of community engagement activity which took place in development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Specific focus groups and online consultation have also taken place on the draft delivery plan and its actions. The plan has been formally considered by the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board and Clinical Commissioning Group. The three priority areas for action are:

Action 1: To focus resources in areas of highest need

Action 2: To create a sustainable health and social care economy

Action 3: To improve the management of long term conditions

9. Consultation feedback has suggested that an accessible public facing document needs to be developed and that there is significant interest in developing the detailed implementation plans behind the high level actions.

Tees Collaboration

10. Work has progressed on the public health collaboration across the Tees Valley and arrangements for a public health network approach across the Tees Valley via Public Health Shared Services has been established to ensure effective co-ordination of commissioning of mandatory public health functions post 2013. The shared service is an efficient option for Darlington and is particularly crucial for delivering the Core Offer to the Clinical Commissioning Group. Redcar and Cleveland Council is hosting the shared service and act as employer for shared service staff who operate across the Tees Valley.

Clinical Governance Workshop, 31st October 2012

11. Within the new public health responsibilities for Local Authorities is a responsibility for Clinical Governance, particularly with respect to the clinical services for which the Local Authority will take on commissioning responsibility, including sexual health and drug and alcohol services. Clinical Governance is concerned with ensuring sound clinical practice and includes workforce requirements, audit, research, information management and risk management. It is crucial that systems are in place to support sound clinical governance in the local authority. A workshop was held to discuss this on 31st October 2012. Representatives from the Local Authority attended the meeting and the output was fed into the Public Health Transition Management Group for consideration.

LGA Self-Assessment October 2012

12. An external assessment of our progress in planning for the effective transfer of public health responsibilities has been conducted. The Public Health Transition Self-Assessment was completed and returned to the Local Government Association on 10th October 2012. The self-assessment aimed to help localities to identify areas of progress and those for development and the results will be summarised at regional and national levels. The position of individual Authorities will not be reported to Government. Overall, Darlington reported that transition arrangements were robust, clear and achievable. A full transition plan is in place for both NHS County Durham and Darlington as the "Sender" organisation and Darlington Borough Council as the "Receiver" organisation.

Darlington Partnership

13. I oversaw an election at the Community meeting of Darlington Partnership on 22nd October when three community representatives were voted on to the Darlington Partnership board. They were Neil Campling, Kevin Nicholson and Jan Cossins. It will be their role to help facilitate the development of community responses to Darlington Partnership Board priorities and to bring key community issues and ideas to the Board's attention.

Darlington Foundation for Jobs

14. As Members will recall, Darlington Partnership launched the Darlington Foundation for Jobs at Lingfield Point on 26th January 2012. The initiative will run throughout 2012 and beyond.
15. Darlington Foundation for Jobs is achieving above target and creating vocational opportunities for young people in Darlington. The targets set out at the launch of the project were:-
 - (a) The creation of 100 apprenticeships for Darlington Borough residents by end of March 2013.
 - (b) The creation of 100 internships or work experience placements for Darlington Borough residents by end of March 2013.
 - (c) Ensuring 1,000 young people at Darlington Schools and colleges have meaningful contact with industry by end of March 2013.
 - (d) At least 50 Darlington Borough residents are given entrepreneurial skills training by end of March 2013.
16. Against these targets the following has been achieved:-
 - (a) 78 apprenticeship places where young people have either started with a firm or the company has reached the recruitment process stage.
 - (b) 99 internships or work experience places where young people have either taken part in an eight week work placement through job centre plus or taken part in a longer internship.
 - (c) 985 young people at Darlington Schools have had meaningful contact with industry through activities schools are already signed up to.
 - (d) 66 young people have been given some entrepreneurial experience.

Darlington CARES

17. The Partnership is also helping employers in Darlington support their local communities. Darlington Partnership Board, at its meeting in May 2012, considered a paper which explored how the corporate social responsibility activities of employers in Darlington could be better pooled and aligned in addressing the needs of local communities. A steering group was formed and led by the private sector which concluded that a 'CARES' scheme, based on a Business in the Community model would be most effective and has subsequently driven forward action to instigate it.
18. Darlington CARES will assist businesses and other local employers to fulfil their corporate social responsibility commitments by working with local people to identify projects to get involved in. It will bring together the skills and expertise of

businesses, local employers and their employees to make a positive difference to the local community through a range of initiatives.

19. Five of the larger employers in Darlington have joined Teesside University and Darlington Borough Council to form the Board of Darlington Cares and committed to an annual contribution towards the running costs. The Board met for the first time on 25th September 2012. Cliff Hardcastle, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Teesside University, has been appointed as Chairman and Anne Yare, HR Director of the Deep Ocean Group, and Alasdair MacConachie, Managing Director of Sherwoods Garage, have been appointed as Vice Chairs.
20. Teesside University has agreed to host the initiative, providing accommodation at their Darlington campus and acting as the employer for the Programme Manager. A successful recruitment process has taken place during September and a Programme Manager, Katie Blundell, has been appointed and took up post on 22nd October 2012.

One Darlington

21. Darlington Partnership remains resolutely committed to One Darlington: the aim of ensuring that people are not disadvantaged by their lack of income, where they live or by any other potential disadvantage that could cause them to miss out on opportunities. Karen Grundy, Chief Executive of eVOLution, has accepted the responsibility of taking the lead on the Partnership Board for One Darlington.
22. Since the Partnership's strategy One Darlington: Perfectly Placed was written in 2008 many things have changed for the people of Darlington. An Assembly is being planned to identify the issues faced in Darlington, to look at how other communities faced with similar problems have begun to address them and think about what action could be instigated in Darlington.

Equalities and Engagement

23. "Live" equalities impact assessment is in progress on a range of projects and plans, including: Health and Well-Being plan, Community Support Network, Health and Social Care delivery plan, Localisation of Social Fund, future of Stressholme, street lighting, Council Tax support, One Darlington: Perfectly Placed Delivery Plan and domiciliary care.
24. Equalities Scheme implementation plan and external engagement arrangements for the delivery of the Equality Scheme are being drafted. A review of equalities training needs is progressing and links between equalities and the corporate performance management framework have been identified and agreed.

Welfare Rights

25. At the end of September the total caseload for the team was 143 cases; 32 new enquiries were opened and 33 closed. During September £37,259 of additional benefits were secured for clients. This is down on last year's figure of £60,333 but reflects the fact that since Incapacity Benefit has been replaced by Employment

and Support Allowance, awards are lower and cases are taking significantly longer. It also reflects the fact that caseloads need to be managed down to accommodate a redundancy.

Community Advice Project (CAP)

26. This project will cease in April 2013 and the partners are holding a stakeholder event to look at what will happen following the closure. A stakeholder event will be held on 30th November 2012 which will highlight the work undertaken by CAP and the achievements of the project.
27. The event will also discuss the reduced capacity to deliver legal advice on housing, employment, debt and welfare benefits that will be available in Darlington after April 2013. The event will also look at ways forward and how we can deliver better together in the future through sharing learning gained from the project. The event will also look at whether any future funding opportunities are available and how Darlington can maximise the chances of accessing these.

Healthwatch

28. The specification for Advocacy for Health Complaints has now been out to market and we are hoping to have the deliverer appointed in January 2013. This will enable the new provider to work with Independent Complaints Advisory Service, the current provider, to ensure that existing cases are dealt with to deliver continuity and support to clients as seamlessly as possible.
29. The specification for the signposting and involvement elements of Healthwatch are going out to tender and Darlington Healthwatch will be in place in time for 1st April 2013. Consultation events in Darlington have highlighted the importance of the work of the existing Local Involvement Network and the need to encourage members of LINK to continue to remain active in the new Healthwatch arrangements. A Transition Plan will be developed with the provider of Healthwatch when the contract is awarded to ensure that this happens.

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