
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. I have supported a range of programmes to tackle tobacco control and smoking including the Making Smoking History in the North East Partnership at the end of February. I represented the Council at the regional 'Make Smoke History' Group on 28 February.
3. In February, the Commons approved powers to bring in regulations for standard tobacco packs and to end smoking in cars with children.
4. FRESH has joined councils, charities, health groups, doctors and public in celebrating amendments passed in Parliament to protect children from toxic smoke in cars and tobacco promotion.
5. The House of Commons has approved Lords amendments to the Children and Families Bill, which gives the Health Secretary the power to bring in Regulations which would:
 - (a) Require cigarettes and other tobacco products to be sold in standard ('plain') packaging with larger health warnings.
 - (b) Make it an offence to smoke in cars where children under 18 are present.
 - (c) Impose an age of sale of 18 for e-cigarettes.
 - (d) Make it an offence for adults to buy tobacco on behalf of children.
6. Most smokers start as children and the average age is just 15 in the North East. Standard packaging for tobacco with larger health warnings and glossy logos removed is aimed at reducing youth smoking. The packs would also end once and for all myths that white and silver packs, formerly branded 'low tars', are less harmful.
7. In a 2010 survey of children aged 11 to 15, around one child in five reported often being exposed to second-hand smoke in cars. Based on results from a 2012 survey of over 7,000 children aged 11 to 15, the British Lung Foundation calculated that around 185,000 children are exposed to cigarette smoke in their family cars 'every day or on most days', whilst around 430,000 children travel in 'smoky' cars at least once a week.

8. Surveys show 63 per cent of North East adults support cigarettes being sold in standard packs, whilst 85 per cent back a law on smoking in cars carrying children.
9. The FRESH mass media campaign, 'Don't be the One', was launched mid-February comprising of TV advertising, digital media as well as radio and cinema advertising.
10. Darlington Borough Council supported 'No Smoking Day' this month, a national campaign when thousands of people were encouraged to stop smoking.
11. Public Health Service Reviews are progressing as part of the conditions of the waiver to procurement and contract rules granted by Council last year. Stakeholder and service user feedback has been collated and recommendations are being fed into the completion of the Equality Impact Assessment for services.
12. Public Health will undertake a series of quality audits during 2014/15 which will feed into the development of service specifications for 2015/16. Services being audited in quarter one are Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction, the Relationships, Education and Sexual Health Co-ordinator and the Level Two sexual health contract with Denmark Street GP surgery, which provides a clinic in Darlington College. The intended outcome of this review is to ensure greater integration of quality monitoring in service specifications with an emphasis on patient and service user experience, reducing inequalities and increasing access to services.
13. The Warm Up North British Gas Project continues to be promoted by Age UK who hold the HE-AT advice Fuel Poverty contract with Public Health.

Darlington Partnership

14. The Partnership Board agreed in November a series of action to address the growing incidence of poverty in Darlington.
15. It has established a group to explore how comprehensive support is made available for people facing crisis due to poverty close to where they live through peripatetic outreach in community settings. The aim would be that people can get at one go:
 - (a) access to a food bank
 - (b) advice (debt, benefit, housing)
 - (c) access to the Credit Union
16. The group, chaired by Tim Grant, principal of Darlington College has representation from the third sector organisations which will be involved and are working closely with Darlington Borough Council's Assistant Director Chief Executives.
17. The Partnership has also called for a report on developing an employability programme. Again Darlington Borough Council would be central to this work along with Job Centre Plus and Tees Valley Unlimited.

18. Partnership Board members have also raised concern about two issues related to poverty, mental health and pay day lending. The Partnership has called for appropriate leads to be found to lead groups to scope these issues and recommend action.

Healthwatch

19. Healthwatch Darlington are working hard to build on the networks that already exist in Darlington and to add value to these. They have developed a directory that will make it much easier for people to understand what health and social care services are available in Darlington. This directory is aimed at all residents but will also be useful for service providers who need to work with other partners.
20. Healthwatch are continuing to strengthen the voice of service users and are supporting the Learning Disability Network, Mental Health Network and Darlington Organisations Together. They are also using other forums including linking to Patient Opinion and Care Opinion which are ways that people can also leave comments about local services. Details of this can be found on Healthwatch website on <http://www.healthwatchdarlington.co.uk/your-say-darlington>
21. They are also busy collecting views from residents on a range of topics and have set up the following task and finish groups:-
- (a) Enter & View Task and Finish Group
 - (b) GP Access Task and Finish Group
 - (c) Data Intelligence Task and Finish Group
 - (d) Equality and Diversity Task and Finish Group
22. The aim of these groups is to look at feedback and look at ways services can be improved. The GP access work is being undertaken with a range of partners from the Health and Well Being Board and Health and Partnerships Scrutiny.
23. Healthwatch Darlington is also progressing with development as freestanding social enterprise able to continue to provide the service but independently. This will ensure that resource is kept in Darlington but that service delivery continues at a local level.

Welfare Rights

24. During January, the Welfare Rights Manager attended the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board meeting to provide an update on welfare reforms.
25. The amount in additional benefit secured for clients was £24,725, the total raised to date is £312,799. There were eleven new enquiries opened during January and 25 closed – the total caseload is currently 34. In addition, five enquiries were dealt with as consultancy for local authority and voluntary agency staff.

Health and Well Being Board

26. Health and Well Being Board, at its last meeting, approved the refresh of the Strategic Single Needs Assessment (SNA) 2013 which was originally produced in 2012 and was a requirement under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
27. The Board gave consideration to the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health (DPH) Darlington entitled 'Building Blocks for Good Health in Darlington'. The report was a statutory function of the DPH and made reference to some key chapter headings relating to the Best Start (Children and Young People's Health), Building Better Health Outcomes (Disease and Poor Health and Health and Lifestyle); No Health without Mental Health, Growing Older, Ageing Well and Building a Good Life (improving health in a fair way, building resilient communities and investing together).
28. Following the transfer of public health responsibilities to Local Authorities in 2013 the Council is now responsible for the delivery of commissioning services for a broad range of public health outcomes and, following a review of the current service provision in Darlington, the Board gave consideration to a new model for Lifestyle Intervention and Improvement for Darlington.
29. Implementation of this new model will make a significant contribution to achieving sustainable improvement to public health outcomes in Darlington by narrowing the inequalities gap and building on the principles contained in the Director of Public Health's Annual report.
30. On 14 February the strategy for the Better Care Fund to the Department of Health and Department of Communities and the Local Government was submitted. The Better Care Fund is a single pooled budget to support health and social care services to work more closely together as a response to growing demand and constrained resources across the health and social care economy. The Board will meet next month to approve the final submission.
31. The Board also received updates on :
 - (a) the recent self-evaluation in relation to delivering the national Autism Strategy, fulfilling and rewarding lives: the strategy for adults with autism in England; and
 - (b) work and progress within the Clinical Commissioning Group, Darlington Health Watch and the Health and Social Care Delivery Plan.

Community Development

32. Council staff have supported trustees from Skerne Park Community Centre to develop a business plan.

Councillor A Scott
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Health and Partnerships