
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

Better Health at Work Award

2. Darlington Borough Council remains committed to supporting local workplaces to achieve the Better Health at Work Award. A new model of engagement is under development to ensure local employers continue to have access to the support required. Enquiries have been received this quarter from Argos, Cummins and Job Centre Plus.

Fuel Poverty

3. The Age UK Fuel Poverty project is progressing well with clients accessing, through venues, including King's Church food bank. Following a meeting with Revenue and Benefits, Housing and Economic Growth, Public Health produced a briefing on resources spent on fuel poverty. Emphasis was noted on the need to improve outcomes through the Social Fund. The Age UK contract will be extended alongside reviewing a collaborative Council approach.

Public Health Communications

4. A Darlington Together Article has been produced for Stoptober, this year's theme being 'Don't be the One', referencing the estimated one in two smokers who die from smoking-related causes. Public Health England resources will be distributed to Darlington Borough Council staff sites, GPs and Pharmacies.

Workforce Development

5. Public Health are part of the Developing Darlington training group and working to ensure that Health is incorporated into the Council's workforce development offer.
6. Further to feedback from the Darlington Cares Board, the scope of the Mental Health and Wellbeing in the Workplace project has been developed. The project will focus on using the skills, expertise and resources available from within local employers to support and enable smaller organisations to address mental health

and wellbeing. An introductory event for employers took place at Teesside University, Darlington on 10 September 2014. The feedback is being used to inform a further session for organisations, offering support which will include details on local services, recommended tools and literature. A participant website will be established where organisations can register, communicate with each other and access support materials. This will also enable monitoring of uptake. A local mark of recognition will be granted to all those participating, both offering and receiving support.

7. Major procurements for the public health team, including sexual health services and substance misuse services, remain on track. Local consultation has significantly informed the development of specifications for the new service. The formal tender exercises will take place between September and December 2014, with new contracts being operational from 1 April 2015.
8. Darlington's response to the Education Select Committee Parliamentary inquiry into Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) has been published. Responses were received from education, health and social care with the results available here: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/education-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/pshe-and-sre-in-schools/>. The Relationships Education and Sexual Health Co-ordinator is continuing to support schools on Darlington priorities.

Darlington Partnership

9. The Partnership continues to work on developing a proposal to ensure there is support for mental wellbeing in the work place for Darlington's employers. The Partnership is working with Darlington Cares, an alliance of Darlington's employers, to develop an initiative where larger organisations share expertise and good practice with smaller companies.
10. Work also continues through the Partnership to support people in Darlington who are struggling financially. There are now three Help Hubs established in Cockerton, Whessoe Road and Haughton. Plans are being developed to open the next Hub at the Coleridge Centre in Skerne Park. Work has also been started to plan a conference which will increase awareness of the financial difficulties faced by some people in Darlington and to start mapping out what action is needed to address the key issues.

Healthwatch

11. Healthwatch have published their first annual report as an independent organisation and this can be found on their website at: <http://www.healthwatchdarlington.co.uk/news/annual-report-2013-14>
This report highlights the activities and impact that Healthwatch has made during the past year including the development of a Health and Social Care Directory and work with Scrutiny and the Care Quality Commission.
12. Throughout the year, Healthwatch have continued to provide support for the Mental Health Network, Learning Impairment Network and Darlington Ageing Well

Network. These groups provide a very valuable service user perspective in the development of strategies such as the Mental Health Strategy and the Dementia Strategy.

13. Enter and Views have been undertaken by volunteers to look at the services at the Eye Clinic at Darlington Memorial Hospital and also to support national consultations on discharge from hospital.
14. Healthwatch are working with the Peoples Parliament to change culture as shown by the terminology used to refer to people with a learning impairment. The Learning Disability Network has therefore been renamed the Learning Impairment Network. This is a valuable step in working in partnership with service users and listening to people's views and then taking action to deliver change.

Welfare Rights

15. New rules relating to appeals, introduced in October, saw mandatory reconsiderations being introduced and ending the previous process of appealing a Department for Work and Pensions decision. This has particularly affected Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claimants who are found fit for work and no longer be entitled to benefit unless they sign on as available for work or are allowed to appeal. A recent enquiry from the MP's office related to someone with multiple health problems. They had no income as they had been found fit for work under ESA rules but not fit enough under Jobseeker's Allowance rules to be entitled to Jobseeker's Allowance.
16. New claims for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) are taking approximately 26 weeks to be processed compared to twelve weeks for Disability Living Allowance (DLA). This is resulting in enquiries being open for longer and a significant delay of awards being made. In addition to this, PIP cannot be paid to existing DLA claimants during the assessment period – anyone reporting deterioration in health can potentially lose eleven months of backdated benefit; this also affects the financial assessment made by the local authority for services.

Health and Well Being Board

17. The Board considered the Darlington Healthy Behaviours Survey 2013, an anonymous social norms based survey administered by secondary schools in Darlington.
18. The Survey asks a range of questions about tobacco, alcohol and drug use as well as bullying and sexual health (for older year groups). The results, which are analysed by the Darlington Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) and fed back to the schools, are then built into lessons plans to demonstrate to young people that a minority of their peers are involved in risk taking behaviours and that overall opinion is not in favour of these behaviours. This feedback is more convincing because it is reporting back what the young people in Darlington have said themselves.
19. Over the past five years the survey has shown that a significant proportion of young people over estimate the amount of young people their age engaged in risk-taking

behaviours. Follow up communications campaigns and development of educational materials aimed to address those misperceptions, giving factual and value based feedback. The reality is that less than a tenth of all young people in Darlington regularly drink alcohol or get drunk and even fewer take drugs.

20. The Board received a report recommending a strategic approach to Health and Wellbeing planning by the Health and Wellbeing Board. Whilst the existing Health and Wellbeing Strategy was developed in response to the requirement to have a strategy for the shadow HWBB, a review to reflect the changing landscape of the health and social economy was needed.
21. It is proposed that the Health and Social Care Strategy sets out the ten-year vision for the health and social care economy in Darlington and articulates the HWBB's shared vision. It will set the strategic planning framework for the HWBB, acting as an umbrella for a range of specific sub-strategies and plans and will set the framework for partnership working and co-production with regards to health and social care.
22. The Board received a presentation outlining the Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group's Annual Review 2013-2014. The review outlined the CCG's vision of working together to improve the health and wellbeing of Darlington by providing safe, high quality health services, best possible health outcomes and value for money joined-up services.
23. The Board also received a presentation relating to the CDDFT Clinical Strategy and gave its support to the Dementia Strategy for County Durham and Darlington and the Palliative and End of Life Care Strategic Commissioning Plan.

Health Visiting Services/Family Nurse Partnership

24. Responsibility for the Commissioning of Health Visiting Services and the Family Nurse Partnership will transfer from NHS England to Local Authorities in October 2015. A Darlington Borough Council 0-5 Healthy Child Programme (Health Visitor) Transition Board has been established to provide oversight of the transfer, by establishing and managing a programme of work which will ensure a seamless transition from the current NHS commissioning arrangements to the local authority in accordance with the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

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