
OVERVIEW OF HEALTH & LEISURE PORTFOLIO

Purpose of the Report

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the main areas of work under my Health and Leisure Portfolio were as follows:

Healthy Darlington

2. The Healthy Darlington Business Group met on the 11 June 2010. A matter for consideration was preparation for health input into a “Darlington Perfectly Placed” report for The Darlington Strategic Partnership in September 2010.
3. A key item of business was to prepare the end of year report on the Healthy Darlington Delivery Plan. Actions taken in the Delivery Plan aim to reduce health inequalities within the Borough and between Darlington and England as a whole. The actions aim to narrow the gap in life expectancy, maximise people’s ability to live independently through their lives and contribute to improving life chances of young people through good health choices.
4. A Darlington Assembly on health inequalities and tobacco control took place on 20 May 2010. Smoking remains the single biggest preventable cause of death in Darlington.
5. The Assembly was informed by presentations by the Director of Public Health on the role of tobacco in creating health inequalities, a local cardiologist who described the medical impact of smoking and FRESH, the North East Office of Tobacco Control who shared information on illicit tobacco and measures to tackle it.
6. The Darlington Tobacco Control Alliance was re-launched at the Assembly of which I am the Chair.
7. A charter was endorsed at the Assembly to maintain efforts to reduce children’s exposure to second hand smoke.
8. A campaign was launched by FRESH across the north east to tackle illicit tobacco. Illicit tobacco refers to cigarettes, hand rolling tobacco and other tobacco products that have been smuggled, bootlegged or are counterfeit.
9. The Healthy Darlington group was briefed on the Chief Medical Officer’s Annual Report. Five key areas for action are identified:
 - (a) Physical activity
 - (b) Winter kills
 - (c) Rare diseases
 - (d) Grand-parenting for health and

(e) Climate change and health

10. On the 17 June, the first Darlington Investors in Health (DIH) celebration event was held. The event recognised the efforts made by over thirty organisations to improve health and wellbeing in the workforce.
11. Workplace health and wellbeing is linked to productivity, reduction in sickness absence and improved performance. Workplace based opportunities to provide health messages and support also have a positive influence on the wider family and social network of employees.
12. Darlington Borough Council was awarded the Bronze level award for efforts made to promote the health of its workforce.

Public Protection

Darlington Tobacco Alliance

13. The Darlington Tobacco Alliance was launched at the Darlington Assembly held on 20 May at the Darlington Football Club stadium. The alliance will lead and focus multi-agency efforts to further reduce smoking rates and the ill-health effects of passive smoking.
14. Public Protection's role will focus on identifying and dealing with illicit tobacco (smuggled, bootlegged and counterfeit tobacco) and under-age sales. Trading Standards will be particularly active in these areas and contribute to the regional campaign against illicit tobacco.

Healthy Workplace Initiative

15. 17 June saw an event promoting the Healthy Workplace Initiative. The event included a celebration to showcase progress to date and present successful organisations with their awards. Environmental Health staff are actively promoting the award and supporting businesses to achieve the standard.

Emergency Planning and Response

16. Officers have refreshed their plans to respond to a heatwave. Planning is led nationally by the Department of Health and focuses on supporting vulnerable individuals during a heatwave. The heatwave "risk" period runs from 1 June to 15 September. During this period the Met Office publishes alerts on its web site and the link is <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/heathealth/>

Cultural Services

Sports Development

GEM

17. An eight week GEM taster has started at Havelock Community Centre with members of the Chinese community participating in an hour long physical activity session. In partnership with Age UK, a second 6 week Pilates taster commenced with all 12 places filled. GEM is currently looking into Yoga and Tai Chi as alternative activities to offer as taster sessions.

18. Lifeline Services GEM leaders were invited to attend a day's training focused around the Staying Active Programme – a seated exercise programme that increases muscle tone and strength. The day proved successful with 14 attendees participating in bowling, quoits and skittles as well as the staying active programme. The GEM leaders also took part in group discussions on how to improve and move the GEM project forward.

Outdoor Activity

19. Darlington Four X Bike sessions have engaged 156 participants over year one of the project. After being approached by British Cycling Darlington Four X has been given Go-Ride status, this enables us to increase sessions delivered and therefore increase participation numbers. Two schools have been approached to have Go-Ride sessions ran in conjunction with their PE department, these sessions will run for six weeks and will go through all sub disciplines of Cycling such as, Cyclo Cross, Four x, Mountain Biking, BMX, Track and Road. Another two schools will be approached after February half term to hold more Go-Ride session in school timetable.
20. 202 Participants have accessed climbing sessions in Darlington over the past year. Boulder sessions will continue in the spring offering sessions to specific organisations and community groups.
21. Darlington Doorstep Walks have engaged 549 participants accessing walks throughout Darlington in year one of the project. There are eight walks weekly, one monthly and two fortnightly walks, a total of 56 voluntary walks leaders are trained to assist and support in the leading and development of Darlington Doorstep Walks.

Summer Holiday Programme

22. Working alongside the Youth Service, Groundwork, Sport Development, Locality Forums and the Community Partnerships, Zone Active will be providing activities to support a comprehensive programme of delivery within the town over the summer holidays. The days, times, venues and activities are being decided after consultation with the target groups and communities through questionnaire's, discussion, previous programmes and word of mouth. The programme will be split into the new three areas and the following activity will be delivered: Climbing, Cricket, Athletics, Canoeing, Bouldering, Arts Activity, Dance, Tennis, Street Soccer and much more.

FISCH – Family Initiative Supporting Children's Health

23. After the successful roll out of the first term of FISCH, the second term has just finished with equal success in four schools – Corporation Road, Red Hall, Bishopton and St George's – two of which have several classes per year group. There has consistently been a very good response to both the curriculum sessions and the after-school clubs. Exit strategies are being planned in, with one school taking up the Street Cheer taster session offered through FISCH last term. A proposal has also been made to run a FISCH celebration day/ week over summer, inviting all children who have participated in FISCH over the year to come and enjoy more FISCH games and activities.

Darlington Community Games 2010 Thursday 15 July 2010

24. Community Games has become part of the event schedule for Darlington School Sports Partnership and through partnership work in Darlington 27 schools will participate in this

year's event. Community Games coaching is underway in School's, delivered through the Sports Development team and with over 1000 year 3/4 pupils and over 600 will compete on the day of the event

Olympic Wrestling

25. From working closely with the Junior One Life program, Zone Active were approached to run some Wrestling taster sessions as an exit route from the Junior One Life program. After a couple of very popular taster sessions a Wrestling club now runs from St Aiden's Academy on a Monday evening. The club has attracted 34 regular members in the 11 weeks it has been running.

Tennis

26. Zone Active currently runs a very successful Saturday morning tennis club at Darlington College. The tennis club is free to access with a Teen Card and 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 of 2010. The tennis club will act as an exit route to the Darlington Community Games. The tennis club will also be hosting an inter town tennis tournament over the summer holidays.

Sports Ability

27. Working alongside local clubs and community groups, Darlington Sport Development has just completed their third instalment of the Sports Ability club. The Sports Ability Club delivers a range of sporting activities suitable for all ages and abilities. The long term aims for the club are to increase the number of health and sporting opportunities offered to disabled children and young people within Darlington and working alongside local sports clubs and community groups offer exit routes into mainstream sport.
28. The third instalment of the Sports Ability Club has received £650 in funding from the Children's Services to help ensure the club continues throughout 2010, the club also receives support from Darlington Association of Disability by providing two support workers.

Street Soccer

29. The Zone Active project has developed strong Street Soccer links with the local schools in Darlington. Six week skills programmes have been delivered in Alderman Leach, Branksome Comprehensive, Springfield, Gurney Pease and St Aiden's as part of a PE curriculum or offered as an after school club. Following the successful six weeks programmes, Zone Active now run afterschool clubs at Branksome and Alderman Leach whilst offering support to the school football teams. ZA are also developing a mid week Street Soccer club at the Dolphin Centre. The Sport Development coaches have also just undertaken the Level 1 Street Soccer coaching course.

Level 2 Award in Community Sports Leadership

30. In April 2010 Darlington Sports Development, in partnership with Darlington College, delivered a Level 2 Award in Community Sports Leadership course to twenty-one candidates. The course, which upon completion allows individuals to lead groups of individuals in sport and physical activity sessions, took place at Darlington College and

involved tasks such as session planning, health and safety, communication and more. As a follow up to the 35 tutored hours, participants are required to complete voluntary hours before being assessed on their delivery skills.

Events

Green Fair – South Park – 18 April 2010

31. Thousands of people attended this year's Green Fair held on Sunday 18 April 2010 in Darlington's South Park. This year's event was organised in partnership with the sustainable development team, waste minimisation, recycling team, events team and countryside team whom also helped fund the event.
32. There were many stalls providing advice on recycling, renewable energy and sustainable transport as well as an afternoon of family entertainment including a chain saw sculpture, birds of prey, themed street theatre and friends of South Park.

St George's Day Celebrations – Friday 23 April 2010

33. Darlington organised their first St George's Day celebration at the Market Cross on Friday 23 April 2010. A new web page was created to help promote community events and council events happening in Darlington.
34. The events team organised a toast to St George at the Market Cross which was attended by the Mayor, Town Crier, Young Citizen of the Year, Darlington's very own St George and Dragon, Rotary club and Friends from Rotary Club Mulheim. Flags were also flown from the Town Clock and the Town Hall.

Bikeathon and John Wade Family Fun Day – South Park - 16 May 2010

35. Over 100 young cyclists accompanied by their parents participated in the annual Bikeathon held in the South Park on Sunday 16 May in aid of Leukaemia research.
36. Following on from the successful Bikeathon. The John Wade Family Fun day which had been sponsored by John Wade for a third consecutive year was held in the park during a sunny afternoon.
37. Activities included street theatre, John Wade's live music stage, punch and Judy, face painting, children's rides and attractions and music provided by Star radio.

Arts Centre

Films

38. Darlington Arts Centre's Summer Film Season started with a subtitled Hindi film called Aladin which was directed by Darlington director Sujoy Ghosh.
39. As part of the Darlington Credit Union's 'Money Matters' event, Darlington Arts Centre screened the film 'Raining Stones' directed by Ken Loach, which is a story about a family who are barely making ends meet.

ArtsSpark

40. A new term of Youth Theatre and Dance started at Darlington Arts Centre in April. This term the Youth Theatre and Dance will be working towards a Showcase celebration event at the Arts Centre in July.
41. In May half term, Youth Theatre and Dance members as well as other young people were invited to take part in a dance and drama week at the Arts Centre celebrating the Cultural Olympiad. The week culminated in a performance for family and friends.
42. Darlington Arts Centre hosted the launch of its partnership with the National Association of Youth Theatres to be the Associate Venue for the North East. As part of the launch, all the Youth Theatres from across North East region were invited to the Arts Centre to give their views and ideas on what they would like to see from a Regional Youth Theatre Festival and regional training event for Youth Theatre leaders.

Arts Engagement

43. Darlington Arts Centre has started a project working in partnership with Tees Valley Housing to develop an intergenerational Arts project to engage young parents and their children in positive arts activities.
44. The Arts Team have worked closely with Locality Coordinators and Sports Development to identify need for after School arts activities and currently have four after School arts activities in Darlington Primary Schools.

Openart Studio

45. Darlington Openart Studio has increased capacity to exceed SLA requirements. Outreach arts and cultural workshops for disengaged and isolated adult communities have been delivered:-
 - (a) Surestart (for parents with postnatal depression, young mothers and other excluded groups, including the Bangladeshi community).
 - (b) West Park Hospital (for in-patients and day care).
 - (c) Age UK (for clients from a variety of backgrounds).
 - (d) Occupational Therapy, Hundens Lane (for out patients)
46. A variety of participatory arts and cultural workshops have been delivered throughout the community and this has resulted in further enquiries from other areas of Darlington.

Visual & Public Arts

47. The Myles Meehan Gallery attracted 29,914 visitors last year (09-10), which is an increase of over 750 visitors from the year before.
48. Elizabeth Talbot and Jenny Jennings held their exhibition, 'Seeking the Immaterial', in the Myles Meehan Gallery during Friday 9 April 2010 – Saturday 29 May. The exhibition attracted 4265 visitors and the artists gave a free artist talk on Friday 9 April, which was very well attended.

49. The biannual Dover Prize Art Competition was held this year, culminating in an exhibition at the Lounge Gallery and Glass Corridor Gallery, Darlington Arts Centre during Thursday 15 April - Saturday 29 May . The competition is open to professional and community artists living or working in Tees Valley, Tyne and Wear, Durham, Northumberland and North Yorkshire and it has attracted over 500 entries from 134 artist from across the region. The exhibition was a great success, receiving very positive feedback from participating artists and visitors.
50. Planning permission has been granted for two new public artwork at Faverdale. The first is for Tower Grange Housing Estate and is a wooden sculpture featuring carved imagery and is by local artists Jill and Lee Brewster, who have worked with residents to develop the commission. The second commission is by sculptor Cath Campbell and is designed for a roundabout at the entrance of Faverdale East Business Park. It consists of three stainless steel screens, alluding to the form of a tree but which are actually taken from the architectural plans of the site.
51. The Visual and Public Arts Officer has been working with the Countryside Team and Groundwork on a funding bid for improvements to the Denes, which includes the creation of 27 new artist designed entrance features. Heritage Lottery Fund have confirmed that our second stage bid was successful so the project can go ahead and work is expected to begin in October.
52. Two new sections both called 'From the Collection' have been created, one online and one in the Arts Centre. These sections feature different artworks from Darlington Borough Art Collection every six weeks, enabling us to research individual artworks and artists in depth, whilst increasing public access to the collection. Each artwork featured is selected by a different person who also provides information on why they selected their artwork.

Head of Steam

53. The Vintage Vehicle Rally at the Museum on Sunday 23 May received record visitor figures of 2,300 visitors.
54. The Edward Pease Memorial room officially opened on the 7 April and is attracting great attention.
55. The Museum has recently been used as a film location for the Politics Show, Come Dine With Me and the BBC Lunch Time News. In June, Michael Portillo visited to record an episode of his Railway Journeys show. David Dimbleby whilst in the North East filming Question Time has also visited the Museum.

Councillor S Harker
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Health and Leisure