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**OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS PORTFOLIO**

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**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**

**Living Mindfully**

2. Living Mindfully stress reduction workshops continue to be delivered within Darlington. Six workshops of five weeks duration are run per year, all at full capacity and refresher courses are also offered. All workshops receive excellent evaluation reports demonstrating an improvement in mental wellbeing.

**Minded to Help**

3. The Mental Health and Wellbeing in the Workplace project participant website is now up and running. Organisations are able to register, communicate with each other and access support materials. The mentoring element of the project has also been established with the first businesses being paired.

**Darlington Open Arts Studio**

4. The Studio continues to operate out of The Bridge and outreach venues and 108 clients have accessed the provision so far this year. The Studio offers a variety of different art and craft sessions to individuals and families.

**Smoking in Cars**

5. Public Health England launched its 'no smoking in cars' campaign in preparation for legislation on 1 October 2015. Fresh, the United Kingdom's first dedicated regional tobacco programme to tackle tobacco related illness and death in England, continues to work closely with national and north east partners and support local campaigns.

**0-19 Years Public Health Services**

6. The Local Authority will assume responsibility for the commissioning of Health Visiting (0-5 year olds) from October 2015. Processes are in hand to align the 5-19 years services with the above to allow for a re-design of 0-19 years services in order to improve outcomes for children and young people. To comply with

European Law, a new contract will need to be in place for 1 April 2016.

### **Announcement of In-Year Reductions to the Public Health Grant**

7. Following the announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in June 2015 of a £200m deduction from the 2015/16 Public Health Grant, further details were released in August, as part of The Department of Health consultation, on the application of the savings. The Department of Health's preferred option is a flat rate application of 6.2 per cent, equating to a reduction of £520k to the Public Health Grant for Darlington. At the point of preparing this report, it was not clear if the saving is to be recurring or what any formula recalculation may mean. The Public Health teams are reviewing options to achieve the in-year grant reduction and the resulting reductions in Public Health capacity and services.

### **Darlington Partnership**

8. The next Darlington Partnership assembly will be held on 19 October and focus on the importance of culture to economic growth. The objectives of the event will be to :
  - (a) reach a shared understanding of how culture can play a role in the economic development of Darlington;
  - (b) recognise, celebrate and support the existing cultural activity in Darlington;
  - (c) agree a vision for Darlington's cultural offer of the future as part of the Tees Valley Culture; and
  - (d) launch a programme of Partnership activity towards 2025.

### **Healthwatch**

9. Healthwatch Darlington has four successful Networking Groups which have all met recently. The Groups help to provide information and aid signposting for clients to organisations most relevant to their needs.
10. A key part of the role of Healthwatch is to ensure that the voice of residents can influence health and social care. One way of doing this is through gathering comments and information from users of services and a number of surveys have been undertaken or are in progress. In addition to web-based surveys Healthwatch continue to provide outreach drop-in sessions and to take comments via telephone or letter.
11. Healthwatch continues to develop effective ways of working with Black and Minority Ethnic groups and young people to ensure that their views influence policy and strategy and delivery. Healthwatch has been invited to schools in the Borough where valuable feedback from young people can be obtained.
12. An evaluation of two of the four schemes implemented as part of the successful bid to the Prime Minister's Challenge Fund has been completed. The report is

available from Healthwatch Darlington.

13. Healthwatch Darlington Annual Report 2014/15 is now complete and can also be obtained from Healthwatch Darlington.

### **Welfare Rights**

14. During July, £34,410 was secured in additional benefit for clients. The total raised to date for 2015/16 is £124,893.

### **Health and Well Being Board**

15. The Board received a presentation from Macmillan Cancer Support and the Citizens Advice Bureau which outlined the work of the specialist cancer advice and information support service. The service was previously funded by the Primary Care Trust, which no longer exists. The Board asked Officers from the Council and the CCG to work with the organisations to see if a way could be identified to maintain the service.
16. The Board received a presentation of the Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) Annual Report with particular reference being made to the CCG's vision of working together to improve the health and wellbeing of Darlington; the key achievements over the last year; the targets; finances, financial success; priorities for 2015/16; and organisational review.
17. The Board welcomed the Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2014, the second annual report following the transfer of public health responsibilities from the NHS to local government, as part of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
18. The Board noted the initial findings of the latest Joint Health and Social Care Self-Assessment Framework for people with a learning impairment and their carers to keep healthy, be safe and live well. An updated action plan detailed the activity to move from amber to green on a number of actions.
19. The Board agreed the funding arrangements between NHS England and the Council via a Section 256 agreement and in doing so noted that expenditure is consistent with previous year's commitments and met the pre-requisites of Section 256 and NHS England.
20. The Board supported the development of the local children Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Plan to ensure all National report recommendations and existing local priorities are recognised.
21. The report set out the respective responsibilities of each organisation and the timeline to respond to the report with a Darlington Transformation Plan and its core

intention is to make it easier for children, young people, parents and carers to access help and support when needed and to improve mental health services for children and young people.

**Councillor A Scott**  
**Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Health and Partnerships**