
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. The new Community Contraception contract was awarded to Primary Health Care Darlington (PHD) which is the company of the local GP Federation. The service offers a single telephone number for booking appointments, with clinics now provided during evenings and weekends with a Young Persons clinic being offered in partnership with Darlington College.
3. Worked has started to review Stop Smoking services in Darlington. There has been a successful market engagement event with potential providers who are interested in providing this service in Darlington. The event informed the development of a new service specification and draft contract which will be ready for procurement in late Autumn.
4. Earlier this month, I participated in getting ready for 'Stoptober' campaign messages. This is an event that is well received in the community.
5. Harrogate and District Foundation Trust (HDFT) continues to implement the specification to deliver the Healthy Child Programme in Darlington. HDFT held an engagement event with children, young people, parents and carers in Lightwater Valley to develop awareness of the local service.
6. Work continues to support the implementation in schools of the 'Future in Mind' projects; Youth Mental Health First Aid and Mindfulness in Schools. These are both underway with initial engagement stages complete and delivery planned for the Autumn term.
7. The County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) has been working with voluntary and community partners to carry out enhanced prevention checks, building on their long standing experience in carrying out Home Fire Safety checks. The enhanced programme includes alcohol, smoking, social isolation, dementia, slips, trips and falls and winter warmth. An evaluation of the programme will be presented in due course to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

8. On 18 August 2016, the government launched the 'Childhood Obesity Plan' along with the consultation on the proposed soft drinks levy. The plan does not include all of Public Health England's recommendations from its work on sugar reduction but it is a positive step.
9. Since the last meeting of Council, the Healthy New Towns programme has progressed well. The work is organised across three areas, Regeneration and Housing, New Models of Care and Digital Technology Transformation. Further information and a copy of the Healthy New Towns leaflet is available from Public Health.

Healthwatch

10. Healthwatch Darlington is continuing to ensure that the residents of Darlington have a means of influencing policy in health and social care and is currently publicising consultations on Social Care Charging Policies through its network groups.
11. Through work with young people, Healthwatch is also ensuring that this group, who find it difficult to get their voice heard, can do so. The work with young people has helped to inform the sexual health and contraceptive service and also plans for improving mental health provision to ensure that young people know how and where to get help and support.
12. Work is also taking place to ensure that the voice of the Black Minority and Ethnic BME community is heard through the work of Healthwatch Darlington's Health Connectors. These are volunteers from BME communities in Darlington, enrolled to extend the reach of the team and support BME residents to connect with the health and social care services they need. Their experiences and opinions will help shape and inform local services. Effectively they will perform the role of 'mobile' access points and will signpost BME residents to health and social care organisations and services.
13. Healthwatch is also ensuring that Darlington residents are aware of consultation on the work of the North East Urgent and Emergency Care Network, Diabetes Model of Care and Dual Diagnosis work with County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys Foundation Trust and Darlington Borough Council. Healthwatch is also involved in the Better Health Programme and Strategic Transformation plans prior to public consultation later in the year.

Welfare Rights

14. Contracts have now been put in place for the delivery of Financial Advice Crisis Support and Community Care following an open tender process. These services will begin on 1 October 2016. These contracts will be closely monitored to ensure delivery but also to ensure that funding is used efficiently and effectively whilst supporting some of the most vulnerable residents of Darlington.
15. Monitoring will support the local authority and its partners to understand the impact of Universal Credit and other Welfare Reforms on demand for these services. This will also give early warning of demand increases on other local authority services.

16. An updated report setting out the continuing impacts of Welfare Reform on Darlington residents is being compiled. This report will enable activity to be targeted to groups that are most in need.
17. The key groups affected include working-age families with children, most specifically those working but on low wages and renting privately, who are most likely to be affected by: the freeze in working-age benefits; the removal of family premiums in tax credits; housing benefit and council tax support; removal of support for three children or more; and the reduction in the benefit cap.
18. Young single people claiming housing benefit, particularly those aged 18 to 21 but also, to a significant degree, those up to the age of 35, are likely to find it more difficult to find suitable and affordable accommodation as a result of ongoing changes to Local Housing Allowance.
19. Disabled working-age claimants of Disability Living Allowance and Employment Support Allowance, who are assessed as having a lower level of needs, are also seeing significant reductions to their income as a result of the implementation of Personal Independence Payments and removal of the Work-Related Activity Group Premium.

Health and Well Being Board

20. The last meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board was held on 19 July. In my absence Dr Andrea Jones, Vice Chair of the Board chaired the meeting. The Board welcomed Alan Foster, Chief Executive Officer, North Tees and Hartlepool Foundation Trust, who provided an update for the Board on developing the NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan.
21. NHS Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) representatives presented their Annual Report and Accounts followed by a CCG Clinical Quality Report. Full copies of the papers are available from the Council website.
22. The Health and Wellbeing Board was briefed on the main outcomes of an earlier development session on 13 July which I chaired. The Board is considering the best cost effective tools available to help Members review the Board, develop new terms of reference and a work programme for the next municipal year.

Councillor A Scott
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Health and Partnerships