
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. Four Youth Mental Health First Aid courses have been delivered during November to school staff and practitioners working in the community with vulnerable children. This is part of the Future In Mind work stream and amounts to 64 new youth mental health first aiders across the Borough.
3. Work has commenced on a mental health anti-stigma campaign which involves Darlington College students designing posters to be displayed in bus stops around the Town over Christmas and New Year. The campaign is targeted at children and young people and will include both anti-stigma messages and information on how to look after your mental health.
4. As part of duties in promoting Tobacco Control in Darlington the Council led the local Stoptober campaign. This is the annual 28-day stop smoking challenge from Public Health England, to encourage smokers to quit over the month of October. The campaign included high profile events and activities to raise awareness of the harm of tobacco on health and wellbeing as well as the benefits of quitting. As part of this the Council's Trading Standards team, along with Public Health and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, destroyed thousands of counterfeit, illegally imported and incorrectly labelled tobacco and cigarettes that had been seized in Darlington by Trading Standards over the previous two years. The tobacco was burnt on a fire within a special facility at County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service's Training Centre. Counterfeit and illicit tobacco sold cheaply by rogue traders is hampering efforts to reduce smoking.
5. The Darlington Health Profile 2016 is now available and provides a picture of people's health across 31 indicators. The Profile is being considered at Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Governing Body and at the Health and Wellbeing Board.
6. National Energy Action, Action for Warm Homes released a report in October on the progress across England to reduce ill health associated with cold homes. Public Health provided evidence to inform this research and a full report can be obtained from

7. In October the second Public Health England North of England Health Inequalities Conference was held in Hull. At the closing of the event it was announced that the third North of England Conference in 2017 would be hosted by Darlington.

Darlington Partnership

8. Darlington Partnership is committed to delivering the community strategy One Darlington: Perfectly Placed. In particular it has focused its attention on the ambition to 'Build Stronger Communities' described as:

'Enabling people to live fulfilling lives with less involvement from public services:

- a) *People take personal responsibility;*
- b) *People live in communities with strong social capital, where people look out for each other; and*
- c) *Communities come together and take ownership and responsibility for their neighbourhoods'.*

9. To this end the Partnership has established initiatives such as Good Friends, a vehicle for people to support their vulnerable neighbours and Darlington Cares, a mechanism for local employers and their staff to support our communities.
10. The Partnership agreed at its last Board meeting it wanted to redouble its efforts in these areas. A volunteering fair will be held early in the New Year with the aim of generating enthusiasm for volunteering and promoting opportunities for people to get involved.
11. The three specific objectives are to:
 - (a) Support existing groups and organisations to develop and recruit more volunteers;
 - (b) Support emerging activity or groups; and
 - (c) Instigate action in areas where problems or opportunities are emerging.
12. The event will aim to attract people of Darlington and provide them with an opportunity to meet and join groups that are addressing issues that they feel passionate about.
13. I have agreed to be part of a Steering Group for the event.

Healthwatch Darlington (HWD)

14. Guest speakers' at the most recent Mental Health network spoke in relation to Advance Directives, the Community Peer Mentor Project, the Suicide Prevention Plan and the Children and Young People Mental Health Consultation Report.
15. Attendance at the Learning Impairment Network was poor due to the People's Parliament meeting now being held monthly, rather than weekly. Members watched a People's Parliament DVD on Transforming Care and HWD agreed to write to the Darlington (CCG) requesting information on what the 'Transforming Care' monies had been spent on and what outcomes had been achieved.
16. The Darlington Aging Well Network (DAWN) had guest speakers from Darlington Borough Council and Darlington CCG who discussed the Better Care Fund in Darlington, including current performances and future plans comprising a Multi-disciplinary team (MDT) approach Stage Two. The finger tips website was also discussed, with information provided on how to access health profiles including the Older Peoples Health and Wellbeing profile.
17. The Darlington Organisations Together meeting had guest speakers from Darlington CCG and Darlington Friends of the Earth to discuss, respectively, the Better Health Programme and Wellbeing Workshops.
18. HWD regularly visit many community settings (or 'Access Points') across the Borough to offer help and information to residents on health and social care issues. This month it signposted individuals with concerns around elderly isolation and social care expenses to relevant support organisations.
19. HWD is constantly seeking additional funding and working collaboratively with others, including the recent identification of a large amount of potential Mental Health funding. After exhausting all avenues of applying for this funding alone or as a joint bid, HWD influenced other local voluntary sector organisations to place bids to help bring the funding into Darlington. The Interim Chair of Healthwatch England met with HWD in light of the potential cut to their budget next year. She informed HWD that although they are one of the smallest HW's, they are one of the highest performing. She has highlighted the matter with the Healthwatch England Committee and Sir Robert Francis who is keen to be kept informed of HWD's circumstances.

Welfare Rights

20. 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 began on 1 October 2016 and are being closely monitored to ensure delivery and that funding is used efficiently and effectively whilst supporting some of the most vulnerable residents of Darlington.
21. An updated report setting out the continuing impacts of Welfare Reform on Darlington residents has been compiled. Setting out the likely impact on income

levels by 2020-21. It is estimated that the cumulative loss to the Borough will be £53m per annum. Applying a multiplier of 1.25 gives the total likely loss of income to be £66.25m.

22. The key groups affected include low-income working-age families with children, most specifically those working but on low wages and renting privately, who are more likely to be affected by and more heavily hit by:
 - (a) the freeze in working-age benefits;
 - (b) the removal of family premiums in child tax credits, housing benefit and Council Tax support;
 - (c) removal of support for three or more children; and
 - (d) the reduction in the benefit cap.
23. 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.
24. Disabled working-age claimants of Disability Living Allowance and Employment Support Allowance (ESA), 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 for ESA claimants.
25. It is estimated that there is more than £38m lost in unclaimed benefits in Darlington each year. Activity to improve take-up could therefore be a major mitigation.

Health and Well Being Board

26. I chaired the meeting of the Health and Well Being Board held on 18 October 2016. The Board welcomed Ann Farrar from the Better Health Programme, NHS North of England Commissioning Support, to the meeting, to present an update on the NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan and to inform the Board of the revisions to the timetable for the Plan. The Board also welcomed the Interim Independent Chairs of the Darlington Safeguarding Children's Board and the Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership, Simon Hart and Ann Baxter respectively, to present their annual reports for 2015/16.
27. The Board also received update reports on the Better Care Fund and on the work of Healthwatch Darlington and were briefed on the main outcomes of the last development session that was held on 27 September 2016, which I also chaired, together with the results from the recent diagnostic tool that was circulated to Board Members to complete.
28. I have attended the first meeting of a Tees Valley Network for Health and Wellbeing Board Chairs. The network of Chairs of the Tees Valley Health and Wellbeing

Boards will work together on the wider determinants of health and wellbeing, high risk common lifestyle issues and with major NHS programmes.

29. Chairing the network will be on a rotating basis with Stockton Borough Council chairing in the first instance.

Councillor A Scott
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Health and Partnerships