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**OVERVIEW OF HOUSING, 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**

2. Youth Mental Health First Aid courses have been delivered for Darlington School Nurses and Early Help staff during the school summer break. These courses provide an understanding of young people's mental health and factors that affect wellbeing as well as practical skills to spot the triggers and signs of mental health issues.
3. The 2017 Darlington Health Profile has been released, which provides a snapshot of health in the area. The annual profiles are designed to help local government and health services' authorities so that they can work together to understand their community's needs in order to improve health and reduce inequalities.
4. The Health Profile 2017 includes measures of health inequalities, child health and adult health, with a summary of the population's health profile. Three key messages for Darlington in 2017 are:
  - (a) Smoking prevalence in adults continues to decrease, which follows the trend seen nationally
  - (b) Under 18 conceptions have shown a positive decrease
  - (c) Smoking at time of delivery and breastfeeding remain areas for improvement compared to the England average
5. As part of this year's Stoptober campaign the Stop Smoking Service Hub will launch the Specialist Stop Smoking service on 2 October 2017.

**Darlington Partnership**

6. The Festival of Ingenuity was held on 22 and 23 September. This year, in addition to the Town Square and the Feethams Podium level space, the Festival also used the Riverside Park area behind Bishopsgate House. Smooth Radio came on board as a partner and helped to create a pleasant ambience to attract people to use the space.

## **Healthwatch Darlington (HWD)**

7. Activities and projects have included HWD leading a regional piece of work regarding the Great North Care Record which will contribute to the future development of the proposed consent model for patient information sharing within the health and social care system; and meeting with Sustainability and Transformation Plan area regarding lack of communication and engagement and how we can work together to ensure the local population is kept fully informed of future plans.
8. In relation to information and signposting HWD produces a weekly e-bulletin; has reinstated access points at the Dolphin Centre; attended social events such as the GOLD Tea Dance; and handled in excess of 43 enquiries for various health services.
9. HWD has attended various meetings in order to influence decision makers and service providers and to remind of the need for meaningful engagement.
10. HWD has also engaged with the local population on issues relating to Maternity Services; the recent introduction of the pilot programme Clinical Assessment and Peer Review (CASPeR), regarding the use of additional specialist clinical opinion for assessment of GP referrals; experiences of Personal Independence Payments (PIP) reviews; secondary and domiciliary care.

## **Health and Well Being Board**

11. I chaired the meeting of the Health and Well Being Board held on 7 September 2017, at which a number of reports were considered including, the Children and Young People Plan 2017/22 and Mental Health Provision for Children and Young People.
12. Update reports were provided on the Better Care Fund, the Health and Well Being Plan and the work undertaken by Healthwatch over the last couple of months. A verbal update was also given at the meeting by the Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on the current position with Sustainable Transformation Plan (STPs) and the CCG's new structure.
13. The Director of Public Health also gave an update on the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment.

## **Housing Services**

### **Red Hall**

14. The Lord Lieutenant, Sue Snowdon, visited Red Hall to see the transformation that has taken place. She visited Red Hall Primary School and had the opportunity to meet some of the children. She also visited the new housing development and was able to see some of the work that has been done through the regeneration programme. There was also an opportunity to meet some of the residents who are involved in developing an independent voice for residents concerning the future of

Red Hall. In particular, we received very positive feedback regarding our housing management practices and approach to resident engagement.

15. A gardening competition took place this Summer which was very successful. The aim was to help improve the general appearance and tidiness of the area. Children were involved in potting their own plants that they were able to take home for free as a result of a funding bid from the Friends of Red Hall Group to the Community Fund. The aim was to increase interest from children and their parents in improving their gardens. When judging took place it was evident that the overall appearance of Red Hall had improved considerably with gardens generally looking tidy and well kept.

### **New Build Council Housing**

16. Work has been completed on two new build developments:
  - (a) Anfield and Aintree Court at Red Hall comprising eight two bedroomed apartments and eleven larger family houses; and
  - (b) Sherborne Close at Branksome comprising twelve two-bedroomed apartments and six three-bedroomed houses.
17. The final development in the current programme at Earl Carlson Grove, Lingfield, is well underway, due to be completed in December 2017, and will be let in phases. This is the largest development consisting of 42 two bedroomed flats and 20 three-bedroomed houses.
18. Cabinet agreed to the release of funding to provide additional Council homes for rent and to acquire affordable homes built in response to Section 106 planning obligations as opportunity arises.
19. The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has a rolling programme for Registered Providers to bid for Affordable Housing Schemes and two schemes at Branksome are currently being worked up, at a cost of around £2M, to be funded through the HCA.
20. It is hoped that grant funding will be provided for approximately 30 per cent of this amount and, if successful, a number of grant conditions will apply, including a requirement to let the properties at affordable rents.
21. Three properties at Hartington Way are also to be acquired using the Council's Housing Revenue Account, in response to the Section 106 planning obligation for affordable housing on that site.

## **Community Fund**

22. Lascelles Park Residents Association made a successful bid to the Community Fund to help bring back into use the Pavilion in Eastbourne Park. It has consulted with residents about the development of a Community Hub and is at an advanced stage with a business plan. The Pavilion will also act as a base to enable it to organise future events and activities for local residents, as well as fund raising opportunities.

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