
OVERVIEW OF HOUSING, HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS PORTFOLIO

Purpose of the Report

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

Public Health

2. The Public Health Team are conducting a detailed piece of work with North East Council on Addictions (NECA), the local provider of drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services in Darlington, to examine the factors which best contribute to service users completing their course of treatment.
3. The re-procurement of the Sexual Health and Contraception Service is in its final stages. There is a panel taking place this week to evaluate the tenders submitted by interested providers. The selection of a successful tender would allow the mobilisation of the new contract to commence on the 1 May 2018.
4. Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust, our provider of 0-19 Health Child Programme, is working to establish best practice in aspects of the mandated universal health visitor reviews for families and young children in Darlington. An 'integrated review' will combine the information from the Healthy Child Programme (HCP) health and development review at 2 to 2.5 years and the information from the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Progress Check and will give parents a more complete picture of their child and will identify opportunities for early intervention with a focus on prevention.
5. Work is in progress on a Childhood Healthy Weight Plan for Darlington. This Plan details how national guidelines and recommendations on childhood obesity and sugar reduction will be implemented locally. The Plan details a whole systems approach to obesity focusing on the obesogenic environment and how all partners can support healthier choices.
6. Darlington College students have designed posters to promote the benefits of a healthy weight and encourage healthy lifestyles. These will be used as part of an awareness raising campaign to launch the local Healthy Weight Plan.
7. A scheduled refresh of Darlington's Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board is complete. Results from the consultation feedback maintained that there were sufficient pharmacies and services for the population of Darlington. The final PNA must be published on the Council's website by week beginning 26 March 2018.

Darlington Partnership

8. Following the success of last year's event, the Darlington Partnership held a Volunteer Fair on 1 February in the Dolphin Centre Sports Hall, in collaboration with Darlington Cares. This year's event was significantly larger with 66 voluntary and community organisations participating. A survey of exhibitors will be carried out later this month in time for organisations to fully assess its benefit in terms of volunteers recruited. Anecdotal feedback has been positive.
9. The call for nominations for this year's Best of Darlington is now open. The awards ceremony will be held on 18 May in the Dolphin Centre Sports Hall. The event is a heartening celebration of the efforts and achievements of the people of Darlington. It relies on public nominations to identify those who deserve to be honoured. Elected Members are in a unique position of knowing people in their wards who are making a difference to their community and I would urge Members to submit nominations by 23 March through the following link:
<http://www.onedarlington.org.uk/best-of-darlington-2018/>

The closing date for nominations is 23 March 2018.

Health and Well Being Board

10. I chaired the meeting of the Health and Well Being Board on 15 March 2018 at which the results of the statutory consultation undertaken on the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) was considered and the updated PNA was adopted by the Board. The Board has the responsibility for the development, updating and publication of the PNA.
11. A verbal update on the Sustainable Transformation Plan was given by the NHS Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group and updates reports were also considered on the work undertaken by Healthwatch Darlington and on the Health and Well Being Board's Development Session that had been held in January.

Housing Services

Universal Credit

12. Universal Credit is the biggest change to the welfare system in 60 years. The roll-out of Universal Credit started in Darlington in November 2016, although the numbers have been relatively small as it has only been available to certain groups of residents.
13. In June 2018 the Universal Credit 'full-service' will commence. This means that everyone of working age making a new claim for benefit (including Housing Benefit paid by the Council) will instead claim Universal Credit from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). This starts the process to moving everyone onto Universal Credit, which is due to be completed by 2022.

14. Darlington Borough Council has been working with the DWP to plan the implementation of Universal Credit in Darlington and ensure that residents receive the right information, advice and support. The DWP have already delivered training to staff, Council Members and local voluntary and community groups.
15. Additional resources have been brought in to assist Council Tenants in budgeting support when they move to Universal Credit, to ensure they can pay their rent and sustain their tenancies.
16. A seminar is also being planned in May with key partners to identify what support is available and what further actions the community can take to help prepare residents for the change.
17. Further information about Universal Credit is available at: www.gov.uk/universal-credit

Visit by the Bishop of Durham

18. The Right Reverend Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham visited Red Hall to learn about the impact of the regeneration work and the role of the Healthy New Towns project. He spent time with children at Red Hall Primary School, where pupils displayed bikes purchased by the Healthy New Towns project to encourage cycling, before taking part in a litter pick. He then had the opportunity to visit some of the 39 new homes built by the Council as well as the new play park and outdoor gym. In a busy visit he also had time to meet representatives of the Friends of Red Hall who had been helping to set up various community activities and recently became a registered Residents Association.

Play Park - Cockerton

19. Consultation is taking place on the development of the play area at Warwick Square. Funding has been secured through a partnership between the Council and North Star Housing Association to begin fitting play equipment. Residents in the Minors Crescent area have been circulated with proposals for phase one of the development and asked for ideas for the second phase. It is hoped that phase one, comprising of a toddlers play park, will be complete by Easter 2018 and the second phase which will include changes to the landscaping will be complete by the Summer holidays.

Councillor A Scott
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Housing, Health and Partnerships