

CABINET
10 SEPTEMBER 2019

IN2 PROJECT

Responsible Cabinet Member -
Councillor Paul Howell, Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio
Councillor Paul Crudass, Children and Young People Portfolio

Responsible Directors -
Ian Williams, Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services
Suzanne Joyner, Director of Children and Adults Services

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report seeks Cabinet approval to commit the remaining budget of £208,000 secured from the capital receipts for Darlington Arts Centre and from Eastbourne School to deliver an inclusive cultural programme working with Darlington schools over three years. The proposed In2 programme would work with six schools and is informed by a successful pilot which ran from May to July 2019. It will encourage wellbeing and focus on the impact of arts and sports engagement in encouraging a successful transition from primary to secondary schools, which has been identified as a key issue in Darlington.

Summary

2. Darlington Borough Council secured capital receipts from the sale of the Darlington Arts Centre site and the Eastbourne School site and Cabinet has considered recommendations in previous reports on how these were utilised. A proportion of these capital receipts, £90,000 from Darlington Arts Centre and £118,000 from Eastbourne School, remains unallocated.
3. Darlington Borough Council supported a pilot programme working with a cohort of pupils from Corporation Road Primary School and Longfield Academy between May 2019 and July 2019. This ten-week pilot programme, titled In2, aimed to use sport and the arts as early intervention tools to address aspiration, behavioural and health and wellbeing challenges in school age children.
4. The pilot programme included engagement with both art (Corporation Road Community Primary School) and sports (Longfield Academy) and was well received by both schools. Both were actively involved in programme delivery and would welcome opportunities to be involved in an extended programme.

5. This report proposes to apply learning from the pilot to a three-year programme involving four primary schools and two secondary schools in Darlington with particular focus on the transition from Year 6 to Year 8 and recommends that the remaining capital receipt from Darlington Arts Centre and Eastbourne School is allocated to this.
6. The extended programme would be managed by Darlington Borough Council and expects to work with a variety of organisations and services who have relevant expertise in working with children, including Theatre Hullabaloo.
7. Should Cabinet agree to utilise the unspent capital receipt for this three-year programme, fundraising work will be undertaken in 2019/20 to extend the programme budget.
8. Evaluation of impact on the children participating will continue throughout the programme and may present opportunities to apply learning from the Durham Commission research supported by Arts Council England and expected in September 2019 which “aims to identify ways in which creativity, and specifically creative thinking, can play a larger part in the lives of young people from birth to the age of 25, both within and beyond the current education system.”
9. Dialogue with the NHS, including local Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), and the council’s Children and Young People Services around aligning with their evaluation methods and approach to supporting good mental health and general health and wellbeing in school-age children has begun. Continued inclusion in the Darlington Local Transformation Plan (LTP) Steering Group is expected to support delivery of this collaborative approach. The LTP is a statutory document, refreshed on an annual basis, which outlines collective progress by partners, including the council and Darlington CCG, to improve children and young people’s mental health.
10. The proposed programme will commence in 2019/20 subject to Cabinet approval.

Recommendations

11. It is recommended that:-

- (a) Cabinet agree to allocate uncommitted capital receipt from Darlington Arts Centre of £90,000 and Eastbourne School site of £118,000 to support a three-year programme of activity, which will work with Darlington schools through art and sport to encourage wellbeing and a successful transition from primary to secondary school. This will be utilised as per paragraph 36 in the financial implication.
- (b) Cabinet agree to receive annual update reports on the three-year programme if recommendation (a) is agreed.

Reasons

12. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:-

- (a) Over the last decade there has been significant research which demonstrates the health and wellbeing benefits derived from engagement with the arts and sport, including the Arts and Culture in Health and Wellbeing and in the Criminal Justice System, research released by Arts Council England earlier this year, which makes a compelling argument for using the arts and physical activity as tools to tackle mental health and health and wellbeing challenges across the community.
- (b) The proposed three-year programme will focus on work with a small cohort of pupils in depth and seeks to support those children engaged through the transition from Year 6 to Year 8. This focus has been informed by learning taken from the In2 pilot programme which ran from May to July 2019 and responds to longstanding challenges facing North East schools around the transition from primary to secondary, including scoring poorly on KS4 progress.

Ian Williams
Director of Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Suzanne Joyner
Director of Children and Adults
Services

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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| S17 Crime and Disorder | The intention of this programme is to engage children and young people in diversionary activities to improve their opportunities and wider wellbeing outcomes. A reduction in crime and disorder therefore may therefore be a secondary outcome. |
| Health and Well Being | The proposal aims for positive impact on the wellbeing of participants. Impact on wellbeing will be a component of programme evaluation |
| Carbon Impact | No direct impacts |
| Diversity | No direct impacts |
| Wards Affected | <p>The proposed programme will involve 4 primary schools and 2 secondary schools</p> <p>Primary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporation Road Community Primary School - Northgate Ward • Firthmoor Primary School - Eastbourne Ward • Northwood Primary School - North Road Ward • The Rydal Academy – Bank Top and Lascelles Ward <p>Secondary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longfield Academy – Harrowgate Hill Ward • St Aidan's Church of England Academy – Stephenson Ward |
| Groups Affected | The proposed programme is focused on children aged ten to thirteen attending the above schools. |
| Budget and Policy Framework | This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework |
| Key Decision | This is a key decision. |
| Urgent Decision | No |
| One Darlington: Perfectly Placed | The proposal aims to deliver the outcome of Giving Children the Best Start in Life outlined in One Darlington Perfectly Placed. |
| Efficiency | No adverse impact on the efficiency of Darlington Borough Council. Fundraising will be undertaken to expand the proposed programme if the recommendation is supported and the project is scalable |
| Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers | The proposal is not focused on Looked After Children and Care Leavers |

MAIN REPORT

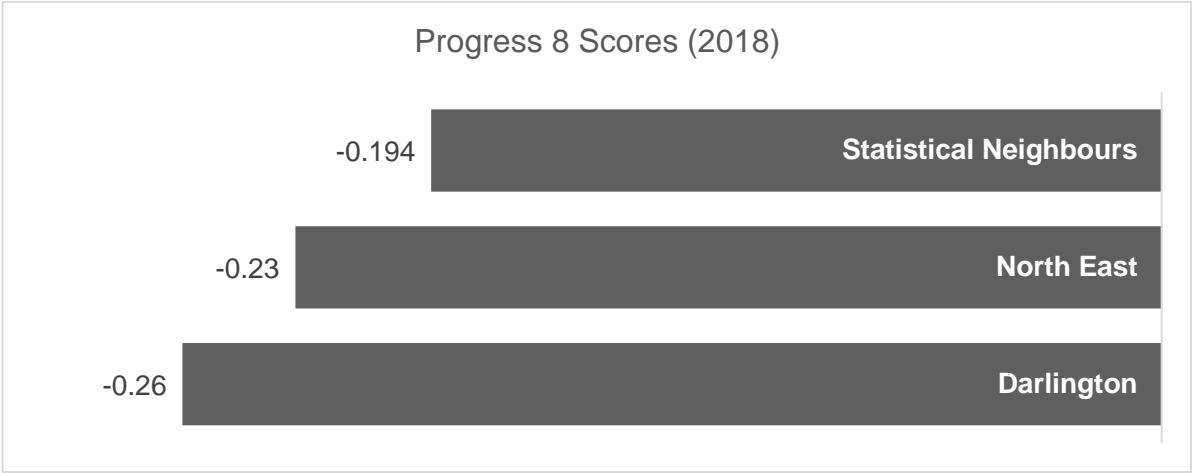
Information and Analysis

13. The Marmot Review stated that children from disadvantaged backgrounds are three times more likely to develop mental health problems, including depression, than the rest of the population, and it is now generally accepted that the most deprived communities also have the poorest health and wellbeing.
14. Children from the most disadvantaged communities also generally have the lowest access to leisure activities outside of school and this is compounded by the increasing disappearance of arts and sports from the academic curriculum. A survey of 500 schools by Sussex University in 2018 showed that there had been almost a 50% drop in music being taught as a compulsory subject for 13 and 14 year olds over the previous 5 years and 18% of schools didn't offer GCSE music at all.
15. In the last decade there has been a significant amount of research demonstrating health and wellbeing benefits derived from engagement with the arts and sport, including positive impacts on educational attainment in Maths and English¹. The Arts and Culture in Health and Wellbeing and in the Criminal Justice System, released by Arts Council England in 2019, makes a compelling argument for using the arts and physical activity as tools to tackle mental health, and health and wellbeing challenges across the community. This research notes that where focus has shifted from more traditional medical models to social models based on early intervention, prevention and community, involving activities such as social prescribing, significant improvements in health and wellbeing can be observed.
16. From May to July 2019 Darlington Borough Council supported the In2 pilot programme working with Corporation Road Community Primary School and Longfield Academy. This ten-week pilot programme used sport and the arts as early intervention tools to address aspiration, behavioural and health and wellbeing challenges in school age children and explored what methodologies might best be applied to have a positive impact on participating children.
17. The In2 pilot programme enabled participants to access and engage with a wide range of cultural and sporting activity including school based and off site provision. It was managed by Darlington Borough Council and involved Year 3 pupils (ages 7 and 8 years) from Corporation Road Community Primary School and Years 7 and 8 (ages 11 and 12) from Longfield Academy. Considerable thought was given to an approach around working with schools around selecting those children who would engage with the pilot so as not to create any stigma around participation.

¹ Cultural Learning Alliance, *The Case for Cultural Learning: Key Research Findings*, www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk/

18. Within the In2 pilot programme the whole Year 3 group at Corporation Road Community Primary School initially took part in a school based interactive theatre piece and workshop with Zest Theatre and were then taken to Darlington Hippodrome to watch Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, a first trip to that venue for some and a first trip to theatre for others. A cohort of 15 selected pupils were identified using a combination of approaches. These included:
 - (a) The Stirling Scale, a test designed specifically to measure health and wellbeing in children
 - (b) Boxall (administered by the school's SENCO) - an assessment tool for social emotional and behavioural difficulties for children and young people
 - (c) The Head Teacher, Year 3 teachers and support staff identified pupils who may not register on the above scales, but who they felt would benefit from inclusion in the programme
19. The cohort of 15 pupils at Corporation Road Primary then attended Spirits of the Sea, an immersive piece at The Hullabaloo telling a story about the damaging effects of bottling up feelings and emotions and joined a facilitated arts workshop and completed a Discover Arts Award. They attended a performance of Horrible Histories: Awesome Egyptians at Darlington Hippodrome, joined the street band Back Chat Brass and learned how to play colourful plastic brass instruments then performed with the band to the whole school, joined Back Chat Brass and families from the Redhall Estate and marched on the Darlington Community Carnival 2019 parade, worked with OddManOut Theatre exploring themes from the play Daffodil Scissors (mental health, bullying, loss) through two daylong workshops in the school and a visit to The Hullabaloo to see the play performed by the Hippodrome Youth Theatre. The cohort then attended a graduation and celebratory party, and were filmed talking about their experiences and what they may like to do more of, and were awarded certificates by The Mayor of Darlington.
20. A slightly different approach was adopted at Longfield Academy to select participants. Input from the Head Teacher, Year teachers and health and wellbeing support staff was key to the selection of pupils, but Pupil Premium eligibility was also a major factor in the decision-making process. With the children there being slightly older, it was possible to carry out some research to identify what kind of activities they had already participated in and what they might be interested in trying and this informed their In2 pilot programme provision. At Longfield Academy pupils from Year Group 7 and Year Group 8 visited Darlington Hippodrome to participate in the First Person, interactive theatre piece and workshop led by Zest Theatre. Pupils from both year groups then engaged in team building activities at Hamsterley Forest, with cookery classes led by Junior Kitchen, had trips to South Shields for a beach clean and surfing sessions, took part in raft building in the Lake District, and had ongoing access to Junior Gym facilities, with the pupils encouraged to participate with their wider families to build this activity into their daily lives. Year 7 pupils also engaged with 4Motion to access urban sports opportunities such as BMX biking, skateboarding and scootering.

21. Both of the schools were fully committed to the programme and took on much of the organisation and paperwork required to facilitate off-site activity. Staff members also attended out-of-hours elements, ensuring pupils could participate without parents or guardians being required to chaperone. This buy-in was essential to the success of the pilot, especially given the tight lead-times and concentrated programme. The Head Teachers were interviewed at the end of the pilot and both stated that, even in the short term, the impact on the participants was visible. They were keen for continued involvement in the programme and were clear that the pupils involved were highly unlikely to get access to the range of cultural and sporting activities they had experienced without outside intervention.
22. Darlington Borough Council secured capital receipts from the sale of the Darlington Arts Centre and Eastbourne School sites. The majority of the capital receipt from the Arts Centre contributed to the development of The Hullabaloo and from Eastbourne School, work at Eastbourne Sports Complex and a number of school sites. Of these capital receipts £118,000 remains uncommitted from the Eastbourne School site and £90,000 from the Arts Centre site.
23. Given the appetite of participating schools to engage further we are proposing a three-year programme, utilising various approaches tested in the In2 pilot, which will focus on the transition of pupils from Year 6 to Year 7 and Year 8. This age range has been identified as a key target demographic for support. In line with the regional trend, Darlington primary school pupils perform relatively well - performing above the national average at both foundation stage and Key Stage 2 - however their performance at secondary level then fails to keep up with their counterparts elsewhere. The Progress 8 measure aims to capture the progress that pupils make from the end of primary school to the end of key stage 4, compared to other pupils nationally with similar prior attainment. As can be seen in the below table, Darlington's performance for this measure is significantly below all comparator groups, starkly demonstrating why primary to secondary transition is such a major priority for the borough.



24. Following consultation with the schools involved in the pilot programme, the suggestion is to move forward with a cohort of 100 students from Year 6 across four primary schools and to start working with them in the autumn term 2019, delivering activity across the school year and then through the summer holidays, linking in with existing holiday enrichment programmes. Work would continue with this group in Year 7, their first year in secondary school. We would then begin a hand-over process in Year 8 where we support the pupils to focus on a sport or arts genre they have shown a particular aptitude or interest in. They would be encouraged to build activity into their lives outside of school, with support to access funding where appropriate, thereby making the programme sustainable by creating pathways for long-term engagement.
25. The rationale for this three-year approach is to support the pupils through the difficult transition period from primary to secondary school. National statistics show that the North East, including Darlington, falls short compared to the rest of the country around delivery of this crucial period. Where there are already challenges in a child's life, an unstructured and unsupported six-week break from school, followed by a dramatic change in educational environment can be quite distressing, leading to anxiety, poor behaviour and occasionally exclusion. This three-year model would also allow for a longitudinal study to take place, affording the opportunity to document the longer-term impact of the programme on the health and wellbeing of participants, including wider outcomes such as educational attainment, youth offending etc.
26. The proposed three-year programme would involve six Darlington schools; four primary and two secondary. These have been identified as a result of a comprehensive data analysis exercise, which took into account measures relating to deprivation, attainment, attendance, as well as the appetite of individual schools to get involved in the project, in order to help ensure that the project delivers its aim of delivering a meaningful and significant impact.
27. The two secondary schools identified, Longfield Academy and St. Aidan's Church of England Academy, have both been selected as a result of having higher than average numbers of pupils in receipt of free school meals and persistent absentees, and lower than average proportion of pupils achieving a Grade 5 or above in English and Maths at GCSE. They also perform well below average for the Key Stage 4 measures of Attainment 8 and Progress 8.
28. The suggested participating primary schools would be Corporation Road Primary School, Firthmoor Primary School, Northwood Primary School and The Rydal Academy as they are feeder schools to the secondaries and, following a further data analysis exercise of measures relating to deprivation, attendance and educational and language needs, have been identified as those whose pupils are most likely to be in need of support.,.
29. All of the four schools, accordingly, have a higher than average proportion of pupils eligible for and receiving free school meals and a higher proportion of the children living in deprivation their local area than the average for Darlington. Moreover, at an individual level these schools have specific challenges. Corporation Road Community Primary School, for example, has the highest proportion of pupils in the borough whose first language is not English (56% compared to 7% for Darlington) and Northwood Primary School has the highest absence rates for the borough (8% overall compared to a borough average of 5%, and 24% persistent absence

compared to 10% for Darlington). Early discussion and consultation will be held with the schools to gain their buy-in and support in the In2 project.

30. The future roll-out of In2 beyond the pilot programme will give participants access to both sport and arts activities, with a minimum of two activities/contact sessions each month across the three-year programme. After consultation with the Head Teachers of the two schools involved in the pilot programme, it has also been agreed that further programming will seek, where possible, to address the specific challenges faced by the school communities. Should funding be secured for the full roll-out specific areas of concern will be identified in the six schools.
31. Existing festivals, events and activities delivered in Darlington and the wider Tees Valley will be built into the programme as opportunities to attend or as showcases for work carried out in the schools arise. For example, during the pilot, the Corporation Road Community School pupils joined Back Chat Brass at the Darlington Community Carnival 2019 as part of their music workshop experience. An audit of potential arts and sporting events is currently underway. This approach provides opportunities for participating children to extend their social networks and value their participation in an extended In2 programme as part of wider community engagement in culture and leisure.
32. Areas currently being explored for the proposed three-year In2 programme include:
 - (a) Urban arts and sports: BMX biking, skateboarding and scootering, street dance (in collaboration with Darlington Hippodrome and Dance City) and street art.
 - (b) Music: discussions have been held with Durham and Darlington music service around brass given its relevance to the railway industry and the upcoming 2025 celebrations as well as the prevalence of jazz in Darlington. The programme will explore opportunities which may give participants something to aim towards with local success stories and pathways into long-term activity.
 - (c) Literature and literacy: a meeting is scheduled in September 2019 with New Writing North, the new writing agency for the North and a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England and will explore potential links here to the library service.
 - (d) Theatre: performances and workshops at the Hippodrome and Hullabaloo will feature heavily in the proposed three-year programme and OddManOut Theatre will continue to work with the schools providing a route into the Youth Theatre and The Foundry.
 - (e) Junior Kitchen: the cookery sessions at Junior Kitchen were extremely popular and can be complemented by work with Love Food, Hate Waste. There are a number of food and drink festivals and programmes in Darlington and the wider region to visit and collaboration with Festival of Thrift might provide creative educational opportunities around sustainable eating and living.
 - (f) Outdoor activities: surfing, den building and raft making were all very popular and could feature as day trips or longer retreats.

- (g) Festival of Ingenuity and Little Inventors which would provide opportunities for creative thinking, and to address the STEAM agenda (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths).
 - (h) Visual arts: there are potential links with MIMA, the Northern School of Art and its Northern Festival of Illustration and the gallery programme at Darlington Library.
 - (i) Life skills: ongoing discussions with NHS and CAMHS around workshops covering coping mechanisms, expressing feelings in a positive and constructive way, etc.
 - (j) Swimming and life guarding: a positive life skill and potentially a qualification.
 - (k) A range of sport activities.
33. The proposed programme also aims to build on existing relationships and extend engagement with best practice from across the region. Darlington Borough Council expects to work with organisations within Arts Council England's National Portfolio, so as to deliver the best possible experience for participants. Offering activity away from the school and the known environment will be core to the proposed programme. The proposed programme could include day trips to venues or events but also, where possible, taking participants away for a number of days. Both Head Teachers involved in the pilot programme agreed that removing children from their usual environment and immersing them in totally new surroundings had a significant impact during the pilot through changing their frame of reference and encouraging them to socialise and work with different people.
34. Dialogue has started with the NHS Children and Young People Services and CAMHS around aligning with their evaluation methods and approach to supporting good mental health and general health and wellbeing in school-age children. Continued inclusion in the LTP Steering Group will also enable the project to keep abreast of the current approaches and programmes across Darlington involving children and young people, ensuring a collaborative approach. An annual report on the progress of the programme will be presented to Cabinet. The programme will be evaluated throughout the three years to secure better understanding of the impact of engagement with the arts and sports during the transition from Year 6 to Year 8.

Financial Implications

35. Darlington Borough Council secured capital receipts from the sale of the Darlington Arts Centre site and Eastbourne School. As of 2019/20 £90,000 from the Darlington Arts Centre capital receipt and £118,000 from the Eastbourne School capital receipt remains. This report recommends this £208,000 is allocated to progress a three-year programme which seeks to make a positive impact on the wellbeing of children in Darlington through arts and sports activity.
36. Although the capital receipts cannot be used directly to fund the revenue project, through overall management and realignment of the Council's resources it is possible to finance the scheme by utilising existing RCCO's.

Legal Implications

37. Funding agreements will be drawn up with the schools that participate in the programme.
38. Subject to Cabinet agreement, a fundraising campaign will be undertaken which aims to generate additional budget for the programme. The Council has secured both Arts Council England and Sport England funding for a range of projects in recent years. The proposed three-year In2 programme can be linked to the priorities for both organisations and it is hoped that with successful bids, the programme can be extended. The Durham Commission, a new study around creativity and learning commissioned by Arts Council England and delivered by Durham University, is due to be launched in September 2019. Given the subject matter covered, the expertise within Darlington including Theatre Hullabaloo, and positive delivery of the In2 pilot programme from May to July 2019, we are well placed to submit a strong application for Arts Council England project funding for a three-year In2 programme.
39. The proposed three-year programme is in development and is scalable dependent on available budget. The majority of expenditure is expected to be undertaken in the first two years of the programme, wherein the transition from participating primary to secondary schools will take place. Reduced annual expenditure is expected in the final year of the programme, wherein more work to signpost participants to opportunities for further engagement will take place.

Consultation

40. Consultation has taken place with the two head teachers involved in the pilot scheme, which has helped to identify the most appropriate year groups to work with through the full programme.