
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 new Sexual Health and Contraception Service is now fully operational and functioning well.
3. A review of the NHS Health Checks Scheme has been completed with the results informing the re-procurement process which has recently commenced.
4. The Healthy Lifestyle Survey will be delivered in Primary Schools across the Borough in the first term of the new academic year. The Secondary School survey will be undertaken from November 2018.
5. The 2018 Darlington Health Profile which provides a snapshot of health in the area has been published. The annual profiles are designed to help local government and health services' to work together to understand their community's needs in order to improve health and reduce inequalities.
6. The Health Profile 2018 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 2018 are:
 - (a) smoking prevalence in adults continues to decrease following the trend seen nationally;
 - (b) the gap in life expectancy for men between the most the deprived area and least deprived area in Darlington has increased. Life expectancy for both men and women in Darlington is lower than the England average; and
 - (c) under 18 conceptions continue to decrease and are statistically similar to the England average.
7. Public Health will be supporting this year's Stoptober campaign and staff from the Stop Smoking Service Hub will be visiting community venues promoting the service.

Darlington Partnership

8. At the last Darlington Partnership Board meeting held on 11 July the Board agreed to take forward a programme of work around narrowing the gap between Darlington's most deprived communities and the rest in support of the Council's Neighbourhood Renewal programme. This work is founded on 'Community Wealth Building' activity which has proved successful in other local authority areas. It is recognised that this will be a significant undertaking and be the predominant focus of the Partnership in the medium to long term.

Health and Well Being Board

9. At the meeting of the Health and Well Being Board held in March 2018 the priorities of the Board were discussed and an action plan was agreed for future meetings of the Board, to address those priorities through a focused 'life course' approach. The meeting of the Board held on 13 September 2018, which I Chaired, was the third meeting to follow this approach and the agenda focused on the priority of 'Ageing Well', with a demonstration being given on the Living Well Directory. A number of reports and plans relating to that priority included an update on the Better Care Fund, the Public Health England Annual Health Protection Report and Cancer Care.
10. Other issues considered at the meeting included a verbal update by the NHS Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group on the Integrated Care Systems and an update report on the work of Healthwatch Darlington.

Housing Services

Red Hall Regeneration Master Plan and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

11. Cabinet welcomed the progress on the execution of the Red Hall Master Plan and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (NRS), adopted in April 2016 as the framework for neighbourhood regeneration at Red Hall, and their integration with the Healthy New Town (HNT) initiative and, in doing so, considered revising the action plan in the light of current circumstances and evidence.
12. The Strategy comprised three components over a ten year period of a housing condition improvement programme and new Council housing; improvements to the physical infrastructure of the area as expressed through the Master Plan; and investment in the skills and ability of the community to become increasingly self-reliant.
13. Healthy New Town status was subsequently awarded, following receipt of external funding for the project, which added a new dimension to the work.
14. The NRS set out key priorities for activity but addressing health inequalities and poverty have been the foundations of the work.

15. Several projects have been established to address employment and education, fuel poverty and healthy living. A project to address holiday hunger has been successful with widespread support from the community and stakeholders. Red Hall Primary School has played an important role both in supporting activities such as the Bikeability and the garden competition but also in linking in parents to a range of activities.
16. More recently a project focused on youth was established by the YMCA which includes a new Youth Club encouraging young people to get involved in influencing the future of Red Hall.
17. Joint funding from the HNT Project and the Council will provide artist designed benches that will form a walk through Red Hall. The benches were designed with the help of children from the Primary School and are spaced so that two circuits will provide 10,000 steps.
18. The HNT project has attracted £1.1m into the Borough with an additional £373k so far to support the 'digital enablement' of care through the NHS Estates and Technology Transformation Fund with more expected this year. Digital based care will be essential in supporting patients remotely with self-management to help manage increasing demand on services, but also importantly to support patients and citizens in education, information and illness prevention.

Red Hall Summer Fair

19. The Friends of Red Hall Residents Group organised a Summer Fair held on 12 August. They have established a relationship with the Stockton International Riverside Festival which provided some of the attractions but the organisation and running of the event fell to the Residents Group. The Healthy New Towns project funded a number of activities and also provided some prizes. There was a good turnout for what the Group hope will become an annual event.

Warwick Square Play Park

20. The official opening of the play park took place on 26 July. This marked the completion of the first phase of work that provides play facilities for younger children. The Mayor performed the ceremony and there was a very good turnout of parents and children. Consultation took place with those present on options for developing a second phase of the play area and the opportunity was also taken to gather information from residents about how they view the general area to assist with further community engagement.
21. The information from the survey will be used to plan a second phase of development and it is hoped that a group of residents will come together to take an interest in the upkeep of the park.

Universal Credit

22. The full service roll out began on 20 June in Darlington. Although numbers on Universal Credit are increasing rapidly the initial impact of the change on tenants, workloads and rents can only be judged once several cycles of monthly payments have taken place. Council staff have worked closely with the Department for Work and Pensions to plan the change introducing information sharing mechanisms. The Council has been awarded 'Trusted Landlord' status and has entered into a contract to provide advice to customers. Housing Services Income Team are working to mitigate the impact as far as possible through tenancy sustainment work with tenants at the pre-tenancy stage in order to ensure they take the right initial steps in applying for Universal Credit.

New Build

Earl Carlson Grove

23. An official opening ceremony took place in July on completion of the Council's largest housing development for some years. Councillor Bill Dixon performed the ceremony as one of his last acts as Leader of the Council. The family of Earl Carlson also attended the event and brought along memorabilia to explain who Earl Carlson was.
24. Work has now started on a new housing development opposite to this development consisting of eight three-bedroom and four four-bedroom houses and 18 two-bedroom flats. It is anticipated that development will be complete in Autumn 2019.

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Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Health and Partnerships