

# Darlington Borough Council

## Organisational Assessment (Summary version)

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Provided under embargo



**oneplace**

for an independent overview  
of local public services

## Darlington Borough Council

### Overall, Darlington Borough Council performs well

Managing performance	3 out of 4
Use of resources	3 out of 4
Managing finances	3 out of 4
Governing the business	3 out of 4
Managing resources	2 out of 4

Description of scores:

1. An organisation that does not meet minimum requirements, Performs Poorly
2. An organisation that meets only minimum requirements, Performs Adequately
3. An organisation that exceeds minimum requirements, Performs Well
4. An organisation that significantly exceeds minimum requirements, Performs Excellently

## Summary

Darlington Borough Council is delivering improvements for local people and is performing well.

People who live in Darlington are generally happy with the local area, in particular its parks and open spaces. Crime levels are reducing and anti social behaviour is being successfully tackled through joint work with the police. The Council is working successfully with the local Primary Care Trust to improve people's health by encouraging more women to breast feed, supporting people to stop smoking and to increase exercise. A project to increase the number of people cycling and walking has been particularly successful. Educational standards are improving and increasing numbers of 16 to 18 year olds are employed, are in education or training. The standard of council housing is very high. Fewer young people are getting involved in crime for the first time.

Like everywhere else in the country the economic recession has hit Darlington with increased unemployment particularly in the most deprived areas. However, the council has been successful in bringing new employers and jobs into Darlington and this improves employment opportunities for people. Services are also in place to support people who need help - for example because they have lost their job. Services for people who become homeless are very good.

The Care Quality Commission has assessed Darlington Borough Council's Adult Social Care Services as performing well.

Ofsted's assessment of children's services for Darlington Borough Council is

that it performs well and there are many good schools and sixth forms. There is good provision for safeguarding children.

Accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers has been improved a lot but further work needs to be done in co-operation with the other Tees Valley councils.

There are big differences in the health of people in different parts of Darlington. The number of pregnant teenagers has fallen but is still too many. The number of children and young people admitted to hospital is far too high. This is in particular linked to under age drinking but is also for other reasons including unintentional and deliberate injury. The council, with its partners, has plans in place to tackle these areas but it is too early to say how successful they will be.

The Council provides good leadership across the borough and partnership working with other organisations is strong. It works well with local people to understand their needs, and reflects these in the plans it makes and the way it delivers services. Performance is well managed and the Council provides good value for money.

CAA looks at how well local public services, working together, are meeting the needs of the people they serve. It's a joint assessment made by a group of independent watchdogs about the performance of local public services, and how likely they are to meet local priorities. From 9 December you will find the results of Comprehensive Area Assessment on the Oneplace website - <http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk/>



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