

MAY 2010

Best of Darlington: a night to remember

This years Best of Darlington Award ceremony held in February was a tremendous success. It was the fifth year of the Awards and attracted the largest number of nominations so far. As much as it was an entertaining evening it was an inspiring celebration of the dedicated, selfless, caring, hard-working, high-achieving and talented people of Darlington.

(Continued on page 3)



APRIL 2010

In this edition:

**A night to remember - the
Best of Darlington Awards**

**The Darlington Debate -
are you involved?**

**A review of the year—
highlights from 2009/10**

**Understanding 'One
Darlington'**

**Making our Partnership
work**

**Updates from the work of
each theme**

**Up and coming events in
Darlington
including the Darlington
Assemblies**



“Welcome to the first Newsletter of Darlington Partnership for 2010/11. The Partnership has been very busy during the past year. We have worked hard to ensure that important issues facing Darlington are being addressed. In addition, through events such as the Best of Darlington Awards we have celebrated the truly inspiring great people of Darlington.”

**Alasdair MacConachie
Chairman of**

Best of Darlington: a night to remember

A feature of the ceremony is the award of Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the year to those the judges felt were outstanding from all the categories. This year's Citizen of the year was awarded to Steve Davies who also won the Contribution to Sport category for his cycling achievements. Young Citizen of the year was awarded to Brandon Holloway. The story of the effort that this 10 year old puts into supporting his family and community, which won him Young Person's contribution to the Community, clearly moved the audience on the night.



Along with Darlington College and NHS Darlington, the partnership would like to offer thanks for their support for the event to the following:

Sherwoods Chevrolet
The Northern Echo
Darlington Borough Council
OpenReach, part of the BT group
eVOLution Darlington
Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College
Groundwork West Durham & Darlington
The Rotary Club, Darlington
Soroptimists International, Darlington & District
The Forum Music Centre
The Marchday Group, owners of Lingfield Point
French & Lamming Media

The Northern Echo printed a 12 page pull out of the event so that all who took would have a memento to keep.

Darlington
Partnership

The Future Economy of Darlington – Dynamism or Decline?

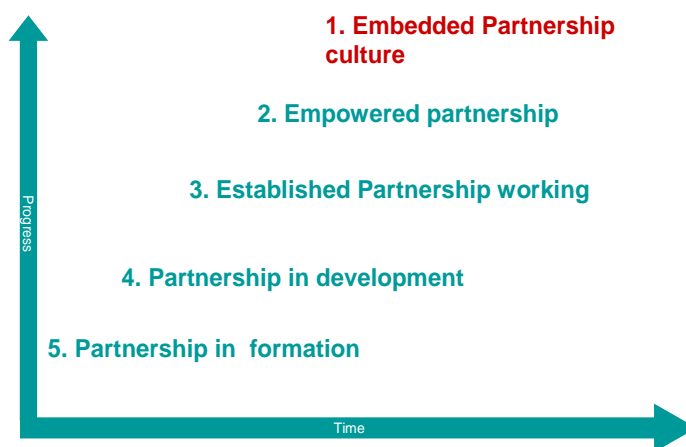
In January The Darlington Partnership teamed up with Lingfield Point to put on a special event which considered the future economy of Darlington.

The event was in the form of a “Question Time” styled web TV programme, which has been broadcast on www.broadbandtvchannel.co.uk and on the websites of The Northern Echo.

Chaired by Pete Barron, Editor of the Northern Echo, the panel was made up of speakers from business, regeneration agencies and other experts from the academic world. As the recession is being felt by businesses and communities across the country, the focus of questions to the panel was what should we in Darlington be focusing on to stimulate local economic growth. The event which was held at Lingfield Point attracted an audience of over a hundred. It was encouraging to note that there was an overwhelming belief in the room that Darlington was set fair to weather the recession well

Making sure Darlington Partnership is effective

Leadership - levels of maturity

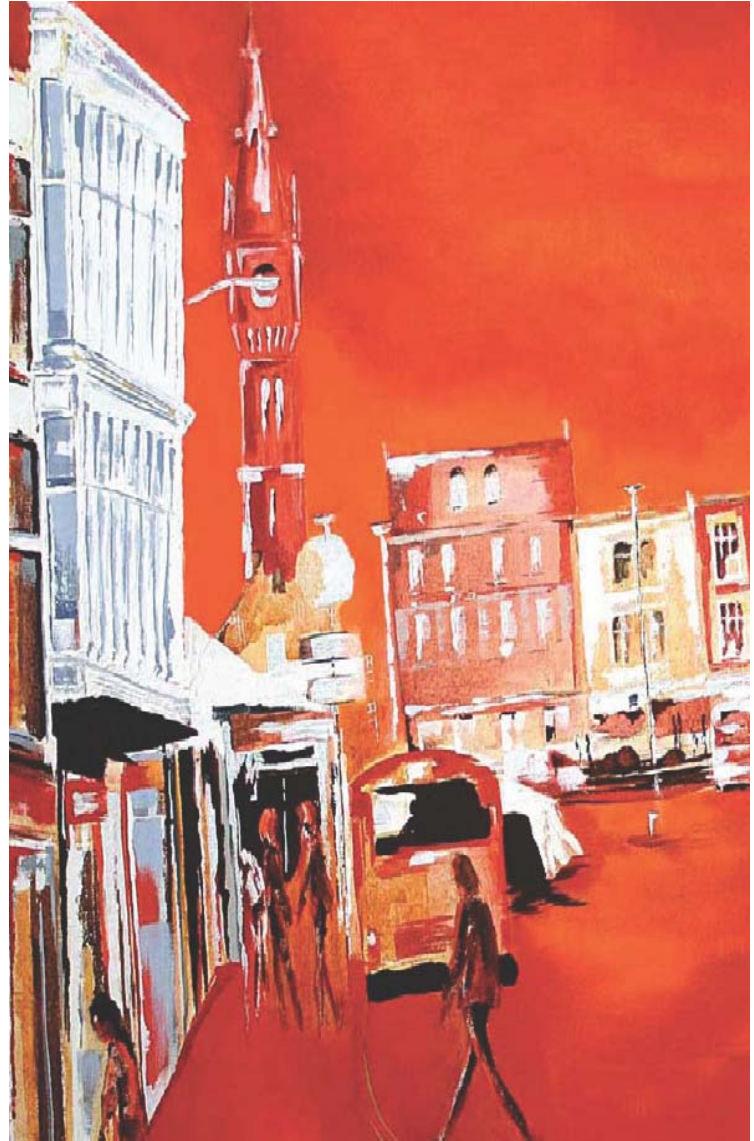


Darlington Partnership is recognised widely as outstanding but to ensure we maintain this status we periodically need to take a look at ourselves. Also as the environment in which we operate changes we need to consider how we might need to adapt. In light of this the Partnership Board held a workshop in January to look at how effective it is and to identify any areas it would like to develop further. Work streams looking at its structure, communications and resource management have been established. The board also concluded that it would like to create opportunities for members to network with each other more outside the confines of the formal board meetings which will be a feature of the partnership going forward.

One Darlington Analysis

The partnership has recently completed a major piece of work to identify whether conditions for the most disadvantaged in Darlington have improved or worsened in recent years by looking at progress towards the ambitions articulated by 'One Darlington'.

'One Darlington' is one of the two priorities of The Sustainable Community Strategy '**One Darlington Perfectly Placed**'. It is about tackling deprivation and narrowing the gaps in prosperity, health, attainment and life chances that are evident across the borough.



The aim of the analysis was to identify what progress has been made towards these objectives and therefore looked at outcomes related to prosperity, aspiration, health, safety and people's level of satisfaction.

The strategy was launched before the recession hit and clearly this has impacted on the achievability of the strategy's objectives. In particular unemployment has risen markedly in some wards. Despite this, it would appear that that in the three years, starting from 2006/07 the gap has narrowed between the most deprived wards and the rest. With continued economic difficulties likely ahead, the board endorsed the proposal within the report that greater attention needs to be focused on how we support communities to become stronger, more resilient and self reliant.

Aspiring Darlington !

A change of chair

Following the departure from the role of Councillor Jenny Chapman, Councillor Cyndi Hughes was confirmed as the chair of The Children's Trust at its meeting in March. I'm sure everyone connected with the partnership would want to thank Jenny for all her hard work in the role and to extend a warm welcome to Cyndi.



Reduction in Darlington teenage pregnancies welcomed

NHS County Durham and Darlington and Darlington Children's Trust have welcomed latest figures which show that teenage pregnancies in the town have reduced by 20%, against a national average reduction of 13%.

The reduction reflects the intensive, innovative work that has been carried out across the town, which includes the Friday morning clinic at Darlington College. But staff at NHS County Durham and Darlington have warned against complacency, with the challenging national target set by the government for a 55% reduction by 2010. Donna Thorne, teenage pregnancy lead said: "We are far from complacent with the challenge that faces us. We are working hard to ensure that the downward trend in under 18 conceptions continues to reduce through the delivery of better and more meaningful relationship and sex education to support young people and families. This means helping people to make more informed choices and have better and more accessible contraception services, provided at the right place and right time and that is respectful of young people's needs and fears. The figures, which demonstrate a 20% reduction in 2008 from the 1998 baseline have been achieved through the help and support of young people and community groups who are closely involved in the planning and evaluation process of any work through the Darlington Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Group. The average reduction across England was 13%. Anthony Prudhoe, Chair of Darlington's Teenage Pregnancy Partnership group said: "We are very proud of the huge effort that has been made. On behalf of the Teenage Pregnancy Partnership I would like to extend my thanks to all the partners involved across health, education, social care, youth service, connexions and voluntary groups. I would also like to give a special thank you to Darlington College, Dr Shelagh Naismith and the staff who provide the onsite Friday morning clinic. "We now need to continue our focus to reduce the under 18 conception rate even further, in line with the government's challenging target."

Forging the way for e-safety Youth Conference

Following the tragic death of Ashleigh Hall, The Director worked with Darlington Children's Trust, Darlington College, The Queen Elizabeth College and all the secondary schools in Darlington to create an event at short notice where young people could discuss how to stay safe and in particular when using modern communication technologies. The purpose of the event, which was held at Darlington College on Tuesday, 15th December was to let young people themselves agree how best to stay safe but still make full use of the communication technologies.

The event was a great success attracting 120 young people to participate from the schools and colleges of Darlington.

Key messages from the event will be disseminate to other young people across Darlington through the youth service and a programme of activity will be co-ordinated through the Children's Trust. The Northern Echo have been very supportive and have proposed to work with Darlington College and the Partnership to highlight the positive response that has been made in Darlington and with the support of the partnership.

Thank to all those who contributed and in particular Darlington College for hosting the event and providing so much support.



the
better
world
campaign

The Internet
Green X Code

In association with the Children's Quarterly
Coalition on Internet Safety (CQIS)



Darlington
Partnership

The news from Healthy Darlington

The Healthy Darlington themed group is the Health and Wellbeing Partnership of the Local Strategic Partnership.

It has a huge agenda which reflects the importance of health improvement in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

The Healthy Darlington group in January 2010 were informed that people who want to stop smoking in Darlington can access NHS services to help them quit. Smoking remains THE major cause of lower life expectancy in Darlington compared with the national average. In the North East smoking overall has reduced but effective ways of preventing young people from starting to smoke need to be implemented. Tobacco Control is to be the focus of the next Darlington Assembly to be held

In June 2009 the Healthy Darlington themed group took part in the North East Big Drink Debate led by BALANCE, the Regional Alcohol office.

Tackling the damage caused by alcohol misuse is relevant to all Local Strategic Partnership themed groups, however the Healthy Darlington themed group is leading on a number of the priority actions in the Darlington Alcohol Harm Reduction strategy.

A visit from the National Support Team (NST) for Alcohol in November 2009 provided an opportunity for individuals and organisations in Darlington to review progress to date to tackle alcohol related harm.

Darlington partners have been commended for the level of local commitment and progress to date.

In his 2008 Annual Report, the Chief Medical Officer, Sir Liam Donaldson recommended a minimum price of 50p per unit of alcohol. Two factors in particular affect how much alcohol is consumed; access and price.

The Director of Public Health, Miriam Davidson, explained the case for a minimum price per unit of alcohol to tackle the harm caused by alcohol misuse (November 2009) and at a future meeting will present an update report.

Prosperous Darlington: Working to get people back to work

Prosperous Darlington has overseen a major study, managed by eVOLution looking at worklessness in Darlington. The report found that following the significant gains in employment that had been made in Darlington, the recession caused a significant increase in Job Seekers Allowance claimants from May 2008 through to February 2009. This has resulted in significant impacts on those already disadvantaged wards reversing the trends achieved up to August 2008 and a re-widening of the gaps between worst and best performing wards in terms of employment indicators. The recommendations of the report are now being considered by the partnership and an action plan to address worklessness is in development.

Safer Darlington: A warm welcome to Kate Martin

A review has been underway of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP), the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) and the Youth Offending Service (YOS) arrangements. The intention of the review has been to seek greater alignment across the three agendas, with a view to greater long term sustainability and potential efficiency savings, focusing on management arrangements. The result is that for a temporary period until end Feb 2011, Kate Martin will be the acting Head of Safer Darlington, providing leadership across all three teams

Keeping it Green!

The greener theme group continues to act as guardians of Darlington's environment. Recently it has considered the Local Development Framework, and the Local Transport Plan.

A longer term piece of work that it is overseeing is investigating the benefits supporting the local food economy might bring to Darlington.

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

Date to be confirmed

Darlington Partnership: meet our new MP

Thursday 20th May 2010, 12.30 p.m. Darlington Football Ground

Darlington Assembly: Health Inequalities and Tobacco Control

Monday 21st June 2010, 1.00 p.m. Central Hall, Dolphin Centre

Darlington Assembly: “Help shape Darlington. What do you want in the Town Centre Fringe?”

If you have any queries or comments or would like any further information about anything in this newsletter please contact me:

Seth Pearson
Darlington Partnership Director
Chief Executive's Department
Room 103, Town Hall,
Darlington,
DL1 5QT

seth.pearson@darlington.gov.uk

tel. 01325 388462
internal extension 2462
mobile 0797 3425 408

The logo for Darlington Partnership features the word "Darlington" in a blue serif font, with a yellow and green swoosh underneath it. Below "Darlington" is the word "Partnership" in a blue serif font, also with a yellow and green swoosh underneath it.

Darlington
Partnership