



Welcome to the latest Darlington
Children's Trust Partner Newsletter.

Murray Rose, Director of People

Winning team takes on chlamydia in County Durham and Darlington

A group of health professionals in County Durham and Darlington have won a North East sexual health award for their efforts in chlamydia screening.

“County Durham and Darlington Sexual Health Improvement and Screening Team rightly won the team category having achieved a heroic turnaround in performance in last year’s chlamydia screening programme.” said Professor Peter Kelly, North East director of public health who presented them with their award.

The team rose to the challenge of the chlamydia testing targets and turned their performance around to exceed the national target in 2010.

“County Durham and Darlington faced challenging chlamydia screening targets last year and the new sexual health improvement and screening team really threw themselves into the task,” said Professor Kelly.

“Despite the awful weather last winter they trudged through snow and ice to get to appointed sessions in cafés and clubs, working evenings and weekends to make sure they reached their target group of teenagers and young people.

“The team said that rising to the challenge together created real team spirit and drove them on to exceed the national target. All of this was on top of their wider work to promote good sexual health, and provide a comprehensive training programme for staff from other agencies.”

Ruth Robson, sexual health improvement and screening team manager said: “The team is thrilled to have their hard work recognised for their significant contribution to improving sexual health in the North East. The team in turn would like to thank their partner agencies that make working in this field so enjoyable.”



Consultation on the CYPP 2011-2014 Draft Priorities

Children's Trust Partners have been working on the Children and Young People's Plan Priorities for the CYPP 2011-2014 and these are available on the Children's Trust website for feedback from all partners.

www.darlington.gov.uk/Children/childrenstrust/CYPP/Children+and+Young+Peoples+Plan+2011-2014.htm

Can any comments/feedback be circulated to Melanie Brown,
Children's Trust Partnership Manager,
melanie.brown@darlington.gov.uk

Calling 111

People in County Durham and Darlington can now call 111 when they need help fast, but it isn't a 999 emergency.

If you need help quickly and can't wait for an appointment with your GP or don't know who to call, you should now dial 111 to reach the appropriate local health services.

111 will get you through to a team of fully-trained advisers supported by experienced nurses, who will assess your symptoms and then put you directly in touch with the people who can help.

Whether you need an out of hours doctor, a district nurse, a 24 hour chemist or an emergency dentist, the 111 team will make sure you get the right help first time.

If we think you need an ambulance, we will send one immediately - just as if you had originally dialled 999.

The NHS 111 service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year across the County Durham and Darlington areas. Calls from landlines and mobile phones are free - just like 999.

So remember: call 111, when it's less urgent than 999.

Darlington Single Needs Assessment

The Single Needs Assessment (SNA) builds on the existing statutory duty placed on the Directors of Children's Services, Adult Social Services and Public Health to produce on an annual basis a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). It forms an important component of the Local Authority's new Business Model and Corporate Transformation programme.

The Single Needs Assessment differs from previous JSNAs in that it includes:

- a broader range of data
- is specifically structured against our Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities
- identifies the top issues facing our community
- poses a series of questions for strategic decision-makers and commissioners of services to consider when planning services
- a Condition Profile for Darlington which is constructed around a revised suite of outcome based performance measures designed to monitor the impact of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

It brings together in one single point relevant information available on the needs of Darlington's population. Most importantly it combines quantitative data with softer intelligence and feedback from the community and service users.

Intended to provide a powerful tool for defining priorities and shaping future services for Darlington it also highlights areas where we need to do more to improve the health and wellbeing of our communities' and specific health and social care issues that require targeted actions.

www.darlington.gov.uk/Children/Single+Needs+Assessment

If you have any queries or need further information, please get in touch with Julian Kenshole, Head of Policy and Performance.

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Darlington receives first ever Corporate Parenting Certificate

DARLINGTON'S Corporate Parenting Panel has become the first Authority in the country to receive accreditation of Investing in Children Membership.

The Investing in Children Membership certificate was awarded to the Panel at a ceremony held before Council at Darlington Town Hall on Thursday 27 January.

The certificate is valid for one year and will be re-evaluated on an annual basis. Investing in Children is a Durham based organisation set up to address and promote the issue of the human rights of children and young people.

Corporate Parenting Panels were set up to act as the 'eyes and ears' of parents of children and young people looked after in care by the Council. Their role is to ensure that the views of children and young people in the care of a council are listened to and taken on board when shaping services.

The Panel includes the Chief Executive of Darlington Borough Council, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and other officers connected with the service. The Panel meets every two months and looks at different areas of the service from reports by child specialists to service heads to presentations by the young people themselves. Children and young people have, in the past, requested to chair the Panel meetings and decided on the agenda.

Following work with the children and young people, Darlington Council and Investing in Children assisted the formation of the 'Darlo Care Crew' which gives young people in the looked after system the chance to air their views with the people who make decisions and to help them influence the services and the support they receive.

The Crew has taken part in a series of Agenda days looking at different parts of the service – this has resulted in the development of a Pledge which sets out 21 promises the Council and its service made to looked after children and young people. These include deciding on where a meeting will take place with a social worker and being involved with decisions.

Role playing sessions have helped social workers to see the system from a child's point of view and have helped them review their own perceptions. Open and frank sessions have meant that the young people have been listened to and their views taken on board.

The accreditation certificate was presented by the Mayor of Darlington Councillor Bryan Thistlethwaite to Councillor Cyndi Hughes, the Council's Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

Councillor Cyndi Hughes, Darlington Council's Cabinet Member for children and Young People said: "I am delighted that we have received this award. It is public recognition of a tremendous amount of hard work that has been undertaken in the last two years by the team and the young people involved.

"As a council, we are the corporate parents of these children and young people and we have a duty to listen to them as any parent would to their child, and act on what they say."

Liam Cairns, Investing in Children Director, added: "The significance of this award should not be underestimated. There is strong evidence here of how the Council, as corporate parents, has engaged with and responded to children and young people's issues and of the value of this approach."



Young families celebrate completing course

Dodmire Children's Centre in Darlington hosted a party for all the young families who completed its course on how to wean their child from total dependency on milk to solid foods.

The course offered practical help and advice for introducing solid food into a baby's diet as well as tasty recipes for parents wanting to cook healthy, nutritious meals.

All parents received a recipe book, blender and feeding equipment to get them started after completing the course. The course was funded by two NHS projects: the New Leaf New Life well-being programme and Change4Life and the National Lottery.

All those who have completed the course were invited to come to the party on Wednesday January 26 to celebrate their achievement, share ideas and give feedback on the course.

Tammy Newby, Early Years Practitioner at the Children's Centre, said: "We run a wide range of courses at the centre for parents and children. The weaning course was all about helping parents have the confidence and knowledge to help their children move onto the next stage of their

development. It was also part of a government initiative to help combat childhood obesity.

"We hope lots of parents and children will come along to the party to have some fun and tell us how the course helped them and how it can be improved for the future."

Cyndi Hughes, Darlington Council's Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, said: "Darlington's Children's Centres provide an excellent service to young families, offering support and advice on a wide range of subjects.

"I am really happy that so many parents and children have benefited from the weaning course at Dodmire Children's Children's Centre and I hope they enjoy their celebration."



New website offers support to families

Parents, carers and those working with children can find out more about what is happening in Darlington by using the Families' Information Service (FIS) website.

Recently relaunched, the FIS website offers information about organisations, services and events in Darlington for children and young people from birth to 19 years, including health, education, parenting, finance and housing.

The site also gives free, impartial advice and information about childcare in the Borough. The website includes information ranging from pregnancy and pre-school children to college education and teenagers. Users of the new website can also feedback their views about the site and the FIS.

Jenni Cooke, Darlington Council's Assistant Director – Children, Families and Learning, said: "The FIS provides an important service for anyone looking after, or working, with children. The website contains a wealth of information on a wide-range of subjects, as well as links to other services and websites. "I would urge any parents or carers to log on to find out what is available in the Borough."

For more information about the FIS log onto <http://darlington.fsd.org.uk>



Children's Services Assessment

The Ofsted Annual Assessment of Children's Services states 'outcomes for children and young people are improving in Darlington' and services are 'performing adequately' - with areas of good and outstanding work.

The annual assessment, sets out that: 'general further education and tertiary college, the sixth form college and the school sixth form are all outstanding. The special school, including its sixth form provision, is outstanding'.

The report does set out some key areas for future development, these include improvements to children's homes and the pupil referral units, so that all are at least good, improvements to secondary schools so that more are good or better and improvements to early years and childcare settings so that more are good.

The assessment also looks at how Children's Services is progressing in relation to lifestyle and health issues and improvements have been identified in reducing drug-taking and drinking, reducing the number of teenage pregnancies and addressing inequality.

The report is available on the Council's website at www.darlington.gov.uk



Darlington Play Service

Darlington Play Service is currently delivering 15 fully inclusive indoor and outdoor play sessions per week across the 11 most deprived wards within Darlington.

Recent activities have included arts and crafts, games, sports, den building and messy play. During the Christmas period the children and young people enjoyed various Christmas arts and crafts, games and parties.

Future plans include more messy play, cooking activities and activities incorporating Chinese New Year.

All planning is devised around ideas received from the children during ideas sessions to ensure the play sessions are child directed and that the service provides what the children really want.

During the winter period some of the outdoor sessions have been postponed until the springtime, attendance figures have been very low due to the incredibly bad weather we have been experiencing.

Some outdoor sessions have moved indoors for the winter and will return to outdoor sessions with the warmer weather and lighter nights, they are sessions at Springfield and in the Denes.

In 2010 the Play Service delivered 1015 play sessions, with an attendance of 15850 children and young people, totalling 1006 beneficiaries. This is an average attendance of 16 children per session.

Darlington Play Service is looking forward to delivering more fun, exciting and stimulating play activities and opportunities in the future months. For more information please contact Sarah Small on 07876682754



Transforming Community Services: Update from the Strategic Partnership Board

The Transforming Community Services (TCS) Strategic Partnership Board has been established as the local infrastructure to not only oversee the transfer arrangements of County Durham and Darlington Community Health Service (CDDCHS) to County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust (CDDFT) as the preferred management partner.

It also aims to realise the ambitions and opportunities of the TCS programme in shaping the vision and content for a new model of community care provision across County Durham and Darlington.

At its January meeting, Dr Kate Bidwell, Chair of Derwentside GP led Commissioning Consortia, who leads the Service Transformation element of the TCS programme provided an update on the key priorities that have been identified across partner organisations for transforming community services in County Durham and Darlington.

These priorities were endorsed by the Board, and will now be taken forward through a delivery programme across the partner organisations. Many of these are recognised as joint priorities between local authorities and health organisations and include:

- More care delivered in primary/community setting - focus on Mental Health and Long Term conditions
- Intermediate Care Plus - re-ablement including the use of supportive technology
- End of Life Care
- Older People
- Integrated Services for Children and Young People-early intervention and prevention
- Prevention first, public health and health improvement
- Appropriate Access to Urgent Care
- Reduction in A&E admissions

Linda Templey on behalf of Tom Hunt (Interim Chief Operating Officer, County Durham and Darlington Community Health Services) also reported progress on the Due Diligence process with Monitor, and on workforce issues.

Both workstreams are on target to ensure the necessary business transfer arrangements are in place, and are making significant progress with the Business Transfer Agreement which is a key document as part of the Due Diligence process with Monitor.

Since the Partnership Board met in January, Monitor have now informed the Partnership Board

that in terms of timelines for Due Diligence and the associated transfer of staff, our assessment is now likely to be completed towards the end of April 2011.

This is as a result of Monitor's workload pressures in assessing all the applications, and not due to any issues relating to the business case. The Co-operation and Competition Panel (CCP) have confirmed to NHS County Durham and Darlington that all necessary assurances have been reported and that the transfer of County Durham and Darlington Community Health Services is consistent with the provisions of the Principles and Rules.

NHS County Durham and Darlington continues to work closely with County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust in planning interim arrangements which will enable progress with the TUPE transfer and with their future plans.

The Partnership Board is in place to:

- Ensure strong stakeholder engagement in the future development of community health services across County Durham and Darlington
- Ensure decisions are taken which move forward the development of community services and reflect current governance arrangements within individual organisations and partnerships.
- Oversee the transfer of County Durham and Darlington Community Health Services (CDDCHS) to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust as the preferred management partner.
- The Partnership Board is chaired by Pat Keane, Joint Deputy Chief Executive NHS County Durham and Darlington (NHS CDD) and co-chaired by Stephen Eames, Chief Executive, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust.

Key Contacts

Service Transformation Workstream: Lead Dr. Kate Bidwell

Workforce Workstream: Lead Linda Templey – Director of Nursing, Patient Safety and Allied Health Professionals CDDCHS

Due Diligence Workstream: Lead Sue Jacques – Director of Finance/Deputy Chief Executive CDDFT

Further briefings will follow as the work progresses over the coming months. If you would like any further information contact either Pat Keane: 0191 374 4249 – pkeane@nhs.net or Jackie Kay (TCS programme Lead): 0191 374 4167 – jackiekay@nhs.net

Durham Constabulary - a top ranking organisation!

Durham Constabulary is maintaining its record as one of the country's top performing forces for reducing and detecting crime.

The latest figures show that between April and December 2010, the Force is ranked ninth against all other forces in England and Wales for the number of crimes per 1,000 people – moving up nine places compared to the same period in 2009.

Durham has also hit the top spot in detection rates for serious acquisitive crime and theft from vehicles. These results have contributed to the force achieving the largest percentage point increase in detecting total crimes, compared to other forces in England and Wales.

House burglaries are also continuing to fall, down from 6.82 to 5.23 per 1,000 people.

"These figures show that we're continuing to perform to an extremely high standard, keeping County Durham and Darlington safe for everyone – except criminals," said Chief Constable Jon Stoddart.

"This is despite the constraints of the current financial climate, a freeze on police officer recruitment and a programme of compulsory redundancies for police staff.

"So although our staff numbers are reducing, our crime is also down. This means that the rate of crimes per officer is actually the same as five years ago.

"Our job now is to maintain this high performance, despite the obvious challenges ahead."

The figures are as follows, with last year's totals in brackets.



Total crime per 1,000 population

45.03, ranked 9 (51.4, ranked 18)

Burglary dwelling

5.23, ranked 15 (6.82, ranked 21)

Serious acquisitive crime

6.46, ranked 1 (8.48, ranked 18)

Theft from vehicle

2.81, ranked 11 (3.7, 19)

Theft of vehicle

1.23, ranked 26 (1.60, ranked 32)

Detection rates:

All crime

40.6%, ranked 3

Burglary dwelling

25.9%, ranked 9 (16.8%, ranked 24)

Serious acquisitive crime

33.9, ranked 1 (13.8, ranked 22)

Theft from vehicle

42.5%, ranked 1 (7.6%, ranked 23)

Theft of vehicle

27.8%, ranked 8 (19.3, ranked 20)