

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



Karen Grundy, Executive Director eVOLution and Board Member of Darlington Children's Trust

Darlington Compact - 'Supporting Partnerships for Success'

What is the Compact?

The Compact was developed from recommendations made in the 1996 Report of the Deakin Commission on the future of the voluntary sector. The Deakin Commission concluded that the Government should recognise the importance of the third sector's diverse roles and its own responsibility to promote a thriving third sector.

The National Compact is an agreement between the Government and the third sector in England. It sets out commitments on both sides to improve the way in which the Government and the third sector work together for the benefit of communities and citizens and also provides a framework for negotiating Local Compacts.

What is a Local Compact?

A Compact is an agreement between the local authority, other public sector agencies and local voluntary and community organisations.

The Darlington Compact - 'Supporting Partnerships for Success' is an aspirational and practical agreement. The Compact commitments are a foundation of the agreement and underpin how organisations that sign up to the Compact relate and interact between and within sectors. On the practical side there are a set of shared principles which are fundamental to better partnership working, these include:

- Building a sustainable community
- Equality and diversity
- Promoting partnerships
- Creativity and added value
- Mutual Value & respect
- Cross-sector support

The Compact Vision

The Darlington Compact is a commitment to open, transparent and equitable working practices between

partner organisations in the public and third sectors. It recognises that the third sector plays a vital role alongside the public sector in developing and sustaining a democratic, socially inclusive Borough of Darlington. The Compact expresses the commitment of the public and third sectors to work together for the benefit of people and communities across the Borough.

What the Compact means in Practice

The Darlington Compact is not just a piece of paper. It is a working document which will be continuously developed over time, ensuring that all sectors work together towards the improvement of services and quality of life that the people of Darlington need and deserve. Local voluntary, community and public sector organisations which sign up to Darlington's Compact will implement the commitments and principles contained in the agreement. Over time, through training and support the principles and commitments will be embedded across the sectors.

The Compact Challenge

The basis of the Compact is about creating a holistic, cross-cutting approach to collaborative partnership working that will be mutually beneficial to all partners involved. This partnership work will help to reduce duplication and improve effective partnership relationships which will help to create more responsive, efficient and accessible services for the people of Darlington.

Background Information

The Darlington Compact is the result of a long consultation process in which third sector organisations and partners had an opportunity to share their views and input into the shaping of this document, which is due to be launched in September 2010.

St Teresa's Hospice, Darlington - Family Support Team

Here at St Teresa's hospice we have a specialist team of social workers, counsellors and volunteer support workers which offers support to individuals and families affected by a life-limiting illness, or bereavement.

We also offer support and training to other professionals and are establishing close links with schools in the area.

Support for families living with life-limiting illness

Our Family Support Team offers free, confidential support for people who have been diagnosed with a life-limiting illness, and those who care for them.

We work alongside other health and social care services to help people through this difficult time. We are here to listen and assist with the stresses, difficulties and changes that may occur while living with a life-limiting illness. Advice is given for practical issues, such as finances, benefits, housing or accessing appropriate services. Support and counselling is available to anyone living with a life-limiting condition. If people are looking after someone with a life-limiting illness, assistance is available to identify feelings and concerns and to help provide or arrange support to meet individual needs.

We also provide specialist support to children and young people who are close to an adult with a life-

limiting illness. In a child friendly way, we enable children to communicate their feelings and concerns.

Bereavement Support

Our Bereavement Support Service is offered by our Family Support Team and looks after the emotional and practical needs of loved ones left behind when someone dies after a terminal illness. We provide practical advice and information and use our empathy and experience to simply listen and support. We also have a 'drop-in' meeting where people who have been bereaved can come along and chat over a cup of tea or coffee and share their feelings and experiences with other bereaved people.

Specialist support is offered for bereaved children and young people when someone special has died following a terminal illness. We provide space to talk and opportunities to understand and manage issues they may experience because of loss in a safe and fun way.

Anyone can refer to our service. For more Information please contact:

St Teresa's Hospice

Woodland Road

Darlington

DL3 7UA

Tel: (01325) 254321

www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk



St Teresa's Hospice
Giving to LIFE

Share Street (<http://sharestreet.cwdcouncil.org.uk>)

Share Street is a social network site for everyone who works with and volunteers with children, young people and their families. It is a way for people discuss and share ideas and resources. By joining Share Street it will help strengthen the sense of community across the workforce. Once registered like other social network sites you can request to become friends (or in this case neighbours) with other people using the site. It is a great opportunity to strengthen partnerships. Please note that this tool is for everyone who works/volunteers with children and young people so please encourage and pass on this information to any other colleges this applies to so they too can become part of the Share Street network.

When you register, you will have a house built on Share Street just for you. So what can you do inside?

- Store all the useful documents and videos you find for quick reference and share with your neighbours

- Search for registered colleagues and useful contacts to add to your address book
- Exchange direct messages with colleagues and contacts on Share Street
- Invite colleagues and other members of the workforce to join Share Street
- View alerts about new resources in the cinema, library and rainbow. You can register on Share Street at any time or continue with the tour.

Sharing our knowledge, learning, experiences and resources is what this community is all about. If you find a Share Street resource that's useful to your work, use the links to bookmark and share it.

For further information please contact Charlotte Linton on (01325) 266888 or at charlotte.linton@evolutiondarlington.com

Inspectors' praise for safer schools initiative in Darlington

OFSTED inspectors have praised a safer schools initiative in Darlington, which has seen the police, council, schools, youth services and youth offending teams working together to reduce anti-social behaviour and exclusions and improve attainment and attendance.

The Safer Schools Partnerships are now in place at all of the Borough's secondary schools, including two independent schools.

This means each school has its own Youth Service worker and police officer who provide activities in school twice a term, teaching pupils about the importance of attending school and achieving their full potential, as well as aiming to reduce anti-social behaviour and the number of students being excluded from school.

The Safer Schools Partnership is part of the work of Darlington's Children's Trust, which has participated in Ofsted's Aspects survey, which culminates in a production of good practice guidance for all Children's Trusts to access.

Inspector Andrea Clayton, said: "We look forward to developing the Safer Schools Partnership initiative further throughout 2010. The increase in activities delivered within all secondary schools will bring about exciting challenges and opportunities across Darlington."

Darlington Children's Trust Practitioner Event

A market stall event for practitioners to raise awareness about the activities delivered by the Children's Trust was held on February 26 at the Dolphin Centre in Darlington.

Practitioners had an opportunity to browse 26 market stalls provided by partners from across the Children's Trust. Over 120 practitioners attended the event and evaluations from the session have been very positive with requests to make this an annual event. A presentation that was available at the event can be accessed by following the link below:

<http://www.darlington.gov.uk/Children/childrenstrust/MeetingEvents/Meetings+and+Events.htm>

Changes to Children's Trust Arrangements

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act that was passed in November 2009 outlined changes to Children's Trust arrangements. The changes that have arisen from the ASCL Act 2009 are highlighted below:

- The Children's Trust Board has been placed on a statutory footing since April 2010
- Responsibility for developing, publishing and reviewing the CYPP passes from the local authority alone to the Children's Trust Board. The first new style CYPP must be published by April 2011
- The CYPP becomes a joint strategy in which the Children's Trust partners set out how they will co-operate to improve the well-being of children and young people in the local area. It differs from the previous CYPP in that although the scope of the new CYPP includes all services that affect children and young people's well being, once

the Children's Trust Board has identified its main cross-cutting priorities, the Plan should focus on what the partners will do together to deliver them

- Responsibility for implementing the CYPP remains with the individual partners, who are under a duty to have regard to the Plan. The Children's Trust Board is responsible for monitoring the extent to which the partners act in accordance with the Plan and to publish an annual report, which sets this out
- Schools, Job Centre Plus and Further Education establishments are now included as 'statutory' partners of Children's Trust arrangements.

If anyone has any queries about these changes please contact Melanie Brown, Children's Trust Partnership Manager melanie.brown@darlington.gov.uk or (01325) 388219.

Young Inspectors visit Dr Piper House

A group of young inspectors from Darlington has visited Dr Piper House in the town to find out about health services from their perspective.

The young people, part of a Young Inspectors programme delivered by Tees Valley YMCA and Darlington Borough Council were given a tour of the Urgent Care Centre and Darlington Health Centre, both based at Dr Piper House.

The young people are trained to become inspectors and then discuss and research local services with a view to inspecting them. Already, they have conducted ten inspections of services in Darlington with their main themes being:

- Is the service accessible to all?
- Is the service welcoming to young people?
- Are young people involved in planning of improvements?
- How satisfied are young people with the service?
- Is it clear what your service does?

The young people visited the Urgent Care Centre, one of six centres across County Durham and Darlington that offer urgent care for non-life threatening conditions such as fractures, fevers, cuts, strains and sprains. The Urgent Care Centre at Dr Piper House is open 24-hours a day, 365 days a year and was formerly known as the Walk in Centre.

The Darlington Health Centre, also based at Dr Piper House is open from 8am-8pm seven days a week, 365 days per year.

The practice is currently registering patients and in addition any member of the public can walk in and see a health professional or phone and book an appointment in advance by calling (01325) 746350. They don't need to be registered with the centre.

The centre is one of 150 in the country, introduced to offer extended and improved access to GP services.

John Moran, Head of Urgent Care and Carol Bean, Practice Manager at Darlington Health Centre were on hand to provide the young inspectors with background information about the services available and took them on a guided tour of Dr Piper House.

Dr Hussain, a GP based in the Health Centre and Kate Ward, an Emergency Care Practitioner in the Urgent Care Centre both gave an outline of their roles at Dr Piper House. Dr Hussain explained that the Health Centre provided extra flexibility for

people who live out of the town but work in Darlington and need to access a GP. Kate explained how her role in the Urgent Care Centre can see her offering a wide range of services to young people, including advice on contraception and sexual health.

John Moran, Head of Urgent Care said: "We really enjoyed having the Young Inspectors visit us at Dr Piper House and hoped they gained an insight into the different services available through the Urgent Care Centre and the Health Centre, which are both based here.

"We look forward to receiving the report of their visit and would welcome any feedback they have about improving services for young people."

Carol Bean, Practice Manager at Darlington Health Centre said: "Our focus is very much on looking to fill the gaps in services and we are keen to ensure that young people have access to health services when they need them and where they need them.

"At the moment we are looking to establish a patient group and would welcome the input of young people so we can involve them more closely in the planning stage.

Marlene Redfearn from Tees Valley YMCA, said: "At Tees Valley YMCA we are really excited about delivering the Young Inspectors' Programme in partnership with Darlington Borough Council's Youth Service, it gives young people the chance to have a voice within local services.

"The services benefit from recommendations suggested by the young people to improve and be more accessible for the youth community."

For more information about the programme, contact Marlene on 07702 903910.



The Young Inspectors at Dr. Piper House

Safeguarding Young People in the Digital World

A joint 'e-safety' event took place on March 24, organised by Darlington Borough Council and the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

Three two hour sessions were arranged during the day to allow greater flexibility in people being able to access the event. With a total of 240 places being available during the day, prior to the event there were only limited spaces left. Initially the event was advertised to local practitioners (across a wide number of agencies), schools and colleges, Councillors and LSCB members. But due to regional interest places were made available to other local authorities and Government Office North East.

Since the death of Ashleigh Hall and the high profile this placed on e-safety in Darlington, it was felt that a multi-agency workshop would support practitioners. In addition the event launched an invaluable tool that includes a local produced film 'Choices - A Click Too Far' and an extremely useful curriculum pack that supports the film. This was well received by the multi-agency audience and the tool will be made available to all schools in Darlington free of charge.

In addition to this organisers of the event were able to secure some pivotal national and local speakers, including representatives from Northern Grid and Becta.



United Kingdom Youth Parliament Election Results

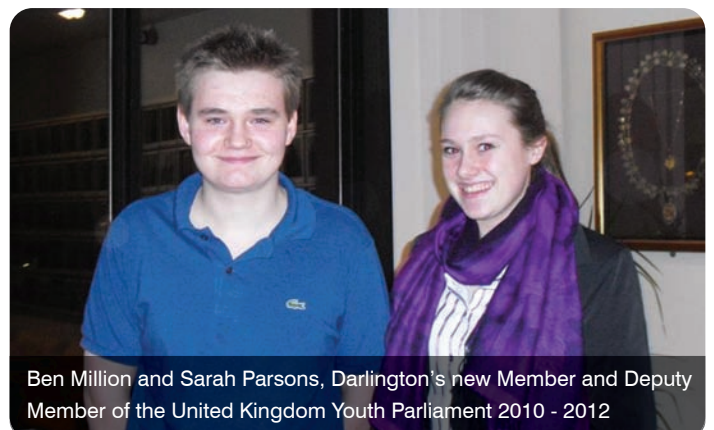
In March 2010, young people participated in the election of the new MYP (Member of Youth Parliament) to represent Darlington's Young People 11 – 18 years at a local, regional and national level.

Following a week-long election and months of campaigning, the new Member of Youth Parliament for Darlington 2010 - 2012 is Ben Million with Sarah Parsons acting as Deputy.

The elections result is as follows:

Ben Million	1139 votes
Sarah Parsons	741 votes
Adam Cowley	653 votes
Abigail Neasham	534 votes
Rebecca Parkinson	182 votes

Total votes cast were 3,297, giving Darlington an increase of 447 votes over the 2008 election result. Congratulations to Ben and Sarah, I am sure we will hear more from them both in the coming months.



Ben Million and Sarah Parsons, Darlington's new Member and Deputy Member of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament 2010 - 2012