

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



**Miriam Davidson**, Locality Director Public Health and Vice Chair Darlington Children's Trust and **Jenni Cooke**, Assistant Director Children and Families, Darlington Borough Council and Chair Darlington Children's Trust Joint Commissioning Unit

## Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2009

**Developing a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is the joint responsibility of the Directors of Public Health, Children's Services and Adult Social Care. We produced the first one in 2008 and have updated the data, where available, to create a “refreshed” document for 2009.**

The JSNA brings information together from a variety of sources in health and the local authority to describe the key issues in health care.

Darlington Locality Profiles (2009-2010) complement the JSNA and together build a more detailed picture of needs across the Borough.

The shape, or framework of the JSNA reflects the Darlington Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)

One Darlington : Perfectly Placed. Delivery themed groups organise and co-ordinate programme of work i.e. Prosperous Darlington, Aspiring Darlington, Healthy Darlington, Greener Darlington and Safer Darlington.

The Darlington Children's Trust Board drives forward the “Aspiring” delivery action plan for Darlington's Local Strategic Partnership.

A JSNA re-write in 2010 will involve a wider range of partners, to bring a richer perspective to the JSNA. This work will be completed by the end of November 2010, in the meantime we hope you find the JSNA useful.

### Examples of Key Messages

- Immunisation rates for children are higher than the England average.
- The percentage of children living in poverty in Darlington is higher than the national average.
- Action taken to reduce obesity in children is starting to show results, however it remains a risk to future health, wellbeing and life expectancy.

Copies of the JSNA are available from the Darlington Children's Trust Website  
<http://www.darlington.gov.uk/Children/childrenstrust/JointCommissioning/JSNA.htm>

# 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."

## Support for Young Carers in Darlington

**Do you know a child or young person under the age of 18 who provides care to a parent, grandparent, brother or sister or other relative who needs support because of a health problem or disability?**

Would you like to know more about the support available to them and other children and young people like them?

The Young Carers' Development and Implementation Group has developed a Young Carers' Action Plan for 2009-11, which sets out what we are going to do to build on and improve the support for young carers in Darlington.

**This includes the following actions:**

- making sure that young carers and their needs are considered systematically in all service planning and delivery and making sure that

young carers have a voice in these processes

- awareness raising about young carers and their needs with staff in all settings, including schools, hospitals and GP surgeries
- continued provision of a specific Young Carers Project to provide fun activities and peer support
- making sure that young carers can access mainstream services.

If you would like more information about this, or a copy of the Plan, please contact Lisa Holdsworth at [lisa.holdsworth@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.holdsworth@darlington.gov.uk)

The YMCA Timeout Young Carers Project provides fortnightly groups and activities during the school holidays. For more information about the Project or to refer a Young Carer you know, please contact the Project on 350465.

## Changes to Darlington Children's Trust Chairing Arrangements

Councillor Cyndi Hughes lead member for Children and Young People has been appointed as Chair of Children's Trust Board and the Children's Trust Executive Group.



## Darlington Borough Council to invest £1/4million in safeguarding children

Darlington Borough Council is investing over £0.25million in safeguarding children over the next twelve months to meet the demands of an increase in child protection referrals.

Following the tragic death of baby Peter Connolly, the Council's Children's Social Work services have experienced a large number of child care referrals. Immediate arrangements were put in place to monitor the increase to ensure social workers were able to maintain an acceptable level of caseload whilst referrals for child care protection continued to be dealt with in a timely and proper manner.

However, it has become apparent that the increase in the numbers of referrals has continued with a rise in those subjected to child protection plans. Investment is required to boost the number of social workers and legal staff available to ensure all referrals in relation to concern over a child's welfare will continue to be responded to promptly.

The investment will see an immediate recruitment of three additional social workers, a review and development manager, a practice manager and a lawyer.

Longer term proposals include the review of social work and management roles in line with Social Work Task Force recommendations and Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) guidance.

## Parenting Programmes make the grade

Parenting programmes in Darlington are the first in the region to achieve a Quality Kite Mark

The award from County Durham Learning ensures that the parenting programmes provided in the Borough are of the highest standard.

The parenting programmes aim to help build parents' confidence and make positive changes in their relationships with their children. Darlington Council's Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee asked the Libraries and Community Learning Team, which delivers the parenting programmes, to get accreditation for the courses to ensure they were of a high standard.

If your organisation would like to achieve the Quality Kite Mark for parenting programmes and you would like further information, please contact:

**Julie Bell, Parenting Commissioner**  
on 01325 388087 or email  
[Julie.bell@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.bell@darlington.gov.uk)

# Young persons PACT - we need your help!

**In a bid to better serve young people in Darlington better, the police and its partners are launching a Young Persons PACT (Partners and Communities Together) to give young people better contact with their local beat officers or Police Community Support Officer (PCSO).**

PACT gives communities and young people the chance to meet their local officers every month to discuss issues and come up with priorities for solving problems. The police and their partners then work to address these and report back on progress at the next monthly meeting, when the community decides if the issues have been resolved, or if more can be done. PACT supports local consultation led by Darlington Council through its Talking Together initiatives and community development meetings.

PACT has been up and running for 18 months and has had some tremendous successes there are now 27 established PACT meetings in the borough covering a wide range of people.

Darlington Police and its partners are eager to launch a Young Persons PACT, whose primary focus will be on addressing the priorities that affect young people in Darlington today. They are asking all young people who have an interest in the process to contact Sgt Louise Guest on 01325 742198 or email [louise.guest@durhampnn.police.uk](mailto:louise.guest@durhampnn.police.uk).

Inspector Andrea Clayton who oversees the borough Safer Schools partnership comments ' We would really urge and encourage young people in Darlington to get involved in this initiative-not only to have a voice but also to shape how the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership can work with them, for them'

# 14-19 Partnership News

**The 14-19 Partnership is a sub-group of Darlington's Children's Trust. It is a group of strategic leaders from Darlington education and training organisations such as secondary schools, colleges and work-based learning providers, who are collaborating to provide the best learning for our young people aged 14-19.**

Part of the role of the Partnership is to help to implement reforms of 14-19 curriculum in Darlington. The new curriculum for this age group has 4 pathways and in the future, all young people will be expected to move along one or more of these pathways:

- Apprenticeships
- Diplomas
- Foundation Learning
- General Qualifications

In this article, here's a quick look at Apprenticeships. Apprenticeships are a way for young people to work and learn at the same time. They are work based training programmes designed around the needs of employers, which lead to recognised qualifications. They are mainly for young people aged 16-24 working towards over 200 career choices within a variety of industry sectors ranging from accountancy and engineering to veterinary nursing and floristry. In the public sector, young people may work in areas such as health and social care, advice and guidance, community development, community justice, public services, teaching assistants, youth work, customer services, business administration, team leading and management, and payroll and personnel.

**The 4 elements of an Apprenticeship are:**

- Practical skills gained in the workplace
- Vocationally relevant qualification
- A technical certificate eg BTEC or City and Guilds
- Key Skills / Functional Skills eg communications and problem solving

Apprenticeships generally last from between 1 and 4 years and the average wage is £170 per week, with the minimum being £95. The government funds the learning provider directly for the training. Apprenticeships are a proven way to develop the skills of local people and involve them in the delivery of local services; fill skills gaps and recruit ambitious people who can make things happen; as well as training your current workforce

and increasing staff morale, productivity and retention.

There is a drive to increase the number of Apprenticeships in the public sector and many public sector organisations in Darlington (eg schools, colleges, the NHS and Darlington Borough Council) are already seeing the benefits of employing Apprentices. For example, the Library and Community Learning Services at Darlington Borough Council employs Reshma Begum, who is undertaking an Apprenticeship in Business Administration. She organises enrolment onto courses for adults and work-based learning opportunities for young people and produces materials, including leaflets for community based events. Reshma's manager, Christine McCallum says, "Having Reshma on board has provided a fresh pair of eyes on all aspects of our department as she is keen to share her ideas and improve our systems. Apprenticeships are a great way to create a workforce with the specific skills that your organisation needs."

**If you are interested in finding out more about employing an apprentice in your organisation, please contact the National Apprenticeship Service on 08000 150 600 or go online at [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk).**

