

## 2. Introduction to Darlington PCT

In July 2005 Sir Nigel Crisp set out radical proposals to reconfigure Primary care Trusts so that they could develop a stronger focus on commissioning, reducing health inequalities and patient and public engagement. Darlington PCT's statutory status was retained however, unlike many of its neighbouring PCTs and since then we have been working closely with the Strategic Health Authority and our partners in the new County Durham PCT to share resources and capacity so that we too can benefit from the new arrangements.

The role of the PCT is to:

- engage with local people to improve health and well-being, and reduce health inequalities
- ensure that patients have access to and choice of a range of high quality health services by commissioning services, within allocated resources
- directly provide high quality responsive and efficient services where this gives best value.

The PCT will continue to drive to ensure people get more choice, a better quality of care, provided closer to home wherever it is safe and practical to do so, through stronger commissioning and procurement arrangements.

Our objectives for the coming years build upon the good progress that the PCT has made since its inception in 2002. They are designed to ensure the PCT has a strong and stable financial base into 2008/2009, continues with its progress in reducing waiting time between referral and treatment to a maximum of 18 weeks, improves its services for sexual health and is able to redesign service delivery so that it is nearer patients in primary care settings wherever possible.

As in previous years, our success will rely on our close and productive working arrangements with our partners, including those in the NHS and Local Authorities, both in Darlington, the wider health community and beyond.

### Demographic Information

2.3 A key determinant of future service demand is the demographic characteristics of our population. It is important to know the age, ethnicity and gender profile of the community population to enable health and social care planning, specifically in relation to equality of access to employment and services and the implications for workforce planning.

2.4 Another key determinant is our workforce which should represent the community which we serve. The Trust has 419 staff based within Darlington, serving a total population of 97838.

<b>Geography</b>	Darlington is a metropolitan borough.			
<b>Population</b>	97838			
<b>Gender</b>	Male	46960	Female	50878

<b>Age Group %</b>	0-4	5-15	16-19	20-44	45-64	65+			
	5696	12824	5853	32556	24253	16656			
<b>Ethnicity %</b>	white	mixed	asian	black	chinese	Other			
	97.9%								
<b>Religion %</b>	christian	budhist	hindu	jewish	muslim	sikh	other	none	Not stated
	79.8%	0.1%	0.1%	0%	0.6%	0.3%	0.2%	11.4%	7.5%
<b>Health</b>	fairly good			not good					
	69.6%			30.4%					

### Darlington Primary Care Trust

<b>Locality Employees</b>	419
<b>Locality Functions</b>	Contract management & Prison Health Services Directorate Medical Directorate Provider Services Directorate Workforce & Corporate Development Services
<b>General Practices</b>	11
<b>Out of Hours care provided</b>	Dr Piper House Walk in Centre
<b>Dental Practices</b>	13
<b>Hospitals</b>	Darlington Memorial Hospital St Theresa's Hospice