Meeting Notes - Darlington Organisations Together (DOT)

Thursday 24 April 10am – 12 noon

Hybrid Meeting via Zoom and in person at The Dolphin Centre

**Present**: Autumn Molinski Adult Social Care DBC

Tracy Freeman First Stop

Diane James Primary Healthcare Darlington

Michelle Smailes Primary Healthcare Darlington

Zoe Grey Tandem

Ann Donald Citizens Advice

Andrew West Darlington Carers Support

Audrey Lax GOLD

Chris Carr NECA

Ann – Marie Curry DBC

Martin Webster Workforce development Manager

Michelle Eccles 0 to 19 Services

Jane Hammond Keyring

Angela Parry Triage

Deborah Robinson St Teresa’s Hospice

Zoe Grey Tandem

Sarah Henderson Arcus

Libby Owens ICA

Liz Godfrey Diabetes UK

Jane Harvey Community Pharmacy

Mandy Doak Red Balloons

Antoni Hall Alzheimer’s Society

Jenny Joyce DAD

Becky Llamas Darlington Safeguarding

**Apologies:** Heather Jarvis Jewell Learning and Skills

Adele Morris Darlington Connect

Andy Hampson NERSOU Police

Rita Lawson Tees Valley Rural Action

Laura Williams Rethink

Kath Wall GOLD

Marcus Hawthorn Darlington Mind

Carole Sobkowiak Soroptimist

Lynn Walton GOLD

Melanie Sanderson TEWV

Gillian Leckenby CAMHS

**In Attendance:** Abbey Lax Healthwatch Darlington

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|  | **Action By** | **Target Date** |
| 1. **Welcome and Introductions**   AL welcomed all to the meeting. | AL |  |
| 1. **Attendance/Apologies**   As noted above. | AL |  |
| 1. **Notes from the last meeting – January 2025:**   These were discussed and agreed as a true reflection. | AL |  |
| **4. Guest Speakers4.1 Guest Speaker Debbie Robinson St Teresas Hospice:**  [C:\Users\healt\Documents\overview PRESENTATION 2025.pptx](file:///C:\Users\healt\Documents\overview%20PRESENTATION%202025.pptx)    **4.2 Tracy Freeman First stop:**  [C:\Users\healt\Documents\FIRST STOP DARLINGTON presentation to DOT.pptx](file:///C:\Users\healt\Documents\FIRST%20STOP%20DARLINGTON%20presentation%20to%20DOT.pptx) | DR  TF |  |
| **5. Healthwatch Darlington (HWD) Update - Abbey Lax:**  **Mental Health Network:** The next Mental Health Meeting will be on the 19th May at the Tandem Hub, Morton Park.  **Wheelchair Access survey –** Waiting for comment then will be sent out.    **Day Opportunities –** Report has been completed and sent out to our mailing lists.  **Sexual Health Survey**: completed awaiting responses from PHD& DBC then to send out.  **Pharmacy Survey:**  <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/PharmacyFirst/>  QR code | AL |  |
| **6. Myth busting:**  If you have any myths about your organisation, please feel free to send over the myth, plus the buster and we will get that shared on our newsletter**.** | AL |  |
| **7. Around the room Updates:**  **Volunteer and Partnerships Officer, Diabetes UK**  Been in post since beginning of March.  Cover the northeast (mainly Tees Valley, Co. Durham, South Tyneside).  Role – recruitment of volunteers, supporting existing volunteers, Awareness Talks, attend events, build partnerships with local organisations.  Using the links please promote  Type 2 Diabetes Awareness Week (w/c 26th May)  [Type 2 Diabetes Prevention Week 2025 | Diabetes UK](https://www.diabetes.org.uk/support-us/diabetes-prevention-week)  Diabetes Week (w/c 9th June)  [Diabetes Week 2025](https://www.diabetes.org.uk/support-us/diabetes-week)  **Children and Families Social Prescribing**  We can work with children and families to help resolve problems before they become overwhelming.  Together we can create a personalised care plan targeted to the individual needs of your child, children or the family together.  We have an in-depth knowledge of resources available in your area to find you the support you so rightly deserve at the right time to prevent problems from escalating.  We also have an 18+ Social Prescribing service who can offer support to adults around the social determinants of health and wellbeing Contact us by email - [nencicb-tv.socialprescribing.darlington@nhs.net](mailto:nencicb-tv.socialprescribing.darlington@nhs.net) or ask any G.P. in Darlington for a referral to Children and Families/18+ Social Prescribing service.  **GOLD**  There is still some information tables left for the Tea Dance being held on Wednesday 16th July starting at 11am if you wish to get involved please email [**lynn.walton@citizensadvicedrc.org.uk**](mailto:lynn.walton@citizensadvicedrc.org.uk)  **NECA**  Offering free training for organisations to recognise gambling harms. NECA offer support not just for the individual but for family member or anyone who has been affected by gambling. Referring is very simple online registration they will then be contacted within 24hrs. Working with the public health team MECC programme and are launching the gambling harms intervention programme in May.[Referral – Neca](https://neca.co.uk/referral/)  **Councillor North Road**  If there is anything you wish to be promoted, they have a newsletter that goes out every 4 months which get posted to every door within the ward. It will also be shared with other councillors and up to them if they wish to share the information. Please send to [Anne-Marie.Curry@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:Anne-Marie.Curry@darlington.gov.uk)  **Keyring**  Offering support for vulnerable people with Learning Disabilities and Mental Health issues etc. All members of staff work from home and often use café’s/ community spaces to meet clients. They have a hub every Wednesday where they have been working on an Art project but are looking for a space to hold the exhibition. If anyone knows of any spaces, please contact [Jane.Hammond@keyring.org](mailto:Jane.Hammond@keyring.org)  **Developing Darlington / Darlington Xtra**  A recent relaunch meeting for Darlington Xtra was well attended by a range of organisations. Discussions focused on opportunities for collaboration, joint funding, and mutual support. Darlington Xtra also hosts a podcast channel, which offers organisations a platform to promote their work. Podcasts can be recorded either in person or via Microsoft Teams and featured on the Darlington Xtra website. For more information or to get involved, please contact [workforce.trainingbookings@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:workforce.trainingbookings@darlington.gov.uk) [martin.webester@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:martin.webester@darlington.gov.uk) <https://www.darlingtonxtra.co.uk/>  **0-19 Services Darlington**  Launch of HDFT Great Start in Life Pathway which is an enhanced pathway to be offered to families with identified vulnerabilities antenatally with measurable outcomes for the first time, this includes extra visits with enhanced assessment of health and development at contacts until 2 and half years of age, focus is on school readiness and reducing impact on families. Darlington 0-19 are exploring an additional role alongside LA within the service that would support reach to more challenging families to engage including GRT and possibly those educated at home.  **Triage Future Grow**  Recently launched in March participants will be with the service for 12 weeks. You can refer via website and other organisations can signpost. Working on health and wellbeing/ advice and guidance delivering sessions to enhance their CV’s. Based at Enterprise House (Valley Street) preparing for the workplace. For more information please contact – [angela.parry@triage.net](mailto:angela.parry@triage.net)  **Tandem**  Supporting people aged 15+ who are not in work or education. They also work across the Tees Valley for those 18+ Delivering training sessions such as Health & Safety and CSCS cards. Working on a 1 to 1 basis to see what they are wanting to achieve. If needed looking at volunteer opportunities. For more information, please contact Zoe Grey [zgrey@tandem.org.uk](mailto:zgrey@tandem.org.uk)  **Citizen’s advice**  A report on wheelchair provision is currently in progress and will be shared with the group once completed. The BEAT team has raised concerns about the impact of recent changes to PIP and Universal Credit, which have led to an increase in referrals. A workshop is being organised to gather feedback and explore possible responses. A brief report on digital exclusion is also being prepared, following concerns about individuals lacking valid forms of identification. Additionally, a report on homelessness is in development, covering three key areas: homelessness, Section 21 notices, and inadequate social housing. For more information, please contact [ann.donald@citizensadvicedrc.org.uk](mailto:ann.donald@citizensadvicedrc.org.uk)  **DAD**  Looking at benefit cuts DAD will be holding an event with members on 17th June looking at what issues are going to be and what concerns people have. More information will be sent out as this has just been confirmed. For more information, please contact [jenny.joyce@darlingtodisability.org](mailto:jenny.joyce@darlingtodisability.org)  **Darlington Carers Support**  Supporting unpaid carers in Darlington currently have the highest number of referrals with just short of 550 in a year. The main concerns people have is around finances and benefits and support with PIP applications. Darlington Carers support have recently gained funding from the carers trust recently got a care coordinator who supports carers with finances by looking making sure they are receiving the correct benefits. For more information please contact Andrew West [andrew.west@darlingtoncarers.org](mailto:andrew.west@darlingtoncarers.org)  **ICA**  Continuing to support people to make a complaint. Confirmed funding for another 3 years. Wanting to raise more awareness of their advocacy services working with the PCN and then secondary care looking at trends to improve services. A deaf project is in development working with the trust hoping for solutions for support allowing people to have more control in their health journey. For more information, please contact [libbyo@carersfederation.co.uk](mailto:libbyo@carersfederation.co.uk)  **Arcus**  Currently an online service but hoping to bring it back to an in-person counselling service. Arcus have been speaking to different organisations to see about room being rented out. They recently sent out a questionnaire to find out the main concerns around the LGBT community. For more information, please contact Sarah Henderson [sarahhen.arcus@gmail.com](mailto:sarahhen.arcus@gmail.com) |  |  |
| **8. Any Other Business:** | AL |  |

**Date of next DOT meeting: Dolphin Centre**

**Thursday 10July 2025 10am - 12pm**

**Thursday 2 October 2025 10am - 12pm**