Meeting Notes - Darlington Organisations Together (DOT)

Thursday 14 November 10am – 12 noon

Hybrid Meeting via Zoom and in person at The Dolphin Centre

**Present**: Kerami Roberts Residence of Lascelles Park

Autumn Molinski DBC Primary Care

Sarah

Rob McMillian Sheffield Hallam University

Cathy Harris Sheffield Hallam University

Andrew West Darlington Carers Support

Katie Reed Triage

Emma Craggs Way Through

Martin Webster DBC

Victoria Matthewson RSACC

Carole Sobkowiak Soroptimist

Maureen Garland Darlington Safeguarding Partnership

Marcus Hawthorn Mind

**Apologies:** Kath Wall GOLD

Lyn Walton GOLD

Audrey Lax GOLD

Andy Hampson North East Crime Unit

Louise Morris Tees valley sport

Rita Lawson TVRA

Councillor Garner Councillor

Heather Jarvis Jewell Learning & Skills

Belinda Williams Alzheimer’s Society

Gary Doran Tandem Hub

Zoe Grey Tandem Hub

Jackie Park Darlington Assistance for Refugees (DAR)

Kimberley Sanders Keyring

**In Attendance:** Andrea Goldie Healthwatch Darlington

Abbey Lax Healthwatch Darlington

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|  | **Action By** | **Target Date** |
| **1. Welcome and Introductions**  AG welcomed all to the meeting. |  |  |
| **2. Attendance/Apologies**  As noted above. |  |  |
| **3 Notes from the last meeting - September:**  These were discussed and were agreed as a true reflection. |  |  |
| **4 Guest Speaker Martin Webster – Darlington Borough Council (DBC):**  Martin Discussed the projects which are now up and running at DBC - Darlington Xtra & Developing Darlington; working with different organisations and providers, to share training opportunities and support to help the small organisations thrive. DBC have offered hundreds of training opportunities for free over the years and want to get back to this kind of resource sharing. Podcasts are available via the DBC website and there are always opportunities for other groups/organisations to have their own podcast to help share information about them and what they do.  If you wish for further information please contact Martin Webster [Martin.Webster@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:Martin.Webster@darlington.gov.uk)  **Useful Links:**  [**Darlington Xtra - Home**](https://www.darlingtonxtra.co.uk/)  Presentation - [Dev Dton 2024.pptx](file:///C:\Users\healt\Downloads\Dev%20Dton%202024.pptx) |  |  |
| **4.1 Guest Speaker Rob McMillian Sheffield Hallam University:**  Funded by the government; Sheffield university is doing research into what support is available for people who work in the Voluntary Sector and who they turn to when in need of support. This is a 1 year project which concentrates on 5 different areas around the country. The goal is to see how the current VCSE works and what can be done to improve the landscape as it stands. A lot has changed over the years and the project aims to provide Central Government with an up-to-date idea of what is happening across the country. Any evidence to support the research is welcomed and can be used in the future to evidence need and service updates. [Home | Sheffield Hallam University](https://www.shu.ac.uk/) For more information please contact [rob.macmillan@shu.ac.uk](mailto:rob.macmillan@shu.ac.uk) or [c.h.harris@shu.ac.uk](mailto:c.h.harris@shu.ac.uk) |  | ¬ |
| **5 Healthwatch Darlington (HWD) Update -Andrea Goldie:**  Andrea updated the group on the work HWD have been doing with the trust to give people the best care which may result in them having to travel further for treatment etc.  **Mental Health Network:** The next Mental Health Meeting will be on the 26th November at the Edge Centre. Please let us know if you wish to attend and do bring your organisation banner as the press will be in attendance.  **Dentists:** We are keeping an eye on this as it is a national issue. We done some work with the new UDAC emergency dentist in Firth Moor gathering information from service users speaking to people in the waiting area before and after treatments. Report will be shared once published.  **Women’s Health:** commitments to improve the health and wellbeing of women and girls and help to deliver better health outcomes, Survey to be published and will be sent out.  **Sexual Health Survey**: Due to the rise in teenage pregnancies, we are wanting to gather feedback from young people aged 14 to 25 to find out their feedback on sexual health services, and what they are wanting to be improved. QR codes were given around the room for the survey to be shared with people of this age that use your services and any parents of children in this age range who you may meet. |  |  |
| **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**.** |  |  |
| **7. Around the room Updates:**  **Darlington Carers Support:** Been given some grant funding to support carers financially making sure they are receiving the best tariff and helping ensure they have the correct bills and benefits.  **Way Through (Humankind):** Offering Mental Health support and accommodation now having 12 properties which have been funded for people aged 18 to 25 who are victims of domestic abuse, referrals can be made through the gateway or the council. There is also another project been funded by Sober Social Club giving sanitary products to people who may need them, looking at going into schools and food banks etc.please contact [leap@humankindcharity.org.uk](mailto:leap@humankindcharity.org.uk) or visit [Darlington Support for All - Waythrough](https://www.waythrough.org.uk/find-support-near-me/darlington-support-for-all/)  **Triage:** Offering employment training looking at what barriers people are facing and helping people overcome them. Working with Neurodiverse people and helping them gain employment. Giving support for as long as then need it. For more information, please contact <https://triagecentral.co.uk/>  **Soroptimist:** Violence against women & Women’s rights funding salaried for children in schools in Pakistan. They have given funding to the listening post. If anyone wishes for any help to gain funding,please contact Carole Sobkowiak[**carole.sobkowiak@outlook.com**](mailto:carole.sobkowiak@outlook.com)  **Darlington Mind:** Offering counselling support such as post crisis, General crisis. They have day services which can consist of cooking/eat classes, arts & crafts and walking groups. Nonclinical/ non-judgemental listening ear. Now signed up to multibank junction foundation which is based in Middlesbrough. For more information please visit [Darlington Mind - for better mental health and wellbeing](https://www.darlingtonmind.com/) or email [marcus.hawthorn@darlingtonmind.com](mailto:marcus.hawthorn@darlingtonmind.com)  **RSACC:** Independent charity delivering counselling & emotional support to survivors of Domestic Violence. Anybody can refer either by telephone or Email. They offer support groups 3 times a week. RSACC offer training to organisations. They offer volunteer opportunities and student placements for qualified counsellors who can man our helpline service. Training is being carried out around sexual harassment in the workplace for all employees. For more information please visit [RSACC offers specialist services and support to survivors who have experienced any form of sexual violence. - RSACC](https://www.rsacc-thecentre.org.uk/)  **Primary Care Team:** Offer support via phone or email on adult social care.  **Residents of Lascelles Committee:** Suppling households with information on different services in Darlington. They are hosting an event in February aiming to reduce crime and bad behaviour, the council & Police are to come along and hopefully reduce the stigmas that come with the council and police. For more information please contact Kerami Roberts (Secretary) LPRA [lascellescommittee@yahoo.com](mailto:lascellescommittee@yahoo.com) |  |  |
| **8. Any Other Business:**  Networking with each other and Andrea mentioned about arranging a meeting with Martin to discuss how to work together. |  |  |

**Date of next DOT meeting: Thursday 30th January 2025**

**Further meeting: Thursday 27th March 2025**