
DARLINGTON PARTNERSHIP

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The aim of this report is to provide an overview activity of the Darlington Partnership.

Summary

2. The report will outline:-
 - (a) Revised operating arrangements for Darlington Partnership
 - (b) Progress on last year's Action Priorities
 - (c) Action Priorities for 2013-14
 - (d) Planning and Performance
 - (e) Feedback from Darlington Assembly
 - (f) A proposed model for understanding partnerships' roles and relationships

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that members receive this report for information.

**Seth Pearson,
Director Darlington Partnership**

Background Papers

There are no background papers to this report

Seth Pearson : Extension 2462

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report is for information and will have neither a positive or negative impact on Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	This report is for information and will have neither a positive or negative impact on Health and Well Being
Carbon Impact	This report is for information and will have neither a positive or negative impact on Carbon Impact
Diversity	This report is for information and will have neither a positive or negative impact on Diversity
Wards Affected	This report is for information and will have neither a positive or negative impact on specific Wards
Groups Affected	This report is for information and will have neither a positive or negative impact on Groups
Budget and Policy Framework	This report outlines how the Council discharges the core function outlined in its Corporate Plan to "Support strong partnerships to set a vision and direction for the Borough"
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This report outlines the primary means by which the Council engages with partners to deliver One Darlington : Perfectly Placed
Efficiency	The report highlights how other public agencies and other sectors are engaged to support the Council in addressing the needs of the residents of Darlington through agreed priorities.

MAIN REPORT

Revised Operating Arrangements for Darlington Partnership

4. The Board agreed in July 2012 that a specific board member would be identified as the operational lead for each of the key work areas of the Partnership. As new priorities emerge the key work areas may change but, based on current priorities the operational leads for 2012 to 2015 are as follows:-

Work Area	Operational Lead
Community Safety -	Police Local Commander
Children & Young People -	Cabinet Member for Children & Young People
Health & Well Being Board -	Chair of the Health & Well Being Board
Economic Growth -	Private Sector Lead
One Darlington -	Voluntary Sector Lead
Creative Darlington -	Chair of Creative Darlington Board

5. To ensure that the outcomes of One Darlington: Perfectly Placed are being effectively addressed each operational lead takes responsibility for the following areas:-
- (a) Involvement of a wider group of individuals
 - (b) Coordination with other groups
 - (c) Transparency in decision making
 - (d) Resources
6. Each operational lead will be expected to:-
- (a) Develop a delivery plan for their key area. This plan will comply with the framework described in the One Darlington: Perfectly Placed Delivery Strategy.
 - (b) Coordinate the implementation of agreed actions and monitoring their impact.
 - (c) Provide an annual report which highlights progress towards outcomes and look forward to identify emerging priorities and opportunities for collaboration.
7. Beyond this operational leads are free to establish any arrangements or groups they deem necessary to allow good understanding and oversight of their area.
8. The annual reports for all key areas of activity will be brought together at a Planning and Review Workshop where performance towards outcomes is collectively reviewed.

Progress on Last Year's Action Priorities

9. The Partnership Board agreed in September 2011 that, in addition to oversight of the delivery of One Darlington: Perfectly Placed, it would focus on only a limited number of 'Action Priorities', the aim being to instigate action which visibly addressed issues facing Darlington. The criteria applied is as follows:-
 - (a) Is the issue significant
 - (b) Would addressing it rely on the contributions of each sector – private, public, voluntary and community
 - (c) Could a measurable impact be made in the short term (12 months)
10. At the November board meeting the first three were agreed for 2012-13 as follows:-
 - (a) Alcohol
 - (b) Vocational opportunities for young people
 - (c) Ageing
11. Different board members have taken the role of 'Strategic Lead' for each of the Action Priorities and prepared an evaluation to present to the Board.
12. Greatest progress has been made in 'Vocational Opportunities for Young People' with the Darlington Foundation for Jobs.
13. The Darlington Foundation for Jobs initiative is a partnership project between Darlington Borough Council, Darlington Partnership, the Northern Echo, local businesses and schools. The then Rt. Rev Justin Welby, Bishop of Durham, now the new Archbishop of Canterbury is the patron.
14. The initiative brings together organisations, employers and education providers throughout the Darlington Borough to address the levels of employment and 'work-readiness' of young people under the age 25.
15. The initiative won the Local Government Chronicle Local Economic Partnership Award which recognises and celebrates the greatest achievements from across local government and highlights the innovative work that councils are doing, often in partnership with the private and voluntary sectors.
16. In the Borough itself it has:-
 - (a) Created 110 new apprenticeships – that's brand new employment and training opportunities for young people in the Borough.
 - (b) Created 125 internship programmes with local employers, securing employment for a number of young people.
 - (c) Trained 66 young people in entrepreneurial skills to encourage future business creation and growth.

(d) Provided 1,089 pupils direct contact from local employers - this will rise to at least 600 by the end of this month with activities already agreed with the schools.

17. For the other Action Priorities, alcohol and ageing, significant time was taken as issues related to each were explored at both the Board and Executive. Unlike vocational opportunities for young people, appropriate outputs or targets were less obvious. In addition, there are well established strategies and significant activity of the major public agencies focused on alcohol and a range of public, private and voluntary provision provided for the elderly. Unlike the Foundation for Jobs which had an obvious champion from the outset, it wasn't until March that Strategic Leads were nominated for alcohol and ageing.
18. However, a 'social norms' campaign around the use of alcohol has been established which is showing encouraging results and some progress has also been made in promoting activities in Darlington town centre that aren't associated with excessive drinking.
19. Similarly work is now underway to grow neighbourhood watch in Darlington and to expand its remit to take an interest in elderly people within the community.

Action Priorities for 2013-14

20. Following a review of the current Action Priorities at the Board meeting in January 2013 and new Action Priorities, the Board considered the Action Priorities for 2013-14 at its meeting on 13 March.
21. The Board agreed that developing 'A Good Neighbouring Scheme' would be its Action Priority for 2013. The decision was taken using the criteria outlined in paragraph 2 above.
22. The Board further agreed that although it would not be an Action Priority for 2013/14, that work to continue the Foundation for Jobs would remain and that members of the Board would appreciate periodic updates on progress. The Board recognises the importance of providing young people with employment opportunities remains a key issue for the local area.

Planning and Performance

23. Within the paper titled 'An effective Local Strategic Partnership in an age of austerity' agreed at the Board meeting in September 2012, arrangements were outlined for Planning and Review Workshops to be held periodically in order to ensure consistency and synergy across the key work areas of the Partnership. The workshops are an integral part of the One Darlington: Perfectly Placed delivery strategy. The first of these workshops was held in February 2013.
24. Updates were considered from each key work area which highlighted achievements, trends and emerging priorities so that linkages and opportunities for added value could be explored and priorities for collective partnership action can be

identified.

25. One of the top commitments of the delivery strategy is to mitigate the impacts of child poverty, the economic downturn, public expenditure cuts and welfare reform on the community and wider economy. Given the current context the workshop assessed the extent to which the priorities in the existing strategies can be delivered and what should be focused on collectively for greatest impact.
26. Conclusions of the workshop were considered in the process for establishing the Action Priorities for 2013 -14 at the Board meeting in March with a full report to the Executive Group.

Feedback from Darlington

27. In January 2013 Darlington Partnership held an assembly which focused on the Welfare Reforms and their impact on Darlington. The assembly concluded that action was needed involving all sectors and that Darlington Partnership needed to play a role in coordination. In February a workshop exploring the priorities for 'One Darlington' again emphasised the need for urgent action.
28. In February a guide to the Welfare Reforms has been added to the Partnership website which is accessible to the public.
29. A Partnership Welfare Reform Action Group met on the 27th to agree work streams and work stream leads. A proposed action plan was finalised at a meeting of the leads on 20 March.
30. Darlington Partnership will continue to provide coordination of support for people in coping with Welfare Reforms throughout 2013 -14.
31. At its meeting of 10 July 2012, Cabinet agreed ways of closer working with Darlington Partnership to better align planning and commissioning processes. The aims were to:-
 - (a) Strengthen ownership/relevance of the existing SCS priorities - One Darlington: Perfectly Placed and the Single Needs Assessment (SNA) to partners and to the wider public.
 - (b) Involve a wider group of partners in scoping the Single Needs Assessment (what data is gathered/looked at) and in the gap analysis.
 - (c) Ensure the SNA includes the widest possible data set extended beyond health to encompass the wider determinants of well being e.g. education, employment, housing, community safety, the environment etc.
 - (d) Promote better understanding amongst public sector partners of the SNA and on how key issues are identified and how they should translate into area wide and individual organisational planning processes.

- (e) Use the SNA as the primary reference point that public sector partners use in conjunction with other policy drivers (national policy/guidance) to inform area wide/organisational priorities & commissioning intentions and ensure that these too consider encompass the wider determinants of health and well being.
- (f) Increasingly align public sector planning processes to the planning and commissioning cycle.