

**COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
7 APRIL 2022**

PUBLIC SECTOR EXECUTIVES GROUP

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform the committee about the work of the Public Sector Executive Group.

Summary

2. This report describes the Public Sector Executives Group and outlines the work it has been undertaking.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that this report is received for information and discussion.

**Seth Pearson
Director, Darlington Partnership**

Background Papers

There are no background papers to this report.

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| S17 Crime and Disorder | Crime and Disorder will be duly considered where appropriate |
| Health and Wellbeing | Health and wellbeing are key issues considered by the Public Sector Executives Group |
| Carbon Impact and Climate Change | Hasn't been considered to date by the Public Sector Executives Group |
| Diversity | The Public Sector Executives Group has due regard for diversity |
| Wards Affected | all |
| Groups Affected | all |
| Budget and Policy Framework | The Public Sector Executives Group has due regard for the Budget and Policy Framework. |
| Key Decision | No |
| Urgent Decision | No |
| Council Plan | Supports the delivery of the Council Plan |

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| Efficiency | Collaboration of public sector agencies as detailed in this report is a means of achieving greater efficiency |
| Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers | This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers |

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

4. At it's meeting of 15 July, Council agreed the formation of the Public Sector Executives Group (PSEG) as one of the arrangements that replaced the Darlington Partnership.
5. The PSEG includes senior officers from key public sector bodies with the purpose of co-ordinating the broader efforts of the Public Sector to Deliver Success for Darlington.
6. The key aims are to :-
 - (a) Gain a common understanding of the issues facing Darlington
 - (b) Collective 'horizon scanning' 2
 - (c) Maximise the benefits of the public sector resources
 - (d) Review and plan initiatives to deliver success
 - (e) To advise their own Governance on issues raised at the partnership and seek approval from them where appropriate
 - (f) To work and support the private and voluntary sector to deliver programmes and projects to deliver success for Darlington.
 - (g) To act as the Programme Board for key initiatives.
7. The group meets regularly includes the following:
 - (a) Chief Executive, DBC
 - (b) Chief Operating Officer CCG
 - (c) Chief Constable
 - (d) Chief Fire Officer
 - (e) Director of Teesside University
 - (f) Chief Executive of Durham & Darlington Health Trust
 - (g) Principal of Darlington College
 - (h) Chief Executive of the Police Victim and Crime Commissioners office.
 - (i) Chief Officer of the Primary Care Network

Other relevant officers attend as necessary.
8. The Group initially supports/oversees the following delivery projects/organisations with more to follow :-
 - (a) Darlington Cares
 - (b) Bread and Butter Thing
 - (c) Northgate Initiative
 - (d) Community Wealth Building

9. The group is supported by the Director of the Darlington Partnership who acts as programme/project lead for many of the initiatives together with support from the Council's Policy & Performance Manager in respect of evidence and policy matters.
10. Partners continue to financially support PSEG as they did the Darlington Partnership and lend their support as needed.
11. As outlined in the aims above the group works with the private sector engaging through existing, issues focused forums such as the Towns Fund Board and Darlington Cares.
12. The Board also looks to work with the voluntary sector to ensure they are aware of emerging challenges and opportunities.
13. Key features which distinguish the PSEG from the Darlington Partnership are that it is chaired by the Council's Chief Executive and whilst it has agreed terms of reference it has no decision making authority out with its membership.

Recent Activity

14. One of the first areas the group considered was 'social value through procurement'. The Council adopted a revised approach in 2019 aimed at increasing the level of social value it was achieving through its procurements. The PSEG agreed that it would act as the 'Anchor Network' promoting social value across its members to increase the benefit to Darlington. Discussions are currently taking place with Durham County Council to explore how working together might increase benefit further.
15. More recently the group has provided comment on the emerging Levelling Up Darlington proposal. The group can act as the vehicle to provide public sector advice and support for the priorities that are being developed.
16. As public sector agencies recover from the impact of the pandemic, the PSEG has been a useful forum to share with others issues and pressures each has been facing and to discuss solutions.

Outcome of Consultation

17. The Public Sector Executives Group was formed with the full involvement of the public sector agencies involved. It was also considered by Cabinet and its formation was ratified at Council at its meeting of 15 July 2021.