

**COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**22 FEBRUARY 2024**

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**PUBLIC SECTOR EXECUTIVES GROUP**

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**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**  
**Partnerships Director**

**Background Papers**

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Author: Seth Pearson

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	This report has no direct implications to the Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address
Wards Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Ward is considered to be minimal.
Groups Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Group is considered to be minimal.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision

Council Plan	The report contributes to the Council Plan in that it outlines how public sector agencies have been engaged at a senior level in its development.
Efficiency	This report contributes to the Council achieving its priorities through collaboration with partner agencies.
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

#### Background

4. At its meeting of 15 July 2021, 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) Executive Director of Place Based Delivery – Tees Valley & Central, NHS
  - (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
  - (j) Acting Permanent Secretary and Director General, Tax and Welfare HM Treasury

Other relevant officers attend as necessary.

8. The group is supported by the Director of the Darlington Partnerships 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.
9. Partners continue to financially support PSEG as they did the Darlington Partnership and lend their support as needed.
10. 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.
11. The Board also looks to work with the newly established voluntary sector engagement group to ensure they are aware of emerging challenges and opportunities.

### **Recent Activity**

12. The most recent meetings of PESG were held on 9 September 2023 and 11 January 2024.
13. At the January meeting the chair, Ian Williams announced the change of administration at the Council and explained a new Council Plan is in development. He explained that at this early stage there was an expectation that the plan would have a greater focus on inequality and that the other public sector agencies would be invited to help shape the plan and would be critical in its delivery.
14. At the same meeting the group considered the forthcoming Health and Wellbeing Plan which would support the Council Plan along with the Forward Plan of the Integrated Care Board.
15. The January meeting was entirely devoted to the Council Plan. Public Sector Agencies gave the draft a warm welcome and proposed constructive additions.
16. An important aspect of each meeting is the time given to updates from individual agencies where important developments or concerns can be shared with their peers and common approaches can be adopted.

### **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.