

**COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
16 JANUARY 2025**

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
Partnerships Director**

Background Papers

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

Author: Seth Pearson

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.
Addressing inequalities	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address.
Tackling Climate Change	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Efficient and effective use of resources	This report has no impact on the Council's Efficiency Programme.
Health and Wellbeing	This report has no direct implications to the Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington.
S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
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.
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 June 5th, October 2nd and December 4th 2024.
13. The meeting of June 5th focused on the Long Term Plan for Town initiative. Information was shared about the approach being taken in Spennymoor providing an opportunity to share practice and learn from each other
14. In addition the Police and Crime Commissioner outlined the emerging Police and Crime Plan providing other public sector agencies an opportunity to comment on its focus and consider how they might collaborate on its delivery. There was a particular interest in how agencies might share data.
15. At the meeting of October 2nd partners agreed to explore a data sharing tool to improve collaboration on safeguarding.
16. The meeting of December 4th considered the implications of the Autumn Budget Statement. In addition an update was provided on the Household Support Fund being delivered by the Council and its partners in the voluntary sector.
17. 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

18. 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.