

---

**Report of Gordon Elliott, Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement, Durham County Council**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide.

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 The purpose of this item is to present board members with the current review of strategic partnership arrangements and request views and opinions to influence the review.

**Executive summary**

- 2 The County Durham Partnership has been in operation since 2009. Underpinning this is a framework of five thematic partnerships, statutory and non-statutory and supporting sub groups. This framework is structured to deliver the County Durham Partnership's previous vision of an "Altogether Better Durham" and was widely recognised as being effective and a strength in the County. However, partners are keen to build on this success and to further enhance partnership working in Durham.
- 3 In November 2018 the County Durham Partnership commenced an extensive public consultation exercise asking the people of County Durham what was important to them, and what would they would like County Durham to look like in fifteen years' time. A further two consultation opportunities took place and from this a new vision was developed. The vision is supported by three strategic ambitions:
  - (a) A place where there are more and better jobs
  - (b) People live long, and independent lives
  - (c) Our communities are well connected and supportive.

This final vision was agreed at the County Durham Partnership Board on the 3 September 2019 and ratified by the County Council's Cabinet meeting on the 11 September 2019.

- 4 When agreeing to refresh the County vision, the County Durham Partnership also recognised there would be a need to review its strategic governance arrangements.
- 5 The review is being carried out in the spirit of partnership and the views of partner agencies are being actively gathered as well as learning from best practice elsewhere. The review will conclude in May 2020 with the aim to ensure that partnership working within the County moves from good to great and that it adds significant value to the work of individuals, communities and partner organisations to deliver the new County Vision for 2035.

## **Recommendations**

- 4 Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:
  - (a) Receive the presentation on the review of governance arrangements for County Durham's Strategic Partnership arrangements;
  - (b) Complete the survey which will be circulated following the meeting to contribute to the review.

## Background

- 5 The County Durham Partnership has been in existence since 2009. The “Altogether Better” Framework (Appendix 2) consists of five thematic partnerships:
  - (a) Health and Wellbeing Board (Altogether Healthier)
  - (b) Safe Durham Partnership (Altogether Safer)
  - (c) Children and Families Partnership (Altogether Better for Children and Young People)
  - (d) Economic Partnership (Altogether Wealthier)
  - (e) Environment Partnership (Altogether Greener)
- 6 The existing partnership framework is based around these five themes and has been developed to implement the Altogether Better Vision as set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy for 2014 – 2030.
- 7 This structure represents the main partnerships that operate at a county level. The structure is also supported by the Safeguarding Boards (Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Safeguarding Adults Board) and other partnerships that operate at a sub county/community level (such as Area Action Partnerships) and at a sub-regional/regional level (many of which have been created to forward the economic and health agendas).
- 8 In June 2017 the County Durham Partnership Board received a presentation that recognised the many achievements of the current partnership structure but acknowledged the potential to build on these strengths and to take partnership working from ‘Good to Great’ through:
  - Improved focus and leaner partnership working
  - Simpler and more streamlined coordination with involvement from all partners
  - More efficient use of resources and understanding of potential ‘cost shunts’
  - Better connectivity and improved share knowledge between partnerships
  - Increased opportunities for successful grassroots projects to be scaled up
  - Increased attraction of external funding
  - Improved communications
  - A more joined up approach in localities
  - Greater coordination of VCS commissioning by partners

- 9 In April 2018 the County Durham Partnership Board supported the development of a new vision for County Durham. In November 2018, the Board agreed that given the shared vision for the Partnership was to be revised, it would also be appropriate to review the governance arrangements.
- 10 The Wellbeing Approach brings a shift in emphasis and resources from the delivering of wellbeing services to an approach that introduces greater devolution of decision making to communities and stronger community engagement. This can lead to better health and wellbeing outcomes for local people. The challenge is to embed wellbeing in everything we do and this should be realised across the partnership structure.

People and Places	Supporting Systems
<p><b>Empowering communities</b> working with communities to support their development and empowerment</p> 	<p><b>Working better together</b> working together across sectors to reduce duplication and ensure greater impact</p> 
<p><b>Being asset focused</b> acknowledging the different needs of communities and the potential of their assets</p> 	<p><b>Sharing decision making</b> designing and developing services with the people who need them</p> 
<p><b>Building resilience</b> helping the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, and building up their future resilience</p> 	<p><b>Doing with, not to</b> making our health and care interventions, empowering and centred around you as an individual.</p> 
 <p><b>Using what works:</b> everything we do is supported by evidence informed by local conversations.</p>	

## Timeline

- 11 The timeline for the review is as follows:
- County Durham Vision 2035 ratified – September 2019
  - Governance review agreed at CDP – November 2019
  - Consultation with thematic partnerships:
    - Environment Partnership – 11 December 2019
    - Integrated Steering Group for Children – 16 December 2019

- Children and Families Partnership (by email) – w/c 16 December 2019
- Safe Durham Partnership - 23 January 2020
- Health and Wellbeing Board – 29 January 2020
- Integrated Care Board – 7 February 2020
- Economic Partnership – 28 February 2020
- Structure agreed at County Durham Partnership – July 2020

### **Background papers**

- None

### **Other useful documents**

- County Durham Vision 2035

---

**Contact:** Andrea Petty

Tel: 03000 267312

---

---

## **Appendix 1: Implications**

---

### **Legal Implications**

As set out in the main body of the report, the County Durham Partnership comprises both statutory and non-statutory partnerships. It provides useful engagement opportunities with the Council in delivering its statutory responsibilities and achieving its objectives.

### **Finance**

Ongoing pressure on public services will challenge all agencies to consider how best to ensure effective services are delivered in the most efficient way. Corporate, service and financial planning are part of an integrated process which may influence resource allocation.

### **Staffing**

Resources are allocated to the CDP and the Thematic partnerships.

### **Risk**

There is a risk in terms of duplication and gaps within the CDP which could impact on the council's legal obligations.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

All partnerships consider equality and diversity by ensuring EIA's are undertaken for all strategies and plans.

### **Accommodation**

There are no accommodation implications.

### **Crime and Disorder**

Local authorities have a legal obligation to undertake duties relating to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S17.

### **Climate Change**

Climate change has been identified as a key underlying them in the County Durham Vision.

### **Human Rights**

There are no adverse implications.

### **Consultation**

Members of the five thematic partnerships of the County Durham Partnership are being consulted between January and March 2020.

### **Procurement**

There are no procurement implications.

## Appendix 2: Current Governance Structure

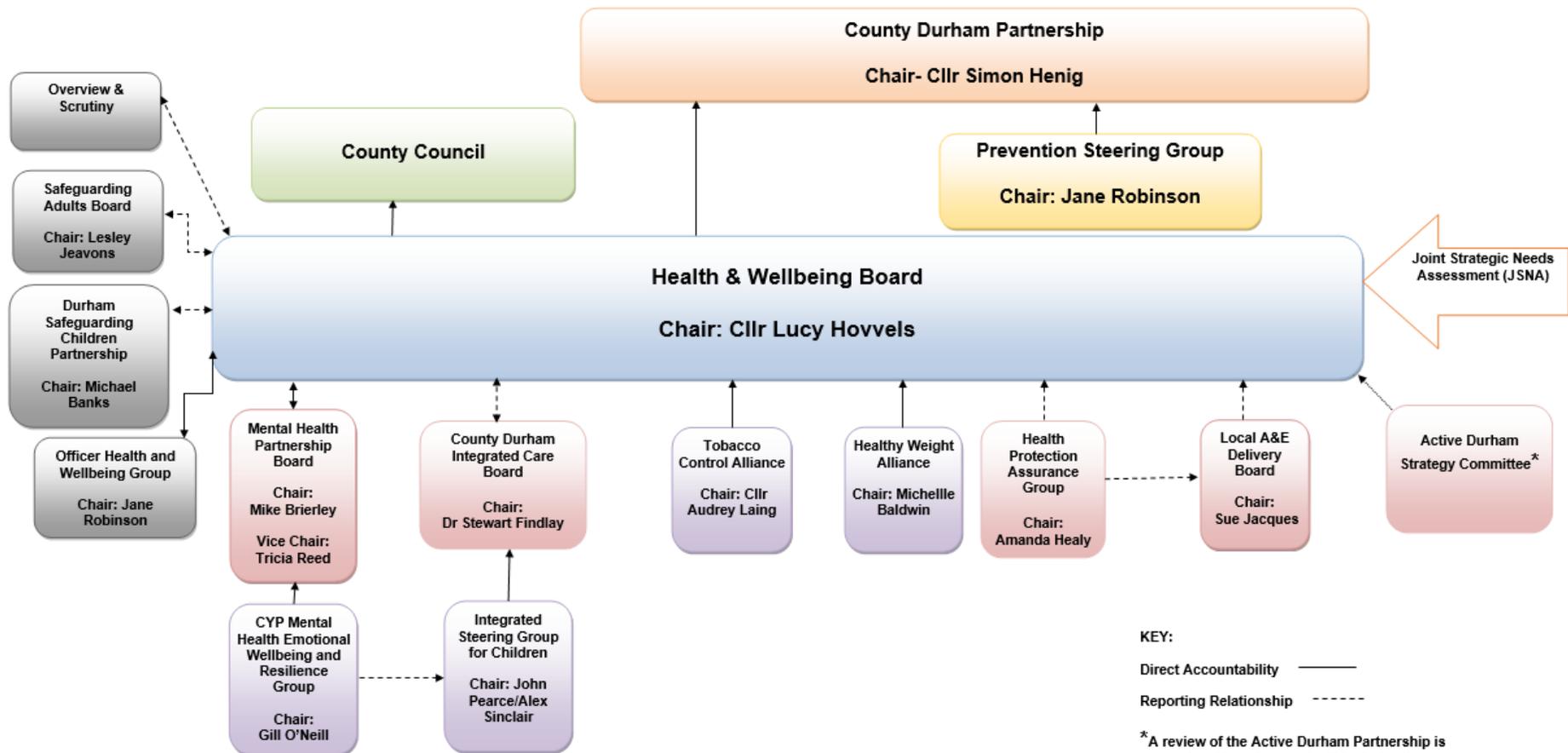


## **Altogether Healthier**

### **Health & Wellbeing Board:**

- Statutory Partnership;
- Promote integrated working between commissioners of health services, public health and social care services, for the purposes of advancing the health and wellbeing of the people in its area;
- Encourage those who provide services related to wider determinants of health, such as housing, to work closely with the HWB;
- Develop and agree the JSNA, Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment;
- Be involved throughout the process as CCGs develop their commissioning plans and ensure they take proper account of the JHWS when developing these plans;
- Provide advice and assistance or other support as it thinks appropriate for the purposes of encouraging the making of arrangements under Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006;
- Sign off the Better Care Fund Plan.

*LGA Peer Review 2015: “strong well established partnership relationships”  
“effective systems and clear linkages”*



KEY:

Direct Accountability ———

Reporting Relationship - - - - -

\*A review of the Active Durham Partnership is currently taking place and will include alignment with other strategic groups

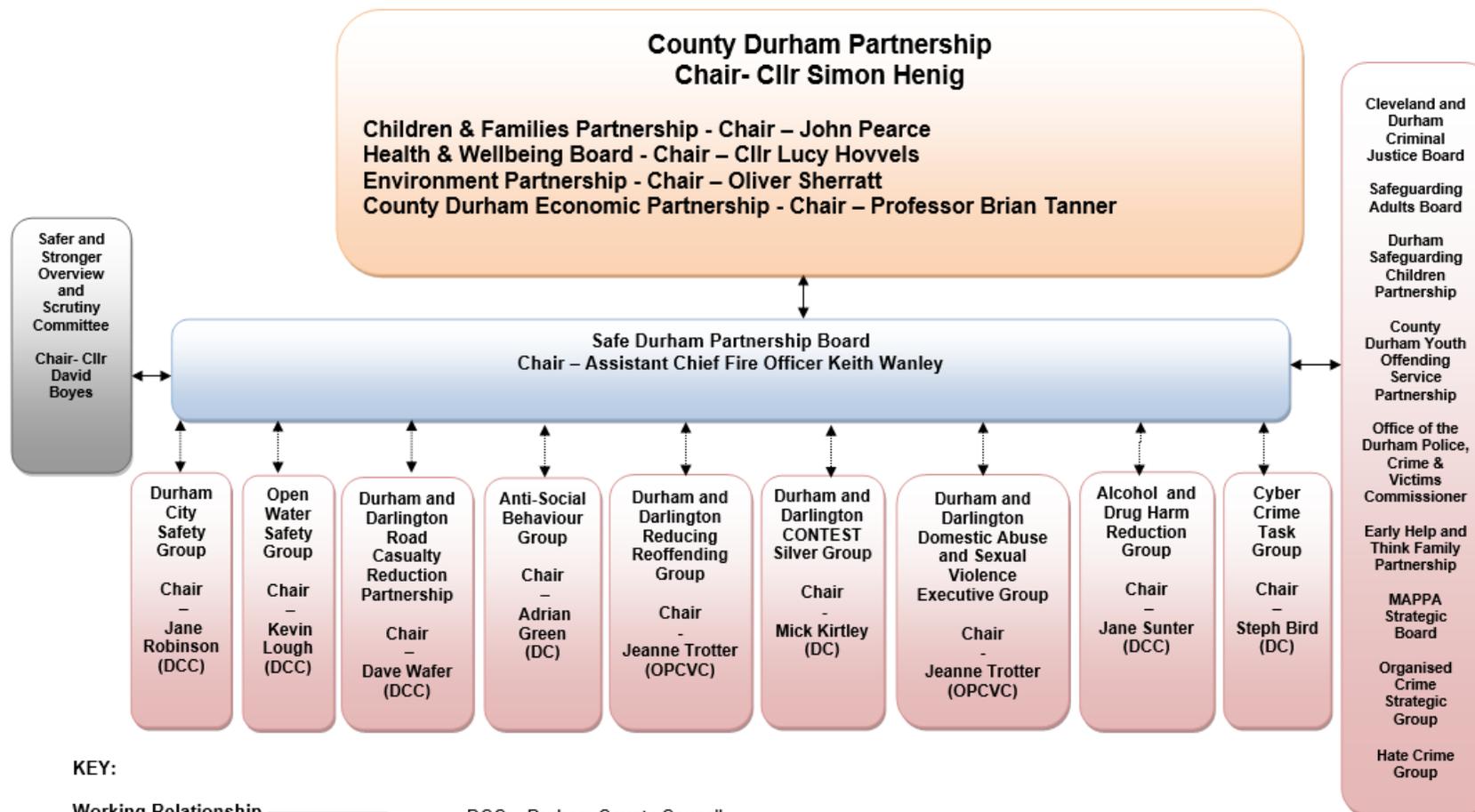
## **Altogether Safer**

### **Safe Durham Partnership:**

- Statutory Partnership;
- Provide strategic level leadership and co-ordination of the Community Safety agenda;
- Commission, co-ordinate and consider the strategic assessment in order to identify strategic priorities and inform the Safe Durham Partnership Plan;
- Work together to ensure that resources are directed to meet key priorities, so that outcomes are improved;
- Oversee performance targets and to agree key improvement actions;
- Ensure information sharing protocols are in place for the sharing of data;
- Consult the community about crime and disorder issues in County Durham and also about what priorities the partnership should tackle;
- The Chair, in consultation with local partners, to commission Domestic Homicide Reviews and oversee the implementation of the action plans arising from the lessons learned in line with the statutory guidance.

***LGA Peer Review 2017: “Strong partnership culture displayed across the community safety family / partnership”***

***“Good structures in place which allow for vertical and horizontal connections”***



**KEY:**

Working Relationship —————

Reporting Relationship - - - - -

DCC – Durham County Council

DC – Durham Constabulary

OPCVC – Office of the Police, Crime & Victims Commissioner

## Altogether Greener

### Environment Partnership:

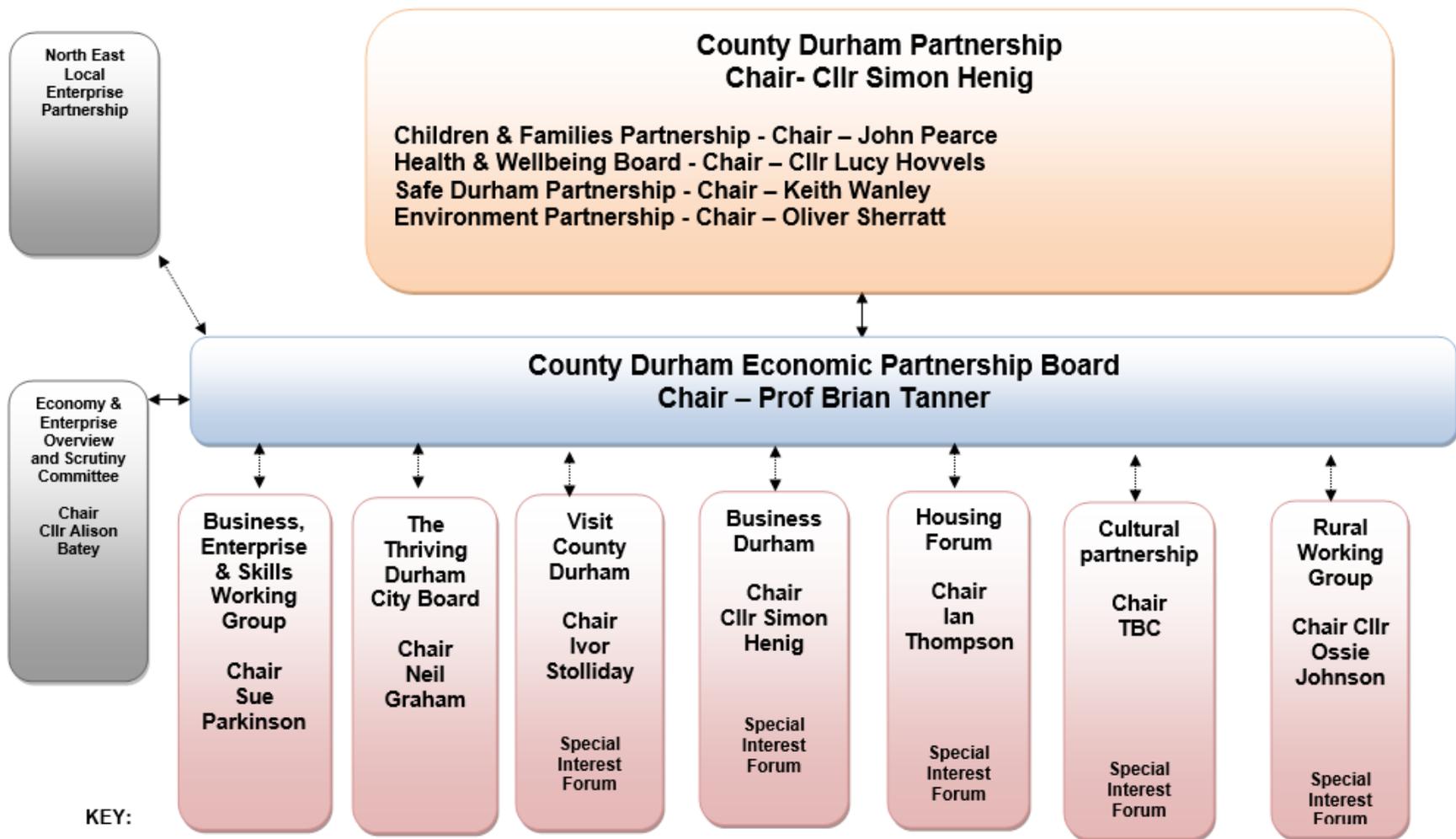
- Non-statutory;
- Agreed 2019 to be named Climate Change and Environment Partnership with a reviewed membership list and terms of reference being developed;
- Environment Plan on a Page and action plan;
- Brings together representatives from public, private and voluntary organisations throughout County Durham and the wider North East Region to work towards an 'Altogether Greener' County Durham;
- Vision to make Durham County a place where people want to live and visit because of the high quality of the natural and built environment;
- Strategic direction and planning on environmental issues;
- Action plan delivery of selected environmental projects through the sub groups;
- Engaging strategic and community partners to instigate local action;
- Annual Environment Awards.



## **Altogether Wealthier**

### **Economic Partnership:**

- Non-statutory;
- Governance Review undertaken 2019 aligned to the foundations of the national Industrial Strategy. Development of local Industrial Strategy;
- Membership rationalised - each member has responsibility for a priority area;
- Business led, with its Chair and Vice Chair coming from private enterprise;
- Works to stimulate investment in our business base, economic infrastructure and the skills of our people;
- The Board focuses on identifying opportunities, informing partners, influencing policy makers and coordinating responses to the opportunities;
- Main conduit between the County Durham Economic Partnership and the North East Local Enterprise Partnership;
- Provides a voice for County Durham in international, national and regional forums;
- Sets the performance framework and spatial policy framework for economic development and regeneration;
- Provides leadership in respect of the Durham European Transitional Programme;
- Identifies key risks to the economy of the County and identifying mitigating initiatives.



KEY:

Working Relationship —————

Reporting Relationship - - - - -

•

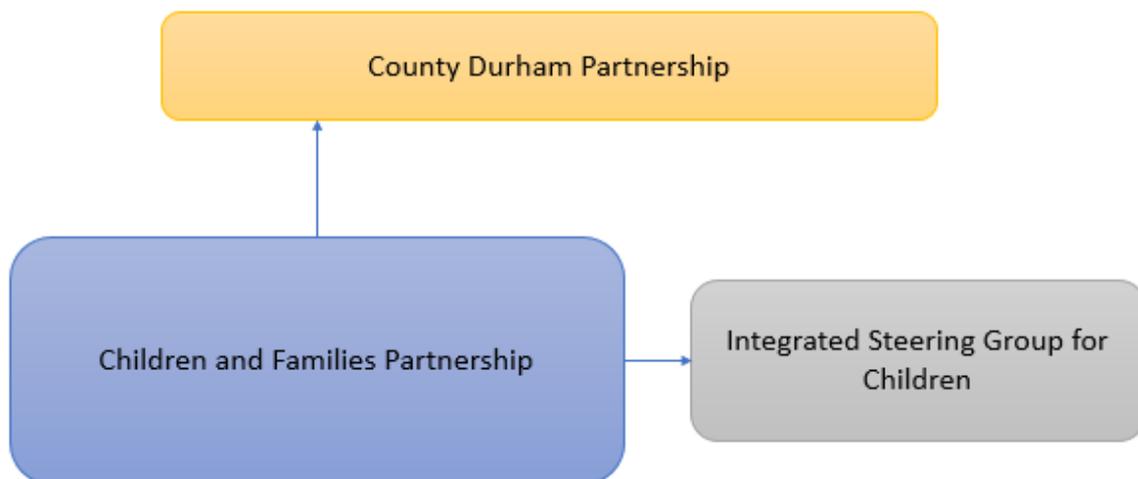
## Altogether Better for Children and Young People

### **Children & Families Partnership:**

- Non-statutory;
- Recently adopted a networking approach, engaging with CYP and using their voice to influence key priority areas;
- Directly engaging with CYP on current public consultation topics

E.g.

- Climate Change Plan
- Youth Engagement – Student Voice Survey, UK Youth Parliament, County Durham Youth Council, Countywide awards
- County Durham Vision 2035
- Youth Led Area Action Partnership Projects
- Investing in Children Membership Award
- No decision making or specific areas of priority for the partnership – decision making is through the Integrated Steering Group for Children.



## **Health and Social Care Integration**

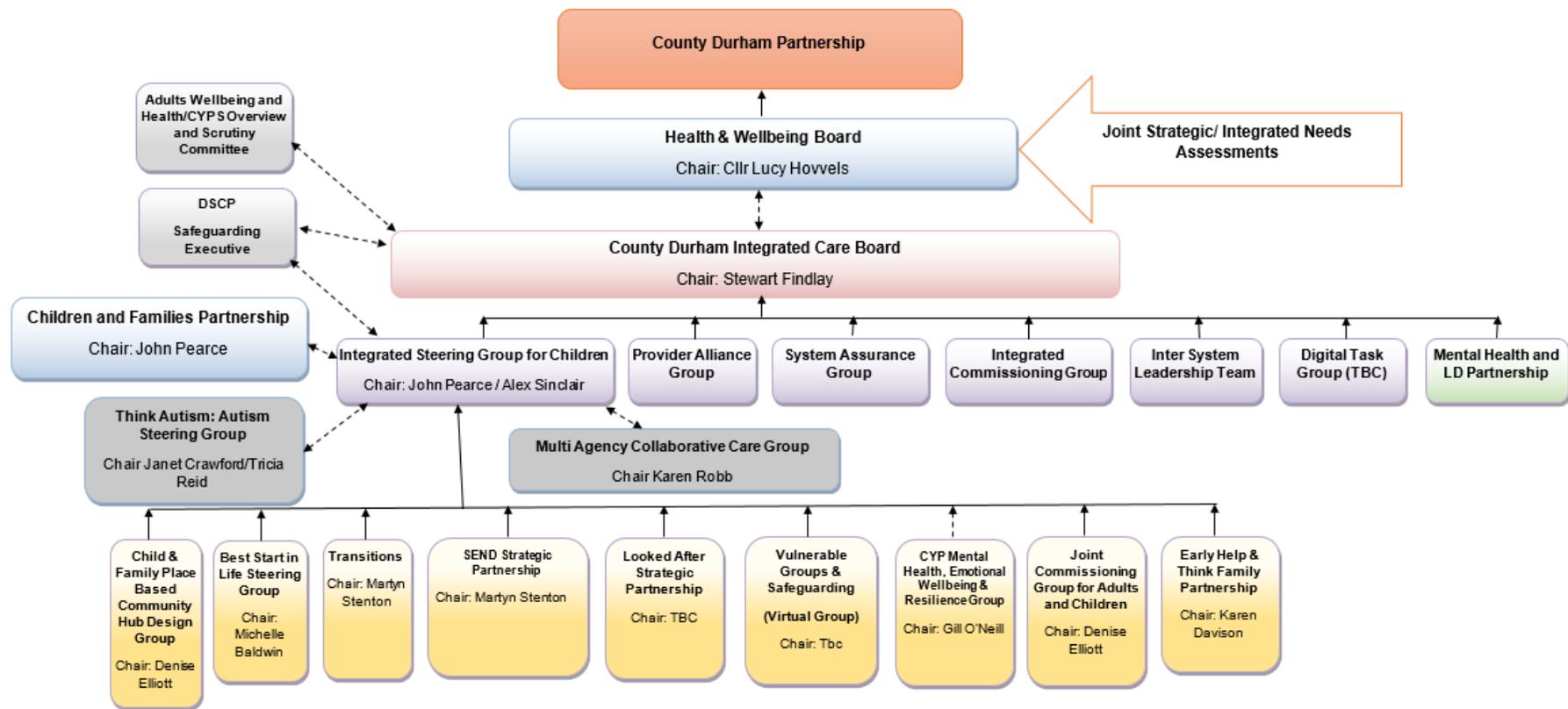
(not part of original Altogether Framework)

### **Integrated Care Board:**

- To provide system wide leadership and accountability for the delivery of integrated service models within County Durham's health and care economy;
- Operates as a decision making body to set overall approach and direction within an Integrated Place Based Care Partnership for County Durham; the County Durham Care Partnership (CDCP);
- Ensures that partners adhere to the vision and direction for integrated care as set out in County Durham's Health and Care Plan.

### **Integrated Steering Group for Children:**

- Aims to support and establish shifts and changes to build children's strategy across the locality to ensure high quality services which meet the needs of all children and young people;
- A performance assurance group, providing strategic accountability for performance, planning and commissioning, looking at pathways and outcomes with the support from the working groups.



**KEY:**  
 Direct Accountability ———  
 Reporting Relationship - - - - -