

Sheffield Strategic Partnership



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Sheffield City Council and Learn Sheffield are exploring some new approaches to developing education strategy in the city and have jointly setting up a working group to develop and make recommendations for a new approach to civic partnership.

This work is being supported by Jonathan Crossley-Holland (who will chair the working group) and ISOS, both of whom have led research in this field. The working group met for the first time in the summer term and have been tasked with a brief to make recommendations by December 2023.

Meetings of this working group are open to all school leaders but Learn Sheffield will also work with sector partnerships to ensure that each sector and type of setting is reflected within the group. These links to the existing meeting infrastructure will also ensure that the work of the group is disseminated and widely understood.

Further information about this project, including meeting papers can be found below.

Lessons from other Strategic Education Partnerships (Simon Day - ISOS - 14.7.23) 

Background Briefing (Jonathan Crossley-Holland - 14.7.23) 

- Project page online: <https://www.learnsheffield.co.uk/Projects/Sheffield-Strategic-Partnership>
- Working group (open) meetings 1 November (1-3pm), 23 November (11-1pm) & 15 December (10-12pm)
- Tasked with recommending a new approach to civic partnership ... with a view to a January 2024 start.

Sheffield Strategic Partnership: LS Input

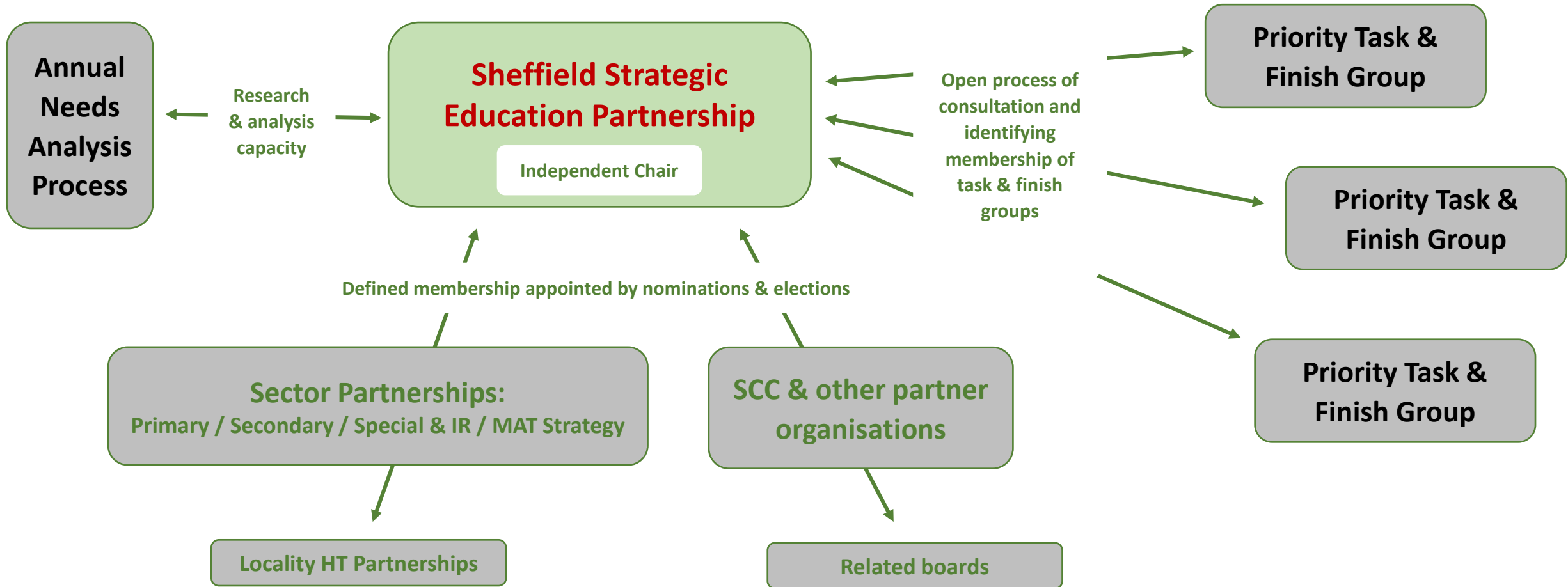
○ Background:

- 2016 Sheffield Priorities (LS document)
- 2019-2021 Sheffield Education Strategy (civic document not published – informed Covid Recovery Plan)
- Need a vehicle for civic strategic partnership that includes all the key contributors

○ Key suggestions:

- Partnership led by an independent chair – supported by analysis and business support capacity
- Membership designed to connect to and reflect the existing infrastructure
- Clear rationale for the purpose of the partnership – designed to be consciously different to existing
- Priorities addressed through task & finish groups to maximise the expertise involved
- Open and innovative consultative approach to analysis to ensure transparency and credibility
- Consider the timeline of the cycle – Needs Analysis lands most naturally in late autumn/early spring

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Sheffield Strategic Education Partnership

Membership could include (some but not all of):

Independent Chair

Sector reps: Primary (via PPG) / Secondary (via partnership) /
Special & IR (via partnership) / MAT Strategy / Early Years / FE

Civic reps: SCC Officer(s) / Children and Families Committee Chair /
Learn Sheffield CEO

Wider reps (Sheffield and external): School Forum Chair / DfE RD /
pupils & families / governor & trustee / Diocesan / Universities /
Health /Care

Co-opted reps (to correct any under-representation or gaps)

There are broadly two approaches:

- **Broad group – prioritises representation and accepts that it may be large/unwieldy**
- **Small core membership where the Chair is given the role of co-opting additional members to ensure that the Partnership has the right breadth of experience to fulfil their role**

We would lean towards the second option because:

- **the partnership would be built on existing structures giving reps the ability to be informed**
- **purpose of the partnership is to receive the needs analysis and suggest priorities**

Therefore, the access of the whole sector to the actual work comes in the working groups which are open.

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Partnership Purpose/Role

- Receive needs analysis
- Determine priorities & consult/amend
- Convene task & finish groups
- Receive task & finish recommendations
- Seek & allocate resources (funding, people and behaviours) for priorities
- Oversight and monitoring of impact
- Promoting shared values, collaboration, supporting and challenging all stakeholders

The challenge will be to make smart decisions about priorities ... which are the biggest issues where civic activity can bring about change/impact?

Role of the working group

To develop recommendations or options to consult with the wider sector about in December/January.

To start to test the way of working by exploring possible priorities that support the early work of the partnership group.

Key issues to discuss include:

- Membership and how to recruit them
- Functions and scope of the work
- Resourcing the work
- Approach to developing and 'agreeing' shared values and principles which underpin activity
- Early discussions about priorities to ensure pace and also inform the approach