

# South Gloucestershire Partnership

7<sup>th</sup> January 2010

## LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT (March to September 09)

### Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the Partnership with a summary of progress against the Local Area Agreement targets and the Sustainable Community Strategy.

### Policy

2. The Sustainable Community Strategy is the key plan that drives the work of the Partnership. It is underpinned by the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and more generally by the National Indicator Set.

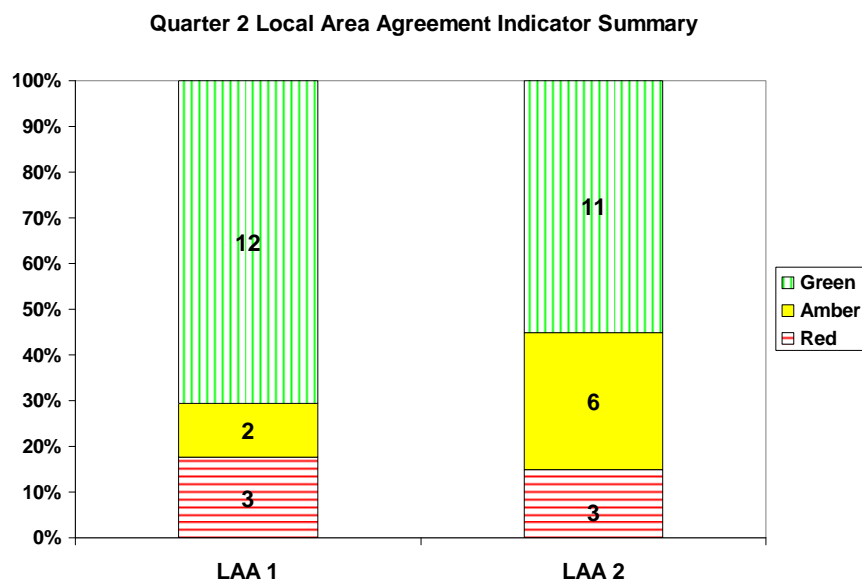
### Background

3. Key performance information is reported to the Partnership on a six monthly basis. There are currently two sets of LAA indicators running concurrently. The first set of LAA measures (LAA1) run from 2007 to 2010. The second set of LAA targets (LAA2) run from 2008-2011.
4. End of year projections are provided for those indicators which are normally only reported annually. This helps us track progress and identify any issues of concern ahead of the end of the year.

### Progress against the Local Area Agreement (LAA)

5. Performance against both LAA1 and LAA2 sets of LAA measures is generally good. For both LAA1 and LAA2 indicators that are measured quarterly or where projections have been provided, 62% are categorised as green, 22% categorised as amber and 16% categorised as red.

Table 1 - Quarter 2 Local Area Agreement Indicator Summary



6. Six are identified as red measures of which half are LAA 1 measures and the remainder LAA2 measures.
7. Of the three LAA1 red measures, end of year projections predict that two of these are unlikely to be met. These are LAA Stretch 10, number of journeys on local bus services and LAA Stretch 11, reducing violent crime. It may not be appropriate to target the violent crime indicator for further action. Action is being taken to increase the number of journeys on local bus services, but as this measure is significantly off target, it is unlikely to be met. The remaining red measure is LAA Stretch 6c, the Christo Inventory score. This measure has only missed target this quarter due to a very complex caseload, however the projected outturn at the end of the year is 66% in line with the target.
8. Of the three LAA2 red measures, NI193 (Municipal waste land filled) end of year projections is showing that the target will not be met. This is due to the delay in the roll out of food waste recycling across the district. At present, the total male and female projected annual figures for adults with learning difficulties in settled accommodation (NI145) is below target. NI145 is a new indicator which is affected by support plans taking longer to complete due to the complexity of needs, and capacity for supported living has been taken up by new referrals rather than with those who are currently in residential care. NI117 (16 to 18 year olds who are not in education or employment) has not met the target due to the current economic situation and the rise in Jobseekers Allowance applicants in the area.
9. Eight LAA1 and LAA2 measures are currently identified as amber which will need to be monitored during the year. Further details of the performance of these measures is contained in appendix 1 and 2. The remaining 23 LAA 1 and LAA 2 indicators which are measured quarterly or have annual projections are currently green and are meeting the targets.

### Progress against the Sustainable Community Strategy

10. The Sustainable Community Strategy was approved in January 2008 and includes seven key themes which are underpinned by 35 priorities. This report includes a summary of progress against each theme as appendix 3.
11. An assessment using the red/amber/green approach has been made against all 35 priorities. An assessment of progress against each individual priority is shown in the table below.

Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities	
<b>Investing in children and young people</b>	
Priority	Assessment
Enjoy and achieve	Amber
Economic well-being	Green
Be healthy	Green
Be safe	Amber
Positive contribution	Green
<b>Being Healthier</b>	
Priority	Assessment
Healthy Lifestyles	Amber
Inequalities in Health	Amber
Threats to Health	Amber
<b>Modernising Health &amp; Community Care Services</b>	
Priority	Assessment

<b>Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities</b>	
Health and Well Being	Green
Healthy Lifestyles	Green
Quality of Life	Green
Positive Contribution	Green
Exercising Choice and Control	Green
Freedom from Discrimination	Green
Economic Wellbeing	Green
Personal Dignity & Respect	Green
<b>Managing future development</b>	
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Housing	Amber
Sustainable New Communities	Amber
Travel & Accessibility	Green/Amber
Environmental Sustainability	Green
<b>Promoting safer and stronger communities</b>	
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Be Safe and Feel Safe	Amber
Promote Equality of Opportunity	Amber
Be Cleaner and Greener	Green
Promote Engagement and Cohesion	Amber
Develop Community Infrastructure	Amber
<b>Valuing the environment</b>	
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Climate Change	Green/Amber
Resource use, pollution and waste	Amber
Natural, historic and built environment	Green
Meet needs locally	Green
<b>Maintaining Economic Prosperity</b>	
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Business competitiveness and economic growth	Green
Business development	Amber
Skills and workforce development	Green
Employment land and premises	Green
Sharing the benefits of economic growth	Red
Town and district centres	Amber

12. Progress against the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities is generally good. Most of the priorities are on track, although there are some areas to be addressed. There is only one area identified as a significant concern – sharing the benefits of economic growth – which is obviously influenced by the recession. A high level summary of progress against each of the seven themes is set out in appendix 3.

### **Consultation**

13. Officers across all agencies have been involved in providing performance information from which the basis of this report has been compiled.

### **Risk Assessment**

#### **Financial, legal and human resources Implications**

14. There are no direct financial, legal or human resources implications arising from this report.

### **Sustainability Implications**

15. There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

### **Other Implications**

16. There are no other implications arising from this report.

### **Equalities and racial impact assessment**

17. There are no specific implications arising directly from this report

### **Risks, mitigations and opportunities**

18. Performance against the Local Area Agreement has direct bearing on the achievement of the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities. It also has a significant bearing on future CAA and other Audit Commission judgements. It is therefore important that we regularly monitor and report performance, taking action where necessary.

### **Recommendations**

19. The Partnership is recommended to consider current performance against the strategic Local Area Agreement and the Sustainable Community Strategy.

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## Appendix 1 – Progress against LAA1

**Table 1 - Quarter 2 LAA1 Indicators – red measures**

Indicator description	Target	Actual outturn
Reducing violent crime The number of woundings in South Glos as recorded by the Police with particular emphasis on Actual Bodily Harm (section 47) Wounding (section 18) and Grievous Bodily Harm (section 20). LAA 1 11	3,023	3,509
Christo Inventory score % of individuals with alcohol as a primary substance accessing treatment who have a three or more point decrease in their Christo inventory score. LAA 1 6c	66%	42%
Number of journeys on local bus services LAA 1 10	4,300,000	2,785,691

### LAA1 red measure commentary

#### 20. *Reducing violent crime*

The violent crime indicator end of year projection is 4085 woundings which will not meet the annual target of 3561. It may therefore not be appropriate to target this indicator for further action. This is not to say that this is not a priority area for the Partnership, but there are other indicators which measure success in tackling crime. However, South Gloucestershire's performance against this indicator does follow the current national trend of generally increasing. However violent crime is slowing down in South Gloucestershire but we will need to remain focussed on the evening and night time economy if we are to continue to impact on this crime. According to charts on the iQuanta statistics website which use past performance to project future levels of crime, violent crime is projected to continue to decrease in South Gloucestershire over the coming months. Unfortunately the stretch target is a cumulative measure, so poor performance in the first two years have meant that improvements in the final year are not enough to allow us to meet the target.

#### 21. *Christo Inventory score*

The Christo Inventory score measure has only missed target this quarter and has previously met all targets. A recent caseload with very complex needs is reported as the reason for this. Actions have been put in place to improve performance but, given the reward grant of c. £250k associated with this measure and with the LAA nearing completion, this is an area that will need watching closely for the last few months of the LAA period. We have put into place a comprehensive plan to ensure that this target will be met at the end of the year. As well as holding monthly monitoring meetings with service providers, we are producing fortnightly performance reports to track progress and the treatment coordinator is receiving weekly updates on performance from key parts of the service. The projected outturn at the end of the year is 66% in line with target.

#### 22. *Number of journeys on local bus services*

The number of bus passenger journeys is currently significantly off target. The trend for 2009/10 is a drop of 10% across the network as a result of the current economic climate,

however a few services are showing positive increases. Specific promotional efforts have been targeted on the X27 Yate to Bristol service, which has seen a 20% rise in passenger numbers in 5 months against a 10% drop in passengers across the network. South Gloucestershire Council are looking to roll this out to other areas and services in conjunction with the bus companies. South Gloucestershire Council will continue regular meetings with First to seek solutions to congestion hot spots. Progress on the Youth Concessionary Travel Scheme is well underway, and will be launched on target next year.

**Table 2 - Quarter 2 LAA1 Indicators – amber measures**

Indicator	Target	Actual outturn
Access to a Structured Treatment Programme Numbers of individuals beginning structured treatment for substance misuse with alcohol as a primary problem LAA Stretch 6a	457	436
A level average points score per student Schools with sixth forms: average point scores per student entered for GCE/VCE/A/AS (not including John Cabot Academy or Filton College).	735	692.7 (end of year projection)

**LAA1 Amber measure commentary**

*23. Access to a Structured Treatment Programme*

The access to a structured treatment measure has fallen slightly below target for numbers in treatment in the last couple of months of the quarter. Whilst the numbers entering adult treatment have remained relatively stable, the number of young people recorded as being in treatment has fallen over the past few months due to a re-classification of a large number of Youth Offending Team (YOT) clients. Only clients in Tier 3 treatment are counted for this indicator, which means they have to be receiving care planned treatment. A review of the YOT caseload has led to a substantial number of clients being rated as Tier 2, which means they are not now being counted in this indicator. We are now reviewing the adult waiting list and altering our admissions numbers to compensate for this. Having re-aligned the service to deal with this drop in admissions numbers, we expect reported figures into treatment to increase in the next two months and our projected outturn at the end of the year is 560, in line with target.

*24. A Level average points score per student*

The A level points score measure is based on provisional results but shows a deteriorating trend with a final target that will not be achieved. An external review of Post-16 provision and outcomes is in the process of being commissioned which will take place during January/February 2010. The recommendations of this review will inform future actions for improving outcomes at Post-16 but the outcomes of this will be too late for the reward grant.

## Appendix 2 – Progress against LAA2

**Table 3 - Quarter 2 LAA 2 Indicators – red measures**

Indicator description	Target	Actual outturn
NI117 16 to 18 yr olds who are not in education or employment (NEET)	4.6%	5.5% Interim figure
NI145a & b Adults with learning disabilities in settled accommodation		
NI145a (male)	36.1	27
NI145b (female)	36.1	30.1
NI193 Municipal waste land filled Projected quarterly result	48%	54%

### LAA2 red measure commentary

#### 25. NI117- 16 to 18 yr olds who are not in education or employment (NEET)

The rise in 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education or employment (NEET)(NI117) reflects the current economic situation and the rise in Job Seekers Allowance applicants in the area. The figure for England for the same period is 7.6%, 7% for the West of England and 5.8% for the Statistical Neighbours comparator group for South Gloucestershire. Connexions Personal Advisers and Engagement workers are continuing to work with NEET young people and work with training providers and employers to advise on appropriate provision.

#### 26. NI145a & b - Adults with learning disabilities in settled accommodation

NI145 (Adults with learning difficulties in settled accommodation) is a new indicator but which is affected by the complexity of needs resulting in support plans taking longer to complete. In addition, some of the new capacity for supported living is being taken up by new referrals rather than those currently in residential care. The total male and female projected annual figures for adults with learning difficulties in settled accommodation is below target. However, data quality issues and the focus of assessments/reviews for the first half year potentially representing a disproportionate number of people in non-settled accommodation may mean that the projected annual figure could be misleading. This aside, there are two reasons why the figures appear to be low. We are now working with adults with very complicated and complex health and social care needs which require comprehensive support plans. These support plans, by definition, take longer to complete. Secondly, in support of another target, new referrals are supported to live independently rather than being admitted to residential care and this uses some of the new capacity for supported living accommodation.

#### 27. NI193 - Municipal waste land filled Projected quarterly result

For the municipal waste measure (NI193), current forward predictions are that the 2009/10 LAA target will not be met. The target was set in May 2008 and allowed for full year effect of recycling mixed wood waste and commencement of rollout of authority wide food waste collections in 2008/9 with full rollout being achieved by spring 2009. To date food waste collections have only been introduced to around 16,000 homes on a trial basis and due to changes in the market for mixed wood waste in 2008/9 this service had to be stopped and

was only reinstated from September 2009.

**Table 4 - Quarter 2 LAA2 Indicators – amber measures**

Indicator	Target	Actual outturn
NI005 Satisfaction with local area	84%	83% (end of year projection)
NI006 Participation in regular volunteering	27%	25% (end of year projection)
NI020 Assault with injury crime rate	2.4	2.5
NI154 Net additional homes provided	970	900 (end of year projection)
NI155 Number of affordable homes delivered (gross) PSA 20 (proxy measure)	140	134
NI192 Household waste sent for refuse, recycling and composting	46%	42% (projected quarterly result)

**LAA2 amber measure commentary**

*28. NI005 - Satisfaction with local area*

The annual projection for the overall satisfaction with the local area is showing as slightly off target. The 08/09 place survey results showed that overall satisfaction with the local area is high, with 83% of respondents saying that they were satisfied with their local area as a place to live. This compares well to the national average of 80% and South West average of 85%. A tracker place survey was undertaken in autumn / winter 2009 to enable performance to be monitored with the results expected in February 2010.

*29. NI006 - Participation in regular volunteering*

The annual projection for the participation in regular volunteering measure (NI6) is showing as slightly off target. A funding package to support investment in Volunteer Centre infrastructure was agreed by the Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership in June and CVS South Gloucestershire has entered into a Service Level Agreement with South Gloucestershire Council's Corporate Resources Department. CVS South Gloucestershire is negotiating local and specific SLAs with each of the project delivery partners to monitor performance.

*30. NI020 - Assault with injury crime rate*

We were slightly off target for NI20 Assault with less serious injury at the end of quarter 2. However, our levels of offending are below the average for our most similar family benchmarking group and levels are projected to continue to decrease to the end of the year. Our projected outturn for 2009/10 has now been revised to 4.9 offences per 1000 against a

target of 4.8 per 1000. Several initiatives are ongoing to ensure that we meet this target at the end of 2010/11, including addressing violence related to the evening and night-time economy and continuing to reduce domestic violence repeat victimisation.

*31. NI154 - Net additional homes provided*

In the case of NI154 (Net additional homes provided), there is no comparative information available. Despite this, officers are still projecting a reduction in performance since the same period a year ago which also means that the annual target will not be met. As an LAA indicator this may be a cause for concern, although the failure to achieve the target is generally acknowledged as a reflection of the economic downturn. As a result, work is currently underway to re-negotiate this target with GOSW as part of the annual review and refresh of the LAA.

*32. NI155 - Number of affordable homes delivered*

Based on the forward housing construction programme the current target of 270 for the affordable homes measure (NI155) is unlikely to be met. Delivery of approximately 200 affordable housing completions this financial year is considered more realistic. Work is currently underway to renegotiate this national indicator in response to an invitation to do so by GOSW in recognition of the impact of the economic downturn. Options under review are to bring affordable sites forward from the 2010/11 programme, buying existing stock and buying new build non affordable housing dwellings.

*33. NI192 - Household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting*

Although the percentage of household waste being sent for reuse, recycling and composting has improved compared to the same period last year, current forward predictions are that we will not meet the annual target for NI192. As was the case for NI193, the target for NI192 was set in May 2008 and allowed for full year effect of recycling mixed wood waste and commencement of rollout of authority wide food waste collections in 2008/9 which has not taken place.

## Appendix 3 – Progress against the Sustainable Community Strategy

### 34. *Investing in children and young people*

Whilst there continues to be improvement in outcomes at the end of all key stages, those at post 16 remain an area of concern and at 16 the focus on improving the percentage of young people who achieve 5 good GCSEs to include English and maths remains. Standards in the early years have risen but these need to improve further. The quality of provision continues to be judged well by Ofsted with no schools in categories of concern. This term has seen an increase in the percentage of schools judged good or outstanding.

The vision and strategy for improving capital are being revisited. A replacement secondary school and a new Academy are planned, 6<sup>th</sup> form provision for Bradley Stoke is underway and the BESD school plans are advancing. Four replacement Primary schools are due to complete in 2010, as well as major refurbishments at two others. Youth provision is also being enhanced in Yate through close partnership with the Town Council.

There have been strong improvements in the range of opportunities on offer to young people, and significant developments in partnership working.

From September 2009, over 1000 14-19 year olds from South Gloucestershire embarked on new 14-19 Diploma courses in the first ten areas of study.

Good progress has been made in improving the range and choice of childcare provision especially in previously underrepresented areas, with good progress made with our local implementation of national programmes to increase the free childcare offer. The majority of childcare provision is judged by Ofsted to be satisfactory or better.

Good progress has been made in implementing the South Gloucestershire 14-19 strategy. The number of 14-19 partnerships has been rationalised with the Concorde Partnership now containing the former Yate/Chipping Sodbury Partnership. The range of local cluster based vocational and work based learning opportunities, with clear progression routes for 14-19 year olds, continues to develop with a significant increase in vocational provision at level 1 and 2 in all schools which has led to increased achievement in applied learning. This has contributed to the continuing improved achievement of 16 year olds.

Work to support young people at risk of underachieving over the 14-19 phase is developing well. The innovative Work 2 Learn Programme aimed at young people most at risk of becoming disengaged, the Increased Flexibility and Young Apprenticeship Programmes all showed positive and improved outcomes in 2009 with 90% of young people gaining accreditation. This work is having a positive impact on progression rates in to post 16 learning and the NEET figures.

The economic situation has meant that the traditional good progress on reducing the size of the NEET cohort has not been sustained during the economic recession. July 2009 NEET showed a rise of 0.3% from the previous year. An updated NEET Action Plan is in place linked to the current economic situation and is regularly reviewed and monitored. South Gloucestershire schools are committed to the personalisation agenda and this is reflected in the ever diverse curriculum offer to young people 11-19. 14-19 Partnerships are developing strong links with tertiary colleges, employers and higher education. Progress has been made in improving the quality and range of information advice and guidance to young people, influencing their choices for the better.

The results of the project undertaken to engage children in healthier lifestyles from the Yate area, where childhood obesity has been higher than elsewhere, are due soon. The project with parents has been positively evaluated. The second phase of the Healthy Schools Plus pilot project has been successfully launched in 14 schools, possibly 15 out of the target of 17.

The latest official statistics available for teenage pregnancy rates to the end of June 2008 quarter show the number of conceptions as the lowest since December 2003, and below the south-west average for the first time since September 2007. Funding to expand the 'No Worries' sexual health outreach service has led to more schools involved.

The Chlamydia target for 08/09 of 17% (screening) was exceeded. That for the whole year this year has been raised to 25%. The figure up to August 2009 is 8.1%.

The Local Safeguarding Children Board continues to undertake a breadth of activity reflecting its wider safeguarding role. A serious case review, evaluated as "good" by Ofsted, led to co-ordinated multi-agency planning to improve practice. The work of the Anti-Bullying Partnership, the Domestic Violence Forum and awareness raising events to parents and carers in relation to Internet-Safety all contribute and support initiatives to keep our children and young people safe. Targeted initiatives by both Road Safety and Avon Fire and Rescue Services ensure children and young people are kept safe in their homes and on the roads in the community.

There has been a drop in timeliness of social care assessment, reflecting the impact of implementation of a new electronic recording system. The numbers of initial assessments and rate per 10,000 child population receiving initial assessments has remained in line with similar authorities. There are indications of improvement at the end of the second quarter. The number of core assessments has also dropped alongside timeliness in the second quarter. Action is being taken to support performance improvement in these key areas. There was a 71% increase in the number of children and young people becoming the subject of child protection plans last year and this rise has been sustained this year. The figure at 22.6 children per 10,000 of child population is just above similar authorities.

Processes are well established for the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and the locality Multi-Agency Preventative Panels, and work is now underway to refine evaluative tools.

Effective work with our most vulnerable children in care was recognised by the award of Beacon Status to South Gloucestershire Council. Issues of placement stability and the adoption of children in a timely manner for a very small cohort of children remain areas of priority working. The small numbers of children can skew the overall percentages.

Inspections at Ashfield YOI, Eastwood Park and Vinney Green Secure Unit during 2008/09 identified safeguarding practice to be good.

The anti-bullying partnership has developed new terms of reference. A new incident recording system has been implemented and training completed for and welcomed by all secondary schools. The Young People's Board convened a very successful conference highlighting best practice in July.

During this quarter the Youth Service strategy has been agreed giving a template for future deployment of resources. Work has begun to increase the range of positive activities available on Friday nights and weekends. The structures enabling young people to participate in decision making have further developed with the Youth Board and UKYP members actively involved in a wide range of local, regional and national issues and campaigns.

The implementation of the Participation Strategy is developing well with many examples of positive outcomes and strengthening structures. The systematic collation of evidence to demonstrate impact is a priority for further development.

Agreement of the youth service strategy will now enable more strategic deployment of resources. Joint projects are increasing access to opportunities for young people, for instance the Youth Café in Yate, The Big Stash and the YouthUnltd website.

South Gloucestershire Council has already committed to provide subsidised transport for young people following representation from local UKYP members. Consultation with young people on the best model to adopt has recently taken place. The results of this consultation have been collated with recommendations due to be considered soon.

Breakthrough Plus has delivered improvements in the reading age in the groups of children involved with the project (50 children). During the 9 months of the project, one school showed an improvement of 1.6 years, and children in another school showed an improvement of 2.1 years.

### **35. *Being Healthier***

Performance against annual measures linked to healthy lifestyles is encouraging. The 2009/10 joint PCT/Local Authority improvement operational work plan details many initiatives that will contribute to the overall health and well being of residents living in South Gloucestershire. The plan includes initiatives that focus on reducing smoking and obesity, increasing physical activity and promoting healthy eating. Additional investment in these areas during 2009/10 will contribute to developing work programmes more extensively and extend the opportunities for people to adopt healthier lifestyles.

There is a variety of ongoing work that will contribute to reducing health inequalities and to meet the national indicators. Health improvement work in the PCT is focussed on areas of high health need corresponding with the priority neighbourhoods and amongst populations with particular needs. The 2009/10 joint PCT/Local Authority improvement operational work plan is underpinned by this approach and includes initiatives to support a reduction in smoking and obesity, an increase in physical activity and promotion of healthy eating as well as specific initiatives that will contribute to reducing health inequalities. Work to support initiation and duration of breastfeeding and reduce smoking in pregnancy as well as targeted work to reduce the proportion of people who smoke from routine and manual groups is ongoing. The LAA1 target to increase physical activity in areas of greatest need is making good progress and is on course to be met at year end which is encouraging.

Work to address threats to health is ongoing and includes infection control, implementation of immunisation programmes, implementation of hygiene practices in food establishments and implementation of the national Chlamydia has increased to date compared to last year but has not achieved the coverage rates needed to meet the target for 2009/10 of testing and screening 25% of 15 to 24 year olds by the end of March 2010. The HPV immunisation programme continues to be rolled out across South Gloucestershire schools. The PCT and the council have been heavily engaged in planning for flu pandemics in general and for swine flu in particular over the last six months.

### **36. *Modernising health community care services***

Good progress has been maintained with helping to support independence and reduced reliance on institutional care. We now see far fewer adults by reason of age or learning disability entering residential care. The imminent availability of extra care housing will provide a significant expansion for options for older people remaining independent. It is also noteworthy that increasing numbers of adults with learning disability currently in residential care have the opportunity to move into supported accommodation.

The dementia care strategy, in partnership with the PCT and Mental Health Trust (AWP), will jointly direct future investment into enhanced community-based support for older people with dementia, in particular to ensure that early identification and support is available via GP surgeries. This will also bring significant benefits for carers.

Work has been undertaken with the mental health trust (in conjunction with the five other authorities) to delineate a service specification of an integrated mental health service.

Consultation on future options for the integrated provision of working age mental health services has now been completed.

The Resource Activity Centre (RAC) re-provision programme is on target with many previous RAC users benefiting from wider choice and opportunity in community settings.

The focus on early intervention and prevention schemes has drawn in approximately 2,500 new service users who are benefiting from new programmes such as Golden Oldies. A toe-nail cutting service, in partnership with the PCT and Age Concern will shortly come into operation - a service that many older people regard as vital to their wellbeing and previously absent. Particularly noteworthy is the current pilot of a First Contact Scheme which will enable agencies to recognise that older people may benefit from advice and support from a different organisation and refer on for it to be provided. Early indications from the pilot suggest that many older people will benefit from the full roll-out of the scheme over the next year.

Our work on health and social care transformation is making progress with a particular focus on developing the Single Point of Access and the development of a more systematic and integrated approach to both hospital admissions avoidance and ensuring no delay at hospital discharge.

Joint work (with CYPD and the PCT) on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment has produced a coherent picture of health and wellbeing issues across the authority to inform future commissioning strategies.

Our work on encouraging active participation in sport is progressing well. The latest quarterly figures show that 1,410 people who reported they were previously not physically active in (excluding those in areas of high health need) now participate in at least the recommended level of physical activity. This number is well ahead of schedule, and we are confident that the LAA target will be met ahead of schedule.

Good progress has also been made in encouraging healthy lifestyles, with 33 local businesses now signed up to the Active Health at Work initiative, 192 household now participating in the smokefree homes initiative, and 491 new referrals on the exercise on prescription scheme this quarter.

### **37. *Managing future development***

South Gloucestershire continues to face considerable development pressure. We have continued to deal positively with the challenges posed by more growth by planning in a sustainable and integrated way for high quality homes, associated employment opportunities, local community facilities and a convenient and safe transport network which meets our communities' needs and aspirations.

While the economic down turn has had the effect of reducing housing construction in the short term, there is every real indication that the development industry is continuing to identify and promote major housing development locations in the District. This raises significant challenges for the Council, as it continues to object strongly to the high levels of growth proposed by the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and ensure that the local planning policy framework remains up to date, robust and durable. This position is made more problematic as there is now no prospect of the RSS being published before Christmas.

Faced with these issues, the Council has taken the proactive and constructive decision to accelerate its Core Strategy timetable and aims to have a draft Core Strategy ready early in 2010. Working with our communities and partners, considerable efforts are being made to focus attention on the development strategy for the next five to ten years, which we can probably plan now with some certainty, then leaving the longer term planning framework to be firmed up once the situation regarding the RSS has been finally clarified. This is a

pragmatic solution that will help deliver a planning framework that can be put in place relatively quickly to provide much needed policy context to deal with speculative planning applications and ensure that policies manage development, promote high quality design, respond to climate change and support sustainable communities. Building on consultation and technical evidence collected to date, an exciting programme of community consultation and engagement has been delivered over the autumn to support the Core Strategy.

To help provide more affordable housing we are working actively with developers and social housing providers to ensure that local housing needs are met. This is a particular concern given the number of major sites in which development has stalled due to the economic downturn and we are working with the HCA and others on innovative measures to bring these sites forward. We continue to work with community infrastructure providers to assess both short and longer term requirements to ensure that our communities of the future are well balanced and well serviced. An important evidence base for this work is the West of England Sub Regional Infrastructure Study which is now nearing completion. We will also be engaging with the HCA and SWRDA in the Single Conversation, to help prioritise and secure funding for the key infrastructure projects for the sub region.

The West of England authorities were successful in obtaining priority for a number of Major Schemes within the sub-region, the schemes received support from the South-West Region for inclusion in the Regional Funding Advice and these are now detailed in RFA2. Schemes included in the RFA2 allocation within South Gloucestershire are: Greater Bristol Bus Network (GBBN), the North Fringe to Hengrove Package, Greater Bristol Metro and Rapid Transit from Emersons Green to Temple Meads.

During the first half of 2009/10 considerable progress has been made to accelerate the programme for cycle city.

- Consultation has taken place on 3 new routes
  - Parkway Station to Bradley Stoke
  - Bradley Stoke to Cribbs Causeway
  - Emersons Green links to the village centre
- A hand crank bike has been purchased which can be hired free of charge for people with mobility issues
- Bigger and better Bike Week events in June 2009 were boosted by Cycle City funding; this resulted in increased attendance at the events compared with previous years.

Construction of GBBN infrastructure has progressed during the first half of 2009/10. The Abbeywood Roundabout signalisation scheme was substantially completed. The New Road bus link has also been completed. Discussions with landowners have taken place regarding Compulsory Purchase Orders ahead of a public enquiry scheduled for November 2009. South Gloucestershire Council are on track to deliver the grant funded elements of GBBN in line with the agreed programme. Developer funded elements are programmed for later years.

### **38. *Promoting safer and stronger communities***

The second quarter has seen the initiation of a number of projects to improve our future effectiveness and delivery. Performance for 2009/10 remains broadly on track. Key highlights are as follows:

- Improvements to the approach, along with the use of the Breakthrough Project, have resulted in no breaches of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts being recorded to date in 2009/10.

- The LAA 1 target for financial inclusion has been achieved ahead of schedule.
- The LAA 1 target for Successful Discharges from Alcohol Treatment has been achieved ahead of schedule. The Christo Inventory score for the impact of treatment reduced and is currently off target, however plans are now in place to ensure that the target is achieved by quarter 4.
- Changes made in addressing Violent Crime are starting to show an impact. However the LAA 1 target is cumulative and thus the reduction to a projected 1,250 such crimes in 2009/10 will still leave us with 4,085 Violent Crimes during the Stretch Target period - above the target of 3,561 (which has already been exceeded). This always was a very challenging target set by the Home Office.

### **39. *Valuing the environment***

South Gloucestershire Council promoted and encouraged a range of initiatives and worked with the community to provide opportunities for over 5,000 people to learn about the environment and their heritage and held an extremely successful Food and Drink Festival in September, attended by well over 7,000 people.

South Gloucestershire Council continue work with DEFRA to gain a better understanding of our CO2 emissions and although emissions seem to be declining, there is still work to be done to ensure that data is both accurate and up to date.

Recognising the importance of renewable energy, particularly when major new development is being planned, we are commissioning specialist advice which will be of benefit both in developing appropriate policies and in determining planning applications.

As a result of last year's successful bid for the Wildways project, the new Project Officers are now in post and the project was officially launched on 26th September with a family fun day attracting over 900 people. The majority of visitors were local families from Staple Hill, a key target group for the project to engage with.

Work to reduce the energy consumption of street lighting continues, with part night switching off trials in Charfield parish, investigations into part-night dimming, use of non-illuminated bollards and solar powered signs, and reducing the number of street lights installed in new developments.

### **40. *Maintaining economic prosperity***

Work has started with partners across the West of England on an economic prospectus that will identify key employment sites and requirements to bring them forward through the single infrastructure investment plan for the sub-region that will be developed with the HCA. Development of the Science Park (SPark) at Emersons Green has still not started, but the RDA remain committed. Work was due to have started early in 2009.

Business Link continue to run one-to-one start up clinics for individuals looking to start in businesses/be self-employed in Yate on Mondays; at UWE on Tuesdays and in Kingswood on Thursdays. In addition to their ongoing programme of events and workshops Business Link also run clinics for trading businesses at UWE on Mondays and Fridays and Kingswood on Tuesdays.

A new version of the South Gloucestershire Business Directory has been published and distributed to around 3000 business in South Gloucestershire.

The South Gloucestershire Council and SW RIEP funded 'Adapt to Survive' programme, delivered by GWE Business West will take place in October through to December. The programme will help businesses identify how innovation can benefit their business by developing new pathways for survival and growth during the recession.

Recent figures from the LSC on the number of learners achieving basic literacy and numeracy qualifications (NI161 and NI162) are disappointing. We are currently investigating the reasons for this with the LSC. The estimate of the working age population qualified to at least level 2 at the end of the year was 70.4% based on LSC learner numbers. Although this is above the national figure of 68.9% it is still below the LAA target of 71.5%. Latest data released from the LSC based on the annual population survey shows that we have now achieved 74.1%, well above target.

Uptake of the integrated employment and skills offer (including Skills Pledge and Local Employment Partnerships) to employers in South Gloucestershire and significant expansion and promotion of the Train to Gain service, work based learning and apprenticeships has helped to drive down the number of employers who report having any skills gaps in their existing workforce. The overall LAA target for NI174 has been met – although the measure is volatile and relies on business perception. The West at Work Board are acting as the area action force which both coordinates large scale recruitment packages (Cabot Circus, Southgate, etc.) and looks to deal with the larger redundancy notifications in a proactive manner – trying to head off joblessness by encouraging retraining or offering job opportunities to staff before they take up benefits.

The [www.investwest.org](http://www.investwest.org) portal continues to provide a self service site for businesses looking for premises in the West of England. With limited capacity at the WoE Partnership Office and within ED at the authority little progress has been made in developing this area of work further. Marketing of the area to inward investors is something that is highlighted in the MAA and will hopefully be addressed in the future. The council's employment land study is nearing completion. A summary of the findings and recommendations will be published in late 2009/ early 2010. Ongoing delays with the final RSS has continued to maintain uncertainty about the level and direction of future growth in the District. This has impacted on the timetable for delivering the Core Strategy and for planning infrastructure to support growth.

The Employment Pathways programme is due to be open to more people in 2009. SGC, as a major employer, will continue to lead the way in employing staff with learning difficulties.

South Gloucestershire Council is leading a number of initiatives to improve the vibrancy and vitality of town and district centres. The overarching ambition is to develop and support infrastructures within town and district centres to lead work in this area themselves through partnerships and cooperation between businesses and community groups.

Members of the Economy & Skills Partnership have worked together to establish a series of business support events in South Gloucestershire. Representatives from various business support agencies such as Business Link, GWE (Greater Western Enterprises) Business West and the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) will be on hand to engage with businesses.

Business Link are working on a specific programme of support with SEGRO (commercial property landlords) for businesses on their Yate, Emerson's Green and Pucklechurch industrial estates.