



**SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE PARTNERSHIP
ANNUAL REPORT
2022-23**

Contents

1	Introduction.....	2
2	Background	2
3	Chief Officer Group.....	2
4	Work of the South Gloucestershire Partnership 2021/22.....	2
4.1	South Gloucestershire Partnership sub-groups	3
5	Engagement by Partners	3
6	Strategic Partnerships	3
7.1	Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership.....	4
7.2	Health and Wellbeing Board.....	4
8	Performance 2022/23.....	4
9	Resources.....	6
11	Risk Register.....	6
	Appendix 2 – Quality of Life Report 2023 (not appended, data being verified)	
	Appendix 3 – Risk Register 2023/24	

1. Introduction

This is the Annual Report of the South Gloucestershire Local Strategic Partnership for the period May 2022 to April 2023. The report provides background information; the Partnership's main achievements during 2022/23; highlights of the thematic strategic partnerships (Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board and the Safer and Stronger Strategic Partnership); performance data and a risk assessment for 2023/24.

2. Background

The South Gloucestershire Partnership (SGP) was formed in 2002 to develop the first statutory Community Strategy which was published in March 2003. Following repeal of the statutory requirement to produce sustainable community strategies and to have a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), the decision was made locally to retain the area's Strategy and LSP, demonstrating the area's commitment to partnership working and the desire to ensure South Gloucestershire remains a **"A great place to live and work"**.

Partners continue to work together through the partnership structure of the South Gloucestershire Partnership and two thematic partnerships – Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board (now a sub-committee of the council) and the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership.

3. Chief Officers' Group

The Partnership has a Chief Officers' Group which is responsible for managing the business of the Partnership and providing oversight and guidance on behalf of, and as directed by the Partnership.

During 2022/23 meetings were held on 31st May 2022 and 22nd September 2022.

4. Work of the South Gloucestershire Partnership 2022/23

In 2022/23 municipal year two public meetings took place to which members of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership were invited to consider the **Cost of Living in South Gloucestershire: Impacts and Actions**.

The first of these meetings was held on 21st October 2022 during which a paper was presented and discussed which provided an overview of the impact of the cost-of-living in South Gloucestershire and the work that it is taking place across the partnership (Town and Parish Council's / Faith Groups / Community Groups / Businesses and the statutory sector), to support our communities and businesses.

It was a consolidated paper into which members of the Local Strategic Partnership, Locality Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board, the VCSE sector and the Council have all contributed. Contributions included the community voice of the impacts.

Further, the paper recognised the support initiatives and actions the partnership are already taking, as well as some potential areas for further consideration.

Partners went on to receive a presentation which covered the following areas:

- Background
- Data (National and Local)
- Financial and Health impacts
- Key actions and support
- Directory and warm spaces
- Deep dive into impact on higher education
- Future thoughts for the partnership

The meeting agreed the proposed action plan and that the South Gloucestershire Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board would meet again in the winter to review progress.

At the meeting the Partnership approved the **2021/22 annual report and 2022 Quality of Life** report for publication.

The second meeting was held on 27 January 2023. The meeting received a paper that considered the emerging policy framework around support and then moved to identify the local impact of cost of living, progress on actions and proposed next steps.

Agenda papers for the public meetings, showing business covered can be accessed here [South Gloucestershire Local Strategic Partnership](#)

5. South Gloucestershire Partnership Sub-Groups

As recommended in the 2021 review, two task and finish sub-groups were established to consider the Climate and Nature Emergencies and Inequalities. These groups met as follows:

The Climate and Nature Emergencies sub-group met on 27th July 2022, 19th September 2022, 30th November 2022 and 20th April 2023.

The Inequalities sub-group met on 23rd July 2022, 29th September 2022, 17th November 2022 and 25th April 2023.

6. Engagement by Partners

Minutes of all public meetings include information about attendance and apologies received. This shows that attendance, and as a consequence engagement, of some partners in the business of the Partnership is a challenge that needs to be addressed going forward.

The recent review of form and purpose of the Partnership led to fewer public meetings and the introduction of sub-groups. The sub-groups have yielded greater focus, collaboration and participation, however, this has not followed through at Board level.

A further look at the role and format of the Partnership will be considered in 2024 as part of the council's review of governance structures.

7. Strategic Partnerships

7.1 Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership

In addition to fulfilling its statutory responsibilities the Partnership undertook a review of its format and functions and proposed a new, streamlined approach to monitoring and tracking performance against 2022-2025 Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership (SSCSP) priorities, objectives, and actions.

The outcomes of this review are being developed.

The Partnership also revised the Voluntary Sector Compact and Town and the Parish Council Charter. Both were subsequently adopted by the Council.

7.2 Health and Wellbeing Board

The Health and Wellbeing Board continued to meet during 2022/23. Three development sessions were held and four Board meetings were held in public. A copy of the Board's annual report can be accessed here: [HWB Annual Report \(southglos.gov.uk\)](https://southglos.gov.uk).

8. Performance 2022/23

Progress against the Sustainable Community Strategy is informed by a suite of quality of life indicators which monitor those things that make an area a good place to live. The 2023 Quality of Life report, (*will be attached at Appendix two in the final report*), measures and communicates important facts about South Gloucestershire and aims to demonstrate

Many indicators have been monitored for several years making it possible to track change over time. Indicators that have seen a marked shift are presented below:

Has South Gloucestershire become a better or worse place to live? In autumn 2022 (the latest data available) 3.7% of respondents to the Viewpoint survey felt that South Gloucestershire had become a better place to live. This is a decrease of 1.3 percentage points on the previous year. The majority of respondents (59.3%) continue to consider that South Gloucestershire has stayed the same. The number of respondents who feel South Gloucestershire has become a worse place to live has risen over the last five years from 26% in 2015 to 34.5% in 2022, however there is a slight improvement from last year's figure of 36%.

Total homes completed In 2022/23, 1,785 new homes were recorded as completed across South Gloucestershire, the highest figure since the Core Strategy started in 2006. Of these 1,588 were on large sites of 10 homes or more and 197 were completed on small sites of fewer than 10 homes. Overall, since April 2006, 20,648 new homes have been completed in South Gloucestershire.

Number of affordable homes delivered In 2022/23, 713 affordable homes were delivered in South Gloucestershire as a result of the Council's effective partnership working with our housing association partners and developers. This continues the strong track record of affordable housing delivery in the district.

All the completions were new build; 529 are social rent and 184 are shared ownership. Approximately 74% of the completions are for rent. The delivery provides a range of housing options to suit people's needs.

In particular, the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector consider this to be a success and recognises that it helps to tackle the cost-of-living crisis which is partly fuelled by high housing costs.

Number of households accepted by the council as homeless under a statutory homeless duty (Housing Act 1996, Part V11) In 2022/23, the number of homeless households in South Gloucestershire accepted by the council was 87. The total number of households owed the main housing duty (duties accepted) increased by 15% on the previous year. This was partly due to an increase in the number of households facing eviction from private rented sector accommodation, who were unable to secure an alternative private let due to the increased demand for and cost of rental accommodation in the district. The council continues to offer targeted support to households threatened with homelessness to support them to secure settled housing. Whilst the number of duties accepted increased, the council was also able to prevent homelessness for 544 households, an increase on the previous year.

Bus Patronage Overall bus patronage continues to recover with over 7.4 million passengers boarding registered bus services in South Gloucestershire in 2022/23 (Source: WECA). This represents an increase of 23% compared to the previous year but is still only around 74% of pre-Covid levels. Work continues to improve bus service coverage (i.e. extension of Metrobus network with the provision of M4 service, together with significant service frequency enhancements on routes serving our main market towns (Y1, T1).

Average annual earnings In the year to December 2022, the average annual earnings for a full-time worker living in South Gloucestershire was £33,094, representing a 5% increase on the previous year's figure (£31,518).

Growth in business rate income The gross Business Rate Income increased 4.96% to £167.18M in FY 2022/23. This growth in gross income can be primarily attributed to the increased frequency of completing and occupying large industrial buildings. The easing of previous challenges related to COVID restrictions and material imports has played a significant role in facilitating this positive trend.

Recorded crime rate in South Gloucestershire In 2022/23 the overall rate of recorded crime in South Gloucestershire was 62 crimes per 1,000 residents, which represents 18,019 crimes across the year. This is an increase of 5% (851 offences) compared to 2021/22. Crime rates were unusually low during the period of Covid lockdown but have increased again since.

Across England and Wales, the crime rate sits at 94 offences per 1,000 population, which also represents a 5% increase compared to the year before. Avon and Somerset police force saw a 1% increase in offending compared to the previous year, and the South West region saw a 5% increase. These modest increases come on the back much larger increases in the year before, as we moved out of Covid lockdown.

Looking at the rate of crime per 1,000 population compared to other areas, the rate of 62 per 1,000 is lower than the rate of 81 per 1,000 in Avon and Somerset, 70 per 1,000 in the South West region, and 94 per 1,000 across England & Wales.

South Gloucestershire has a lower rate of offending than the Avon and Somerset area in general.

Recorded crime rate for high impact crimes Our crime reduction efforts focus on the crimes that have the most impact on our communities. Rates of violence against the person are slightly higher than the previous year, at 23 per 1,000 population, and are currently at their highest rate in recent times. This is below the rate of 30 per 1,000 in Avon & Somerset, 28 per 1,000 in the South West, and 35 per 1,000 across England & Wales, but is still of concern given the significant negative impact that crimes of this type have on victims.

Rates of domestic burglary have remained more static, with a slight fall from 6 to 5 offences per 1000 households compared to the previous year. The rate of criminal damage and arson offences has stayed at 6 offences per 1000, and robbery has stayed at 1 offence per 1000.

Perceptions of anti-social behaviour The council measures perceptions of anti-social behaviour through the Viewpoint survey*. Rubbish or litter lying around continues to be the largest issue with 43% of respondents highlighting this as a problem in 2023. This is a decrease from the 2022 figure of 52%. Knife crime and weapons possession remains one of the behaviours receiving the lowest level of concern (4%) this has decreased from 6% in 2022.

Vandalism, graffiti and other damage to properties has seen a large decrease in the percentage of respondents who consider this to be an issue, 30% in 2022 to 16% in 2023.

8. Resources

Each member is a resource and provides the Partnership and its work with an invaluable contribution through their time, expertise and knowledge of their sector.

The Council's Strategy and Innovation took over oversight and co-ordination of the work of the Partnership in January 2021; the Chief Officers' Group continues to be managed by the Chief Executive's office.

South Gloucestershire Council's Democratic Services section undertake the formal committee administration duties for the Partnership.

9. Risk Register

Managing risk is an important element of good performance and is written into the Partnership's terms of reference. The 2023/24 Risk Register for the Partnership is attached at Appendix 3.

There are no significant risk changes for 2023/24.

RISK REGISTER 2023/24

APPENDIX THREE

		Risk Assessment 2021/22			Key	Impact	I	L	S	Likelihood	L		Score (I x L)	S	
					High	3				Medium	2		Low	1	
	The Risk: What can happen and how	Consequence of this happening	Inherent Risk			Mitigating Actions / Opportunities	Residual			Further Action Required	Review Date				
			I	L	S		I	L	S						
1	Partners have an unclear vision of what they want to achieve for residents within South Gloucestershire	Focus is unclear, opportunities to join-up are missed and organisational planning is not aligned	3	3	9	Review vision and priorities to ensure they are update and reflect current circumstances	3	1	3	None	Chair of SGP	Annual			
2	South Gloucestershire is lacking a shared understanding of needs	Inconsistent approach to service delivery Gaps and overlaps not known	3	1	3	Ensure good use of data alongside resident views and those obtained from community involvement activity	3	1	3	None	All	Annual			
3	Partnership working is not well co-ordinated with little evidence of it making a difference	No added value Partners disengaged	3	3	9	Annual report to reflect achievements of the Partnership Regularly review partnership and its purpose including, membership and relationship of strategic partnerships	3	1	3	Partners to be re-engaged	Chair of SGP	Annual			
4	Sustainable Community Strategy priorities and outcomes not met	Inefficient use of resources Loss of public confidence Failure to meet public expectations Not responding to changes in practice Not responding to new opportunities	3	3	9	Ensure performance monitoring and management arrangements are robust. Partners to manage expectation with consistent, realistic messages and delivery Regular information sharing to raise awareness. Flexible practices Review regularly. Proactive planning sessions.	3	1	3	None	Chair of SGP All	Annual			
5	Partnership fails to work well as a group	Unproductive meetings Loss of credibility	3	1	3	A commitment to regular attendance by partnership members and application of the terms of reference.	2	1	2	Membership regularly reviewed and	All	At annual review			

		Loss of expertise and contribution of particular sectors Lack of appropriate representation at senior level			Review of effectiveness included in Annual report			appropriate action taken			
6	Partners do not meet the requirements of equality legislation	Failure to address the breadth of issues and understand the diversity within the partnership	3	1	3	3	1	3	None	All	Annual
7	Partners' non-allocation or withdrawal of resources	Loss of balance in work of partnership Limitation to the sustainability of services, projects or initiatives including the council's reduced capacity to support and coordinate partnership meetings Lack of high quality input into joint activities Reduction or loss of engagement by partners	3	3	9	3	2	6	Conveying to government the impact of competing demands as necessary	Chief Officer Group	Annual
8	Organisational change in key agencies impacts adversely on performance	Loss of focus Delayed progress Loss of expertise and knowledge	3	3	9	3	2	6	Presentation to SGP of each members' strategic plan	Chief Officer Group	Annual
9	Actions do not result in improvements	Insufficient resources Inefficient use of resources Lack of joined up thinking at Central Government departmental level	3	2	6	3	2	6	Change of approach	All	Annual

10	Partners are not committed to partnership meetings	Unproductive meetings Loss of credibility Loss of expertise and contribution of particular sectors Loss of data and information sharing, and local knowledge	3	3	9	Consider alternative approach (including the reduction in the number of meetings held annually) Reinvigoration of agendas	3	2	6	On-going monitoring of partner involvement	Chief Officer Group	Bi-annual
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