



**SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE PARTNERSHIP  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2023-24**

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## 1. Introduction

This is the Annual Report of the South Gloucestershire Local Strategic Partnership for the period May 2023 to April 2024. The report provides background information; the Partnership's main achievements during 2023/24; 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 2024/25.

## 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. The Chief Officers Group met on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

## 4. Work of the South Gloucestershire Partnership 2023/24

In 2023/24 municipal year one public meeting of the Partnership took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024. The meeting received a presentation on the **draft Council Plan 2024 Consultation Document**.

Introducing a new vision for South Gloucestershire, the presentation outlined the council's ambitions for the future, emerging goals, anticipated outcomes and the emerging performance framework.

Following a discussion, partners were invited to formally respond to the consultation.

Partners went on to receive a presentation on the **new Local Plan – Phase 3 Towards a Preferred Strategy**. The presentation included:

- Why a new local plan is needed
- The number of homes we need to plan for
- Urban areas and Market Towns – proposed site allocations
- 'Lenses led' setting the 'strategy preference' for places and sites
- Towards the Emerging Preferred Strategy

- Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show people
- Minerals
- Policy development and engagement

At the meeting the Partnership also approved the **2022/23 annual report and 2023 Quality of Life** report for publication.

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 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

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

Two joint meetings were hosted by the University of the West of England on 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June 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 review of the 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 arrangements.

## 7. Strategic Partnerships

### 7.1 ***Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership***

The Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership continued to meet during 2023/24. Four meetings were held in public. A copy of the Partnership's annual report can be accessed here [SSCP Annual Report.pdf](#)

### 7.2 ***Health and Wellbeing Board***

The Health and Wellbeing Board continued to meet during 2023/24. 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](#)

## 8. **Performance 2023/24**

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 2024 Quality of Life 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:

### ***Number of affordable homes delivered***

In 2023/24, 567 affordable homes were delivered in South Gloucestershire as a result of the Council's effective partnership working with housing association partners and developers. Whilst lower than in 2022/24 which saw 713 affordable homes delivered, this continues the strong track record of affordable housing delivery in the district.

### ***Bus patronage***

Overall bus patronage continues to recover from the pandemic, with over 9.0 million passengers boarding registered bus services in South Gloucestershire in 2023/24 (Source: WECA). This represents an increase of 22% compared to the previous year and is now around 90% of pre-Covid levels. Work continues to improve bus service coverage with service frequency enhancements on key routes serving main market towns and continuation of bus fare cap.

### ***Growth in business rate income***

The gross Business Rate Income increased 7% to £179.02M in FY 2023/24. This is a result of the national revaluation of all non-domestic properties from 1 April 2023. Whilst retail premises generally saw a decrease in their rateable values, industrial premises (particularly large distribution centres) saw significant increases. As a result, the total rateable value in the area has increased for the 2023 rating list.

### ***Childhood injuries***

Injuries are a leading cause of hospitalisation and represent a major cause of premature mortality for children and young people. They are also a source of long-term health issues, including mental health related to experience(s). The rate of hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries for children aged 0 to 14 years in South Gloucestershire was 65.2 per 10,000 in 2022/23. This is statistically lower than the South West and England rate. The trend since 2010/11 shows that the rate of these hospital admissions has statistically decreased over time and the 2022/23 rate is lower than the rates seen from 2010/11 to 2019/20.

### ***Alcohol-specific hospital admissions***

The rate of admission episodes for alcohol-specific conditions in South Gloucestershire in 2022/23 was 778.4 per 100,000, equating to 2223 admissions. This is statistically greater than the South West region and England rates, and has been so since 2016/17. Looking

at the trend since 2016/17, the overall rate of admissions has statistically increased over time.

### ***The Percentage of children classified as overweight or obese***

The percentage of Reception children (aged 4-5) classified as overweight or obese was 16.0% in 2022/23. This is statistically lower than the South West region and England proportion. There has been a 3.9 percentage point decrease from 2021/22 to 2022/22 and this is the smallest proportion of reception children classified as overweight or obese since 2007/08.

## **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 division 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 2024/25 Risk Register for the Partnership is attached at Appendix 3.

There are no significant risk changes for 2024/25.

**RISK REGISTER 2024/25**

**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 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	3	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	3	9	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	Ensure equalities impact assessments are carried out on all SGP plans and strategies Training is available which is relevant and comprehensive Scoping of priorities and challenges to be incorporated into Annual Report	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	Scrutiny and challenge by the partnership Consideration of resources that support partnership working Co-opt resources as required Continual information sharing Developing relationships with new structures	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	2	6	Well managed change process Clear strategic direction set out for each organisation within partners' own corporate plans and policies Clear communication.	3	1	3	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	Implement robust performance monitoring and management arrangements	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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