



South Gloucestershire  
Director of Public Health

# Annual Report

2013-14



Summary

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## Welcome



The Director of Public Health Annual Report provides a commentary on local health issues based on the latest data. Overall, the health of people in South Gloucestershire is good and there have been improvements in recent years including reduced deaths from heart disease, strokes and cancers. The report picks out some of the key issues we face in South Gloucestershire. These include population growth, ageing and multiple health conditions; the poor health outcomes in Priority Neighbourhoods; growing issues of food and fuel poverty, issues such as mental health and alcohol; and the need to work with our schools on public health.

This summary version of the report presents the key messages and next steps that we propose to take in South Gloucestershire. To view or download the full version of the report go to: [www.southglos.gov.uk/publichealthannualreport](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/publichealthannualreport)

Dr Mark Pietroni, Director of Public Health



## Section 1

### The wider determinants of health

#### Fuel poverty



#### Key messages and next steps

- Fuel poverty has increased across England over the last year.
- Energy efficiency measures should be prioritised for people in fuel poverty and for South Gloucestershire this could be delivered through targeting the Priority Neighbourhood areas of Kingswood, Filton and Staple Hill.
- South Gloucestershire Council will continue to work with partners to deliver the South Gloucestershire Affordable Warmth Action Plan.

#### Food poverty



#### Key messages and next steps

- The use of food banks is increasing in parts of South Gloucestershire, in line with national trends.
- South Gloucestershire Council in conjunction with partners will develop a new Food and Health strategy.





Air quality



### Key messages and next steps

- The health impacts of air pollution are greater than the risks of passive smoking and transport collisions added together.
- Road transport is responsible for up to 70 per cent of air pollutants in urban areas.
- Local air pollution should continue to be monitored with a focus on responding to any new central requirements regarding particulates.
- Work on Priority Neighbourhoods should link the evidence of air pollution in the Air Quality Management Areas of Kingswood and Staple Hill to wider improvements in the built environment and streetscape in these areas.

Transport, active travel and the built environment



**Key messages and next steps**

- South Gloucestershire Council will work with partners to develop a Physical Activity Strategy to encourage an increase in everyday activity such as walking and cycling.
- South Gloucestershire Council will invest in transport measures that will promote active and sustainable travel through the Local Transport Capital Programme and other associated funding streams.
- South Gloucestershire Council will work with landowners and developers to ensure that new communities are designed to encourage local trips to be made on foot, by bike, and by public transport.
- South Gloucestershire Council will work with partners to better enable practitioners to identify cases of childhood overweight and to support parents in seeking referral to appropriate services. The REACH (Rethinking Eating & Activity for Children’s Health) programme is the main service in South Gloucestershire for assisting children who are above the healthy weight range.

Education



**Key messages and next steps**

- A new programme called ‘Health in Schools’ is being developed in South Gloucestershire schools for the 2014/15 academic year. It will build on the whole-school approach to health employed by the previous Healthy Schools Programme. Pupils, parents and teachers will be supported to integrate healthier behaviours in the journey to/from school, the school environment and the curriculum.
- The introduction of universal free school meals for infant school children and the introduction of compulsory cooking lessons from September 2014 provide particular opportunities for the Health in Schools Programme.
- A survey will be commissioned to gather information on health and lifestyle behaviours amongst school-age children in South Gloucestershire. The survey will provide trend data and increase understanding of pupils’ perceptions of their health & wellbeing and behaviours.





## Section 2

### Summary of South Gloucestershire demographics and health

Summary



#### Key messages and next steps

- Life expectancy in South Gloucestershire is greater than the England and Wales average by approximately 2 years for men and 1.5 years for women.
- The calculated life expectancy has increased over the last decade in about 90% of wards. There are five wards in which calculated life expectancy is significantly lower than the South Gloucestershire average (Yate North, Woodstock, Siston, Kings Chase and Almondsbury).



# Section 3

## Health promotion and lifestyles

Injury



### Key messages and next steps

- The rate of admissions to hospital as a result of falls among people aged 65 years and over is higher in South Gloucestershire than the South West as a whole.
- To reduce the risk of falls amongst older people we will continue to undertake targeted risk assessments working closely with primary care and community health staff and with home improvement agencies to assess environmental hazards with intervention.
- The promotion and raising awareness of safety in the home through health visitors and other professionals working with parents/carers of young children should continue.
- South Gloucestershire Council will continue to commission home safety checks and fit safety gates and fire guards.



**Alcohol****Key messages and next steps**

- Alcohol-specific hospital admissions have increased significantly for both males and females from 2003/04 to 2009/10. There has been a modest decline in rates since then but they remain now 50% higher than a decade ago.

**Mental health****Key messages and next steps**

- Suicide rates have increased in males in South Gloucestershire since 2006.
- There is some evidence of an increase in suicide rates in the six years post recession compared to the pre recession years.
- Hanging, strangling and suffocation are the most common methods of suicide in males and females, although men are more likely than women to use lethal methods such as firearms or jumping in front of a moving object.
- South Gloucestershire Council and partners are developing a new Mental Health and Wellbeing strategy to support the prevention of mental ill health in South Gloucestershire.





## Section 4

### Long-term conditions

#### Summary



#### Key messages and next steps

- Long-term conditions are a major challenge facing health-care systems worldwide, but health systems are largely configured for individual diseases rather than multi-morbidity.
- Alternative models need to be developed in order to improve the co-ordination of treatment for people with multiple long-term conditions.
- Improvements to personalised care planning will increase support for patients with long-term conditions and ensure they obtain the best treatment to reduce their risk of developing complications.
- The new Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy will also focus on mental wellbeing in people with long-term conditions.



## Section 5

### Health protection

#### Vaccination programmes



#### Key messages and next steps

- Immunisation uptake rates in South Gloucestershire are generally higher than national and regional rates.
- Additional work is required to improve uptake for at-risk patient groups for the flu vaccination. This will be incorporated into the seasonal flu planning for the next campaign (starting October 2014).



## Key messages and next steps

- Work will focus on ensuring sexual health services are accessible and appropriately configured to meet the needs of South Gloucestershire residents.
- Work will continue to develop a sexual health strategy for South Gloucestershire in partnership with all agencies involved in commissioning sexual health services.
- Work will continue to increase the diagnosis rate for Chlamydia to 2,300 per 100,000 or higher.
- Work to address the percentage of late diagnosis HIV infections will begin by developing an understanding of the picture for South Gloucestershire and the potential impact of further service development and to consider the appropriateness of opportunistic testing across different settings.

## Thanks to...

I am very grateful to the following people who did much of the work in producing this report.

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