Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Strategy 2014-17

Introduction

The Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership fulfils the statutory role of being a Community Safety Partnership for South Gloucestershire, but does much more than that. It brings together a range of organisations to co-ordinate and help deliver actions that support the development of safer and stronger communities within South Gloucestershire.

The Partnership believes that strong communities are safe communities. Hence its remit to strengthen communities as well as to address crime.

In 2009 the Partnership introduced a Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Strategy to guide its work and that of the organisations that comprise the Partnership. That strategy enabled the Partnership to:

- Consolidate existing strategies related to Safer and Stronger Communities into a single document.
- Link related themes and give clarity and focus to its work.
- Identify actions, with targets, for delivering some of the more general outcomes.
- Learn from recent changes to the working and living environment.

Adopting a strategy to shape work over 4 years enabled the partnership to deal with complex issues that an annual cycle would not have done. Each year a strategic assessment of crime and disorder was also carried out, and helped ensure that the priorities being addressed remained relevant.

That approach proved very successful, and during the three years the Strategy was implemented achieved the following improvements in priority areas were achieved:

- Total recorded crime was reduced by 22%
- % residents who think Anti-Social Behaviour is a problem in their local area was improved by 31%
- % residents who feel we are successfully dealing with ASB and crime in the local area improved by 28%
- Criminal damage was reduced by 32%
- Serious acquisitive crime was reduced by 40%
- Assault with injury was reduced by 31%

This refreshed strategy lays out the Partnership's priorities until 2017. These have been established through the annual strategic assessment of crime and disorder, and by using the results of public consultation.

The Partnership has also sought to make clear links to the wider strategic direction within South Gloucestershire, as laid out in documents such as the Sustainable Communities Strategy and the Police and Crime Plan.
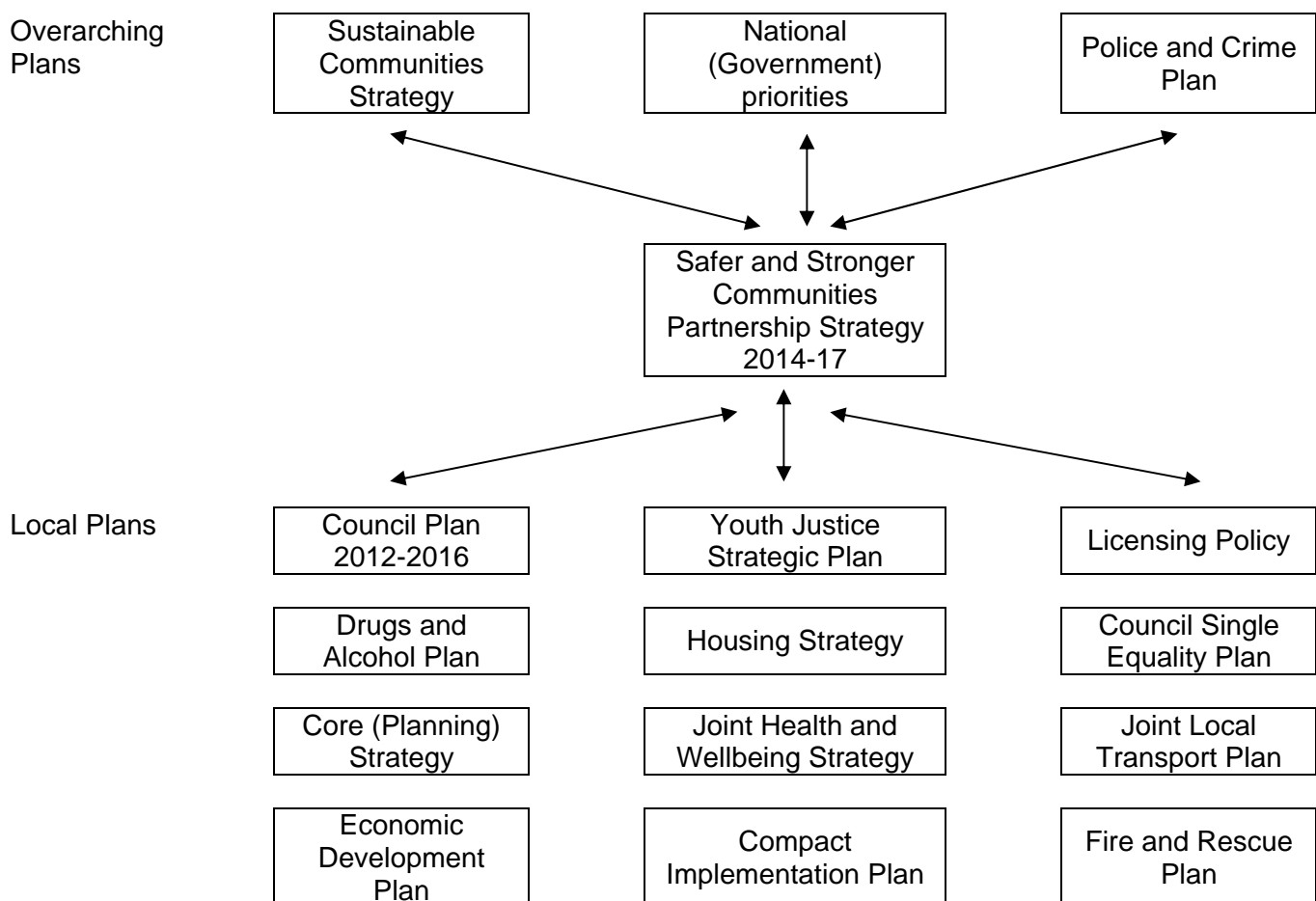
Links to other plans

It can be difficult to build a clear picture of the strategic priorities framework within South Gloucestershire and of the respective importance of different plans, particularly when these appear to contain competing priorities.

This strategy sets out our plans for safer and stronger communities in South Gloucestershire. Every effort has been made to ensure that the priorities are linked to those set out in overarching plans for the area.

The Safer and Stronger Communities partnership Strategy also seeks to be consistent with the many other topic related strategies which shape delivery of particular aspects of the overarching plans.

This relationship is shown in the diagram below. This does not seek to comprehensively list the plans being delivered within South Gloucestershire, but rather to illustrate their links

Overarching Plans

| Sustainable Communities Strategy | National (Government) priorities | Police and Crime Plan |

Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Strategy 2014-17

Local Plans

| Council Plan 2012-2016 | Youth Justice Strategic Plan | Licensing Policy |

| Drugs and Alcohol Plan | Housing Strategy | Council Single Equality Plan |

| Core (Planning) Strategy | Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy | Joint Local Transport Plan |

| Economic Development Plan | Compact Implementation Plan | Fire and Rescue Plan |

Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Strategy

This refreshed strategy lays out the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership's priorities until 2017. These have been established through the annual strategic assessment of crime and disorder, and by using the results of public consultation.

Issues which are solely the responsibility of a single agency are left to that agency to deal with. This strategy establishes how the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership responds to those issues which require input from a range of different organisations.

The Partnership Strategy priorities are gathered together in six main themes. Each theme includes:
- An overall Aim
- A summary of key issues
- Actions planned 2013-2017
- Key Measures of success

The six themes of the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Strategy are:
- Be Safe
- Feel safe
- Promoting equality and improving cohesion
- Priority Neighbourhoods
- Engaging communities in decision making
- Volunteers and Community Groups

The Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership reviews progress towards achieving the aims laid out in this strategy every six months (in June and December).

A Strategic Assessment of Crime and Disorder is carried out each year and the results of this are used to review whether the priorities and targets laid out in the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Strategy are still relevant.

An annual Partnership Plan establishes the more detailed actions to be taken during the year to achieve the Partnership's Aims. This Partnership plan also established annual targets for the performance indicators used to measure progress.

Introduction to South Gloucestershire

Geographically, at 53,665 hectares, South Gloucestershire is one of the largest unified local authorities. The population is estimated to be 263,400 at the mid-year point of 2011. South Gloucestershire has one of the fastest growing population levels in the United Kingdom. Significant levels of new housing are expected to be buil;t during the lifetime of this strategy.

The age structure of the district's population is closely aligned with the national (England) average; 19% are children, 64% are aged 16-64 and 17% are aged 65 or over. According to the last Census in 2011 5% of the population were of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) origin. There are 12 Census Output Areas where the BME population is above the national average of 9.1%.

In the main South Gloucestershire is an area dominated by middle-income families with areas of relative affluence and deprivation, with vibrant towns and parishes and a good range of community infrastructure in place. Sixty percent of residents live in urban fringe suburbs, the remainder either in rural villages or small market towns. Alongside areas of relative prosperity, there are areas defined as priority neighbourhoods where extra support and effort is needed to bring them to the level of the rest of area. These are Kingswood, Staple Hill, Cadbury Heath, Filton, Patchway and West Yate/Dodington.

Crime levels are low – 47.7 recorded crime incidents per 1,000 residents in 2012/13 as opposed to 66.4 per 1,000 across England and Wales - and getting lower year on year.

There is a thriving community and voluntary sector and an active elderly population who help strengthen community cohesion. More people, especially from equalities groups, have taken on decision-making roles which has helped create a fairer and more inclusive place to live. Significant improvements have been made recently and 40% of local people now feel they have an influence on local decision making - an increase of 60% in three years. Communities will have even more opportunities to be involved in local determination, and delivery of services through changing national policies such as the localism agenda. Further community benefits may also be necessary in recognition of the burdens of hosting major infrastructure projects.

Identifying with the community is high on the list of what matters to people, and local people do feel part of their neighbourhood, though the have less affinity with South Gloucestershire as a whole.

Be Safe

Aims:

Our aim is quite simply put – To reduce the level of crime, particularly those crimes that have the most impact on communities and victims, whilst keeping the victim at the heart of the justice system by listening and responding to their needs

Key Issues:

In 2012/13 there were 47.7 recorded crimes per 1,000 residents in South Gloucestershire, compared to an average of 54.5 in the South West Region and 66.4 in England and Wales. Our crime rate is thus significantly lower than that of the national or regional average, and the vast majority of residents live in peace and harmony.

We provide a wide ranging multi-agency approach to tackle crime and to reduce the impact which crime and disorder can have both on individuals and the wider community. While the Police are responsible for enforcement, we also recognise the role the Police and other partners can play in addressing the factors that lead to crime and the fear of crime.

The Partnership and its members have made excellent progress in addressing crime, tackling violence and anti-social behaviour but it is not complacent.

Each year we will review the levels; locations and types of crime within South Gloucestershire and prioritise the allocation of resources and actions accordingly. However some factors have been consistently important over the past three years, and we expect to continue to address these as priorities in the life of this strategy.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-Social Behaviour continues to be of concern across the country – there is an 83% correlation between the perception that ASB is a problem in a particular area and satisfaction with that area as a place to live – and South Gloucestershire follows this trend. Across South Gloucestershire 7% of residents think anti-social behaviour is a problem in their local area.

Domestic and Sexual Violence

Domestic and sexual violence are very important issues. There are always concerns that these crimes can go unreported for reasons of fear or lack of confidence in the legal system. The results can be devastating for both the immediate victim and their family, and we seek to encourage people to come forward to report these crimes and to get them the help and support they need. One national study has shown 73% of perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence had been drinking at the time of assault and perpetrators use of alcohol, particularly heavy drinking, is more likely to result in more serious injury to their partners that if they had been sober.

Burglary

Burglary is a crime which has a significant impact on victims, and can leave them feeling insecure in their own homes. Most burglary is committed by the same few people, often to obtain goods which can readily be converted to cash by those with drug habits.

Tackling burglars is a priority for the Police in particular, who will work to bring burglars and thieves to justice. Through the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership we will look to close down the markets for drugs and stolen goods.

Supporting victims

Crime can have a devastating effect on victims and while taking enforcement action against offenders we will also concentrate on supporting protecting victims, paying particular attention to vulnerable victims.

Targeting offenders

The majority of crime is committed by a relatively small number of people. By targeting individual offenders – and especially those who are prolific in their offending – we will have the greatest impact in preventing future crime.

Reducing Violent Crime

A considerable proportion of violence can be directly attributed to alcohol related disorder. Young binge drinkers are almost three times more likely to commit an offence or be a victim of crime than those who do not normally get drunk, and five times more likely than non-drinkers of the same age. Alcohol fuelled violence tends to be linked to the night time economy, and is concentrated within our town centres, such as Staple Hill, Kingswood, and Chipping Sodbury.

Reducing crime related to drug or alcohol misuse

There is a clear relationship between levels of binge drinking and injury and violence.

Evidence suggests that drug use is a strong factor in serious or persistent offending by males – where the likelihood of offending is nearly five times higher than for non drug-users. These offenders commit acquisitive crime, such as burglaries and thefts from motor vehicles. The Partnership will work closely with the Drugs and Alcohol Team Commission for drug services, and we need to continue to support individuals into drug treatment, especially those who commit crime in order to fund their drug misuse

Poor health is a key factor in substance misuse that also affects the health and wellbeing of families and carers.

Hot spots

Crime patterns are not equal across South Gloucestershire and local factors lead to hot-spots where crime levels are higher than in other locations. We have shown that targeting activity in these areas can achieve significant improvements at a local level.

Young people and crime

Young people have a very particular relationship with crime, both as victims and as perpetrators

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Actions 2014-2017

Anti-Social Behaviour

- Explore the potential to introduce integrated management of ASB offenders

- Identify problem individuals and households and use a range of tools to deal with them.

- Identify perpetrators early on and intervene to stop them committing further ASB.

- Robust management of persistent ASB offenders.

- Work closely in support of the Families in Focus initiative

- Research and introduce mechanisms to deal with private landlords who permit their tenants to be involved in Anti Social Behaviour.

Domestic and Sexual Violence

- Raise awareness of domestic and sexual violence, and increase reporting where this takes place.

- Further develop the specialist Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) for domestic violence victims and extend this approach to support victims at high risk of sexual violence.

- Pilot and evaluate a Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference for children who go missing repeatedly and children at high risk of sexual exploitation.

- Modernise domestic violence refuge provision.

- Introduce arrangements for access to domestic violence refuge provision for male high-risk victims in need of refuge.

- Identify perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence and implement programmes to reduce their offending.

Burglary

- Help residents to protectively mark their property and register their property on the Immobilise scheme

- Support operations targeting shops and individuals selling stolen goods.

- Review relationships and links with local groups such as Neighbourhood Watch

- Review and improve the targeting of schemes which fit equipment and strengthen locks to prevent burglary.

- Design out crime in new properties through implementation of the 'Secured by Design' national best practice standard; and in new communities through working with the Council's Planning team.

Supporting victims

- Develop a single point of contact for hate crime issues (including homophobic, transphobic, disablist and racially motivated hate crime; and independent support for individual victims of such hate crime.

- Introduce a common process for risk assessing vulnerable victims; and for periodically reviewing and revising the status of known vulnerable victims

- Introduce a consistent Panel and approach for dealing with high risk victims of both ASB and hate crime.

Targeting offenders

- Review and improve the operation of the IMPACT Integrated Offender Management scheme.

Reducing Violent Crime

- Use licensing powers to reduce violent crime associated with the night time economy

Reducing crime related to drug or alcohol misuse

- Carry out a range of alcohol harm reduction initiatives including targeted education and enforcement activities in order to change behaviour so that people do not think it is acceptable to drink in ways that could cause harm to themselves or others.

- Actively pursue licence conditions in respect of licensed premises where incidents of violence or significant problems such as noise or nuisance are identified.

- Provide a range of responses to the Court which deal with those whose offending is linked to alcohol or drugs.

- Commission a range of services specifically targeted at those whose offending is linked to alcohol or drugs.

- Continue to be part of the Integrated Offender Management Unit to ensure those that do most harm to society are managed in an effective way as possible.

Hot spots

- Establish individual plans for each of the identified Hot-spot areas of Kingswood; Yate; Patchway/Filton.

Young people and crime

- Contribute to effective multi agency partnership working that enables effective early identification of young people at risk of becoming involved in crime and put in place effective support plans to prevent this happening.

- Enable young victims of crime to have the opportunity to explain to the perpetrator the impact of the crime

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Key measures of success:

- Overall crime
    - Total recorded crimes per 1,000 population

- Anti-Social Behaviour
    - % residents who feel anti-social behaviour is a problem in their local area
    - Number of recorded incidents of criminal damage per 1,000 population
    - Number of deliberate secondary fires
    - Victim satisfaction with handling of ASB cases
    - % ASB cases fully resolved

- Domestic and Sexual Violence
    - Reported cases of domestic and serious sexual violence
    - Repeat victimisation post-Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference

- Burglaries
    - Burglaries per 1,000 population

- Supporting victims
    - Victim satisfaction with handling of cases
    - Repeat victimisation rate following a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference for vulnerable victims.

- Targeting offenders
    - Serious acquisitive crimes per 1,000 population.

- Reducing Violent Crime
    - Violence with injury per 1,000 population

- Reducing drug or alcohol dependency
    - Drug users recorded in effective treatment
    - People successfully completing a structured treatment programme for alcohol problems
    - Young people successfully completing a structured treatment programme for drug problems
    - Treatment Outcome Profile compliance across all providers required to complete TOPS.

- o Alcohol-related hospital admissions.
- Hot spots
  - o Rate of personal priority crimes above the average in individual identified hotspots
- Young people and crime
  - o % of 10-17 year olds who have not had any contact with the criminal justice system
  - o Rate of first time entrants to the youth offending system per 100,000 young people
  - o Levels of reoffending of those in the youth offending system

Feel Safe

Aim: To improve public confidence and reduce the fear of crime

Key Issues:

Fear of crime is greater than the likelihood of actually being a victim. Despite the relatively low crime rate in the area, in 2012 19% of residents felt unsafe when out in the local area after dark, and 3% felt the same way during the day.

This disparity mirrors a widespread difference between residents' understanding of the pattern of crime in South Gloucestershire and how the partners involved in the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership are dealing with crime.

Many factors affect public confidence and the fear of crime. These include:

- *Hygiene factors* – if an area looks unkempt or untidy this increases both the likelihood of further environmental crime, and also the expectation and fear of crime by residents and viewers. By keeping streets clean; and by removing litter and graffiti we can maintain public confidence

- *Addressing specific issues* – We will continue to work with local communities through Safer Stronger Community Groups. Through these we will identify and deal with key local issues – including supporting communities to take positive action themselves.

- *Generic Information* – residents receive information about crime from many different sources. Confusing or contradictory messages will reduce public confidence.

We will also improve communications with local people and with Safer and Stronger Community Groups by agreeing and implementing an annual communications plan. This will raise understanding of the actual position and of action taken to address problems in order to increase community confidence and reduce the fear of crime.

Actions 2014-2017

- Keep streets and the local environment clean.

- Continue to gather local views – for example through safer and stronger community groups, through local area forums, and from local intelligence reports – and use these to identify and deal with the issues that matter most at a local level

- Review the operation of safer and stronger community groups to ensure they work as effectively as possible.

- Re-invigorate our joint communications programme to ensure consistency of communications messages.

Key measures of success:

- % residents who agree Police and other public services are successfully dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime in the local area.

- % residents feeling safe outside in their local area

Promoting equality and improving cohesion

Aim: To improve cohesion in our local communities by helping vulnerable people through financial advice and support; tackling inequality based on race, religion, age, gender, sex or sexuality; and by bringing people and communities together

Key Issues:

Cohesiveness - the extent to which different communities live in harmony and with a shared perception of fairness - is critical in building and maintaining strong communities. A survey carried out in 2012 identified that only 11% of South Gloucestershire residents believe people from different backgrounds do not get on well together in their local area.

South Gloucestershire has an enviable record of organisations working with particular groups such as travellers to help meet their need as well as those of the wider community, and a strong history of different groups living together in harmony. We need to maintain this pattern.

Creating cohesion is about encouraging positive relationships between different groups (all groups – not just on ethnic lines, for example). This is usually regarded as more positive than simply avoiding problems and tensions, and respect for diversity and meaningful interaction (rather than mixing per se) is seen as key within this.

The anticipated housing growth in South Gloucestershire will create new communities living cheek-by-jowl with groups who have lived in the area for decades. We will seek to improve cohesion between these groups, taking careful account of their characteristics, and to enable socially sustainable communities.

Social factors related to changes in welfare and benefits may increase social churn and tension between different social groups.

Some communities have higher proportions than others of people who suffer from low income, unemployment, social isolation, poor housing, low educational achievement, degraded environment or access to health services. Such communities are vulnerable because of these forms of deprivation, which are often linked. The relationship between them is so strong that we have identified 6 priority Neighbourhoods which are given special attention as a Key Theme in its own right [see the section on Priority Neighbourhoods for more details].

Strong local leadership, high resident participation in decisions and an enhanced role for community groups are all factors that help create community cohesion.

Encouraging cohesion means ensuring that services need to be seen as fair, providing good appropriate services that reflect the needs of all sectors, communities, families and individuals.

To build cohesion South Gloucestershire Council and partners also help facilitate community events, which are as much about the process of getting different groups involved together as it is about the final results of their work. These events are based in part on national drivers (e.g. Families Day) and in part on identified community need. (e.g. in Priority Neighbourhoods, or where Safer Stronger Community Groups identify a specific need). A key element in deciding where to focus our efforts is the willingness of the local community in each area to get involved and be part of the organising group.

While individual events take place in particular areas, each event is promoted across the whole of South Gloucestershire.

Actions 2014-2017

- Work with the South Gloucestershire Equality Forum and the new Race Equality Network.

- Support community based events to build cohesion and celebrate diversity.

- Support Voluntary and Community sector groups to be friendly and welcoming, and build their confidence in challenging discrimination

Key measures of success:

- % residents who think there is a problem with people not treating each other with respect and consideration in their local area.

- % residents who feel that their area is a place where people from different backgrounds can get on well together.

Priority Neighbourhoods

Aim: To reduce the number of criteria in which priority neighbourhoods are listed amongst the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in England as measured by criteria within the national Indices of Multiple Deprivation.

Key Issues:

South Gloucestershire has one neighbourhood which appears within England's 20% most multiply deprived, while a further five neighbourhoods are listed in the most deprived locally.

Residents in these neighbourhoods face multiple deprivation compared to those living elsewhere. These priority neighbourhoods have therefore been formally identified and are the areas where our work on tackling deprivation, crime, drugs harm, and health inequality finds the greatest need. They will, therefore, receive the greatest attention and concentration of resources.

When any Priority Neighbourhood is no longer listed amongst the lowest 20% of neighbourhoods for criteria in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation we will look to sensitively scale back direct work in that area through the Priority Neighbourhoods programme.

The Priority Neighbourhoods are Filton, Patchway, Kingswood, Staple Hill, Cadbury Heath and west and south Yate/Dodington.

In each of these areas a local Community Lead Group is co-ordinating work to ensure local input to the Priority Neighbourhoods programme, and in many areas they are delivering excellent work on the ground. Now we need to match that local leadership with more a strategic focus to address the factors which can help lift areas out of multiple deprivation.

Actions 2014-2017

- Develop and begin implementing strategic plans for Priority Neighbourhoods to sit alongside the plans already established at a local level.

- Continue to work with the Community Lead Groups which are co-ordinating work at the local level within each priority neighbourhood.

- Seek to develop and introduce a methodology for assessing community resilience within Priority Neighbourhoods

Key measures of success:

The overarching measure of success for priority neighbourhoods are

- Number of Neighbourhoods in the worst 20% nationally as measured through the Indices of Multiple Deprivation.

- Number of single criteria in which Lower Super Output Areas in priority Neighbourhoods are in the worst 20% nationally

- Difference between Priority Neighbourhoods and rest of South Gloucestershire in average life expectancy.

However the Indices of Multiple Deprivation are only published every 3 – 4 years and we need to monitor progress more swiftly in order to gauge the success of our work. Therefore we will monitor the specific outcomes from individual projects at a local or strategic level carried out as part of the Priority Neighbourhoods programme in order to gauge our success.

Engaging communities in decision making

Aim: To increase the extent to which local people understand and influence decisions in their locality.

Key Issues:

A strong, vibrant, neighbourhood is one where local people can exert a strong influence on the decisions that shape their community, the services they receive, and their quality of life. By enabling the development of such communities we can ensure their sustainability. This is why involving people in our decision making, and encouraging them to get involved in finding – and helping deliver –solutions in their own communities is a priority for us. Not just for its own sake, but as a fundamental part of the way we act in addressing all our key themes.

If we are to improve even further we need the involvement of residents, businesses, parish councils, voluntary and community groups in planning the way we deliver services, and through their own actions supporting the creation of a South Gloucestershire where we are all proud to live and work.

Community Engagement is the process by which organisations and individuals build ongoing, permanent relationships for the purpose of applying a collective vision for the benefit of the community. It is about encouraging and supporting local people to participate and be involved in decisions about local services and, in some cases, the delivery of such services.

Through our engagement activities we will increase the involvement of people in the life of their communities and in the decision making processes that affect their quality of life and the services they receive.

Through action and change to meet the needs of residents we will increase the confidence of local communities to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and service delivery by increasing the strength and capacity of the local community.

Parish and Town Councils are very locally based democratic organisations and can play an important role in helping to articulate local issues, and in responding to them.

Our surveys indicate that around a quarter of people like the availability of social and community activities nearby, particularly community meeting spaces and dedicated faith premises where these activities are offered.

Experience tells us that such centres are often best managed by dedicated groups of people from the neighbourhood, whether through Parish or Town Councils or simply local community activists who throw their energy and expertise into delivering something of value for their neighbours.

Local involvement in either owning or managing community facilities means they will better reflect local needs and may even be able to access additional funds, in short supply during a period of recession, to improve facilities.

The involvement of residents in decision making has involved consultation and engagement. Through this current strategy we will also be looking for local people to get involved in delivering their own solutions to local issues.

Actions 2014-2017

- Work with partners to provide a variety of accessible opportunities for individuals to come together with a sense of purpose to share skills, knowledge and experience

- improve our understanding of the diverse communities of South Gloucestershire, their needs and aspirations

- build local capacity and confidence to work constructively with partners to shape the issues associated with their communities

- enable people to take responsibility for and ownership of the action required to improve their quality of life

- listen to and learn from all sections of the community, particularly those who often miss or are excluded from engagement opportunities (the hardest to reach or hear)

- improve the co-ordination of engagement activities with partners.

- Ensure that people can influence local decisions through effective community engagement mechanisms and ensure this impacts on local policies, strategies, service delivery and the allocation of resources, reflecting local priorities, requirements and aspirations.

- Review the effectiveness of engagement and liaison mechanisms including Safer and Stronger Community groups; beat surgeries; etc.

Key measures of success:

- % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality.

Voluntary Organisations, Community Groups and Social Enterprises

Aim: To build strong voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises by stimulating the sector and strengthening resilience and robustness.

Key Issues:

Voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises support delivery of the other Themes in this strategy, as well as being a key Theme in their own right.

Independent, sustainable and diverse voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises play an essential part in the lives of our people and communities. Working to help old, young, disabled and the disadvantaged and providing a wide range of activities and services the sector reflects all that is best about our society.

Voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises are:

- Owned and run by local residents and/or representatives of local groups
- addressing the needs of the area in a multi-purpose, holistic way
- committed to the involvement of all sections of their community, including marginalised groups, and facilitate the development of communities in their area.

In our area voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises can be anything from a small self help group to the local branch of a national charity. Whatever the structure they will normally involve local people with local knowledge and specialist skills to provide services. For example, many health charities are staffed or managed by former or even current sufferers, meaning they have that extra bit of experience which training and money alone cannot provide.

In many cases such organisations have built world class expertise in their field of interest. They can deliver services in such sectors as health, social care, youth work and environmental improvement. Using their expertise has major benefits:

- Services can be delivered more sensitively to those in need
- Specialist knowledge can bring better techniques and greater efficiency

There is ample evidence that the voluntary sector can be very successful in delivering services in the community. We are committed to their role in providing appropriate services because of their unique attributes of flexibility, creative and alternative thinking as well their special understanding of the clients needs.

The way in which the public sector and voluntary & community organisations work together is hugely important. Because of this we have developed a Compact between the public, voluntary and community sector which lays out a set of principles about how they will work to together in a way that is open, mutually supportive and yet respectful of differences where they occur.

The Compact is in part about listening, part about sharing and working together in common cause. It is about respecting the differences between sectors.

Recognising the importance of voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises, we will develop this sector, stimulating and strengthening it, building resilience and robustness, and trying to reduce its reliance on public sector support and funding. With support services provided by the local CVS and partners to enable voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises to develop their approach to diversifying income streams and sustainable funding.

Actions 2014-2017

- Refresh the Compact

- Increase awareness of the Compact within voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises; and within public sector signatories to the Compact

Key measures of success:

- Proportion of funding for voluntary and community sector organisations obtained from non-Council sources.

- The range of investment made by the public sector in grants and contracts;

- Opportunities to work together to co-produce services;

- An increased awareness of the Compact is reported by voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises

- An increased awareness of the Compact is reported by public sector signatories