



South Gloucestershire
**SAFER AND STRONGER
COMMUNITIES STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIP PLAN**

2022-25

SAFER AND STRONGER SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE PLAN 2022 - 25

South Gloucestershire is a safe place to live and work where we strive to continuously improve outcomes for residents and our communities, working together to support victims and survivors of crime, tackle the issues that cause most harm, and keep people safe.

This plan reflects views of our key partners, voluntary and community sector organisations and our communities. The purpose of the plan is to deliver key outcomes that benefit our communities and improve quality of life.

We recognise the challenges that lie ahead, and with that in mind, this plan aims to adopt an inclusive approach focussing on prevention and early intervention. We will focus on educating our children and young people to build strength and resilience for those most at risk of crime. In doing so, we aim to provide support to our most vulnerable people and their families and ensure that victims of crime receive the right help and support that they need.

A key priority for South Gloucestershire is to work towards closing the inequality gap. We have a key role to play in supporting this ambition by creating cohesive and strong communities, where crime and bad behaviour is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. There is no place for hate crime, sexual violence and violence against women and girls, which is why we have included these crime types as key priorities within this plan.

We have learnt much through our 'Public Health approach' to tackling serious violence and want to apply that learning and methodology to tackle the priorities in this plan. By using an evidence-based approach to tackle crime, we will better identify the root causes of these crime types which in turn will enable us to target precious resources effectively to best help our communities.

We will continue to listen to our residents, to hear the voices of victims of crime, adults, young people, and children. This will shape the work that we do in our continued attempts to bring long-term stability and a sense of pride and place in all our communities.



Councillor Leigh Ingham

Cabinet Member for Communities and Local Place, South Gloucestershire Council

Chair, Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership

As the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), my vision and ambition is for the police to have a culture of prevention to ensure that our communities feel reassured. One way I believe this can be achieved is through collaborative partnership work and our local authorities are one of the most important partners of policing.

Local authorities have legal duties relating to crime, anti-social behaviour, safeguarding, domestic abuse and many others. Some of this work is delivered through Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).

CSPs are a very important mechanism under which the police, your local authority and other agencies work together to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reoffending. These local plans, which have been developed by your CSP, are tailored to the policing and safety needs of your local area, so they will be an effective tool to support achieving the strategic aims of my Police and Crime Plan.

As your PCC, I will work closely with CSPs to implement these important plans and ensure prevention, which is the overriding goal, is the forefront of this collective so that you feel safe where you live.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Shelford', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mark Shelford

Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner

General approach of the Partnership and its Plan

The Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership fulfils the legal requirement for a Community Safety Partnership in South Gloucestershire as established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and Police Reform Act 2002. The primary purpose of the partnership is to co-ordinate and help deliver actions that support the development of safer and stronger communities within South Gloucestershire.

The statutory duties of the partnership are to:

- develop a strategic group to set and direct work for the partnership
- develop and monitor protocols for information sharing between partner agencies
- analyse a wide range of data to identify levels of crimes and patterns of crime to help set priorities through the Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment
- produce a three-year Community Safety Plan and review and monitor the progress of the partnership
- ensure regular community engagement and consultation with communities to identify resident priorities and their causes for concern
- produce a strategy to reduce recidivism (reoffending)
- commission Domestic Violence Homicide Reviews (DVHR)

The Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership is made up of a number of organisations including the Police and Crime Commissioner and Avon and Somerset Constabulary who work closely together to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and offending in South Gloucestershire. This involves protecting local residents by preventing these behaviours, not just responding when offences have been committed.

The election of a new Police and Crime Commissioner provides an appropriate stage to step back and determine the areas we will prioritise over the next 3 years.

The Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan for Avon and Somerset establishes the following 4 priorities

1. Preventing and fighting crime
2. Engaging, supporting and working with victims and partner organisations
3. Leading the police to be effective and efficient
4. Increasing the legitimacy of, and public confidence in, the police and Criminal Justice System

This plan identifies the areas within the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Plan we will concentrate on achieving locally.

Inevitably resources are not infinite and in order to maximise impact, the partnership will prioritise use of the resources available in a limited number of areas. This plan also serves as the local Police and Crime Plan for South Gloucestershire. It sets the strategy that the partners will employ to tackle the most important community safety issues locally for the period June 2022- March 2025.

Other issues and crime types will continue to be addressed but work in those areas will largely be carried out by individual agencies. The partnership as a body will concentrate its joint efforts on this smaller number of key priorities and on overseeing delivery to ensure we achieve our desired outcomes to the benefit of local communities and individuals.

Priorities

It is important to recognise that in general South Gloucestershire is a safe place to live. Crime is low and our communities are strong. This plan is about how we will keep that pattern locally.

The priorities selected for this plan have been selected on the basis of the harm they cause individuals and communities; their levels; and whether those are increasing or decreasing. All align with the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025.

The priorities are:

1. Preventing sexual violence / violence against women and girls
2. Preventing domestic violence and abuse
3. Preventing hate crime

To address the three priority areas we will apply a similar method to each. This will mirror the Public Health approach to youth violence employed by the Violence Reduction Partnership:

- a) Conducting a full needs assessment to understand the full picture of the problem
- b) A tiered programme of guidance, support and education, together with proactive intervention/enforcement on a targeted basis with the small number of people who are committing most offences/causing most harm
- c) Appropriate help and support to those who are victims of these crimes

Given the close links between different topics, some of the work carried out will deliberately address more than one subject. It is designed as a 3-year programme, so actions will cover that full period with a different emphasis as we progress.

We will look to mainstream activity as much as possible so work can continue at the end of the period with reduced funding.

Additional funding which can be accessed by members of the Partnership will therefore be sought wherever possible. We also need to engage with external agencies including business and sports clubs to build momentum.

Meetings of the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership will review the overall position, delivery and outcomes of each of these priorities in turn.

Priority 1: Preventing sexual violence and violence against women and girls

Introduction

Serious sexual offences include a wide range of crimes and are defined as an act of physical, psychological, and emotional violation in the form of a sexual act, inflicted on any person without their consent. Put simply it is any kind of unwanted sexual act or activity.

We acknowledge the role of children's safeguarding services and the police in leading work to deal with cases involving children, and will support them in their efforts. Through this Police and Crime Plan priority we will lead work to address the following serious sexual offences, including in public spaces:

- Rape of anyone aged 16 and over
- Serious sexual assault
- Sexual grooming
- Exposure and voyeurism
- Causing sexual activity without consent
- Sexual activity with a person unable to provide their consent due to physical or mental health conditions that impact their mental capacity

Levels of these offences are low in South Gloucestershire compared to other areas, but have been growing, and increased by 48% between 2017 and 2021. We know that the fear of this type of crime has a major influence on the feelings of safety of our residents.

We acknowledge that some people have been both perpetrators and victims / survivors of sexual violence.

We will take account of sexual violence against men as well, though this is a small proportion of the reported offences that take place. Focussing on male violence against women and girls does not in any way detract from the fact that people of any sex or gender can be an offender or victim, nor is it meant to minimise anybody's experience as a victim. Many of the improvements made as a result of focused work in this area will benefit all victims.

The term 'violence against women and girls' refers to acts of violence, abuse and harassment that we know disproportionately affect women and girls. There is a link between this and escalation into sexual violence and we will work to break that chain and make South Gloucestershire a safer place for women to live, and our public places safer for them to be in. Our activity will therefore include a range of actions to reduce unwanted sexual activity, and to increase public confidence especially in public places.

Objectives

Objective	How we will know this is being achieved
To reduce the prevalence of serious sexual offences	Number of serious sexual offences reported
To increase confidence in reporting cases of sexual violence	Reduction in the gap between cases reported to the police and those reported in the National Crime Survey
Commit and act to allow women and girls to live free from violence and harassment	Harassment cases reported to the police
	Percentage of women feeling safe outside in the local area during the day
	Percentage of women feeling safe outside in the local area at night
	Adoption and implementation of a local Safety Charter
Educate young people to stop future sexual violence / violence against women and girls	School pupils' awareness of violence against women and girls as measured through the online pupil survey

Actions

Short term

Medium term

Longer term

Conduct a full needs' assessment to understand the full picture of the problem including the factors that increase the risks of someone becoming a victim or perpetrator		
Develop a programme to target licensed premises and events where sexual violence is more likely to take place	Begin a programme of work with pub/nightclub licensees and relevant event organisers to address sexual violence	Continue programme of work with pub/nightclub licensees and relevant event organisers to address sexual violence
Develop and agree a local Women's Safety Charter	Provide support and training to businesses to enable them to identify and address risks to women and girls	Continue support and training to businesses to enable them to identify and address risks to women and girls
Identify repeat perpetrators and take action to change their behaviours	Continue to take action against repeat perpetrators	Continue to take action against repeat perpetrators
Develop material for schools and begin education programme	Continue education programme	Complete education programme
Seek funding to reduce the waiting list for victims of serious sexual assault to receive specialist expert support		

Priority 2: Preventing domestic violence and abuse

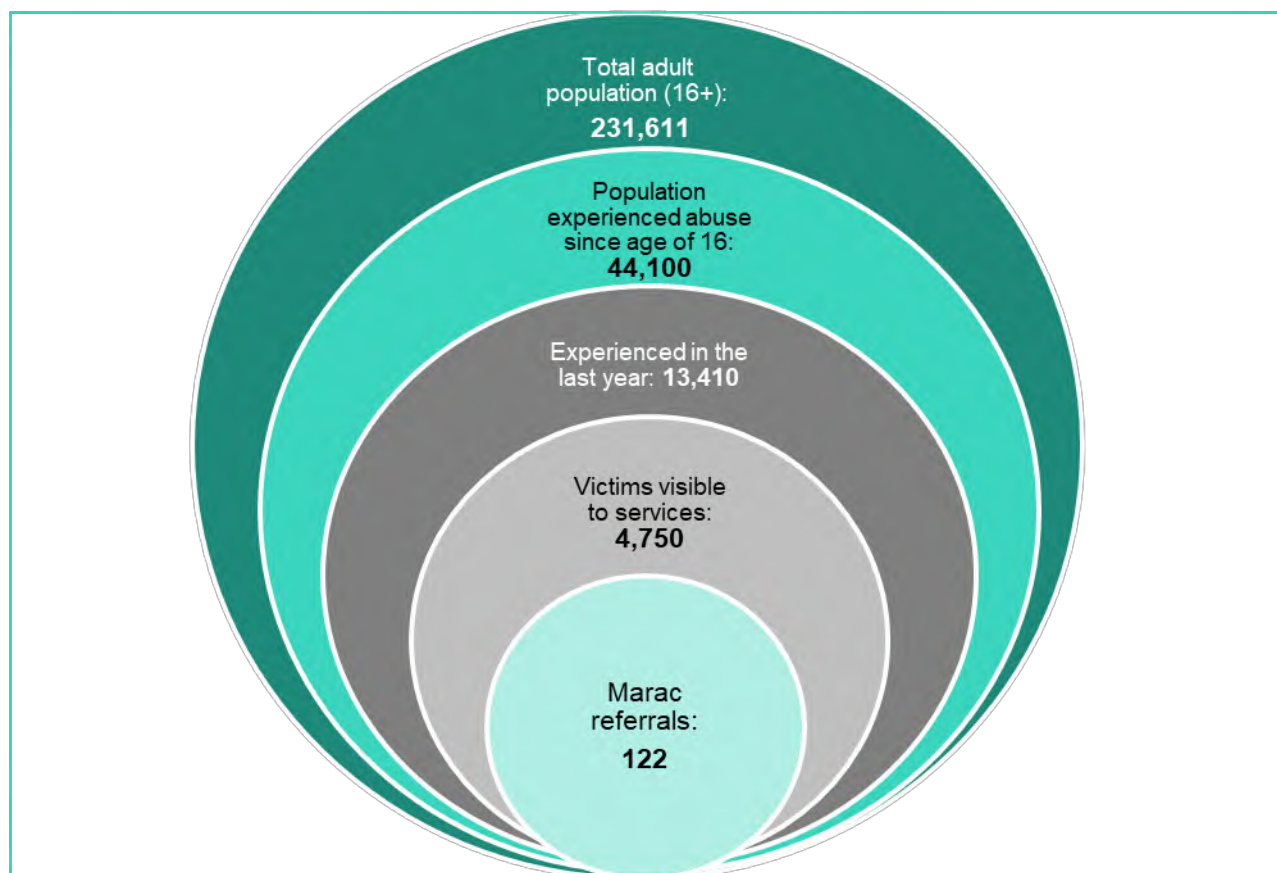
Introduction

The behaviour of one person towards another is “domestic abuse” if both are each aged 16 or over and they are personally connected to each other, and the behaviour is abusive. Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following:

- physical or sexual abuse
- violent or threatening behaviour
- controlling or coercive behaviour
- economic abuse
- psychological, emotional or other abuse

and it does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.

Levels of domestic abuse are notoriously difficult to accurately assess, as so many incidents are not reported to the police or partners. However, using estimated prevalence based on national data adjusted to the local population level, and the Crime Survey for England and Wales (2020) prevalence ratios, we estimate around **44,100 people living in South Gloucestershire will have experienced domestic abuse over their lifetime**. On an annual basis, this equates to 13,410 individuals every year who experience domestic abuse (both familial and intimate partner violence).



This figure for the number of people in South Gloucestershire each year who experience domestic abuse includes:

- 2,850 young people between 16-24 (around one fifth of these will be 16-17 year olds)
- 2,650 individuals over the age of 60
- 9,060 female, and 4,350 male victims
- 1,660 victims within the LGB+ community
- 272 pregnant women

840 from different minority ethnic backgrounds

Objectives

Objective	How we will know this is being achieved
To reduce the prevalence of domestic violence and abuse	Number of victims reporting domestic violence or abuse to the police
Improve public awareness of domestic violence and abuse and how to safely report it	Reduction in the gap between cases reported to the police and those reported in the National Crime Survey
	Regular survey of awareness
To change the behaviours of those committing domestic violence and abuse	Number of reported domestic violence and abuse incidents prevented in the 13 weeks after user joins the Drive programme
	Number of Domestic Violence Protection Orders issued; number breached
To provide appropriate and accessible support to victims of domestic violence and abuse	Commission services for victims including Safe Accommodation Services (Refuge); Independent Domestic Violence Advisers, and support services, which are accessible to all
	Repeat victimisation rate following Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) for vulnerable victims
Educate young people to stop future domestic violence and abuse	School pupils' awareness of domestic violence and of services as measured through the online pupil survey

Actions

Short term

Medium term

Longer term

Introduce programme for medium risk perpetrators	Support more people to reduce the harm they cause	Support more people to reduce the harm they cause
Review impact of DRIVE high-harm domestic abuse perpetrators programme and take a decision on its future provision		
Embed lessons from MARAC review		
Conduct publicity campaign to raise public awareness of domestic violence and abuse and how to safely report it	Target publicity at communities we have not engaged well with	Continue publicity, targeting as needed
	Introduce new service for victims of domestic violence and abuse to include safe accommodation and holistic support	
Develop material for schools and begin education programme	Continue education programme	Complete education programme

Priority 3: Preventing hate crime

Hate crime is damaging, not only to victims, but to their friends, families, and to community cohesion.

A hate crime is where the victim of a crime or an incident believes they have been targeted because of their personal characteristics. They do not have to justify or provide evidence in support of this belief.

The police monitor hate crime related to:

- disability
- race
- religion
- sexual orientation
- gender
- transgender identity

The number of hate crimes reported remains below the level recorded in other areas of Avon and Somerset (calculated 404 reports in 2021) but we are concerned in particular that this figure continues to rise year-on-year. We are including it in this plan to stop that continuing upwards trajectory.

Of the hate crimes reported in 2021, 25% involved verbal harassment; 8% malicious communications and 6% physical assault.

As a partnership we know that hate-related incidents, even if they are not recorded as crimes, have a big impact both on the mental health of the victims, and on the confidence of communities. We also know that many victims are not confident about appropriate action being taken in response to reported hate crimes and incidents. We will therefore not only be addressing reported hate crimes, but will also look to reduce hate incidents, and to build confidence in the response to hate-related crimes and incidents.

Objectives

Objective	How we will know this is being achieved
To reduce the prevalence of hate crime	Number of victims reporting hate crime or abuse to the police or to partners organisations
Improve public confidence in our response to hate crime	Reduction in the gap between cases reported to the police and those reported in the National Crime Survey;
	Reduction in the gap between cases reported to the police and those reported solely to partner organisations
To change the behaviours of those committing hate crime	Number of repeat offences committed by those on a perpetrators programme we intend to introduce
Educate young people to stop future hate	School pupils' reports of hate crime as

crime	measured through the online pupil survey
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Actions

Short term

Medium term

Longer term

Conduct a full needs assessment to understand the full picture of the problem including the factors that increase the risks of someone becoming a victim or perpetrator	Engage with equality groups and understand perceptions and barriers to reporting. Revise programme in line with results	Review progress with our equality groups
Review satisfaction of 100 victims of hate crime with the response when this was reported and revise processes in line with the results		
Develop perpetrator programme for those engaged in hate crime	Develop perpetrator programme for those committing hate crime	Develop perpetrator programme for those committing hate crime
Identify any serial perpetrators and target direct intervention	Continue to target direct intervention with serial perpetrators	Continue to target direct intervention with serial perpetrators
Commission increased support for victims of hate crime	Continue case work support with victims of hate crime	Continue case work support with victims of hate crime
Prepare and conduct community cohesion programme celebrating diversity	Continue community cohesion programme	Continue community cohesion programme
Prepare and conduct communication programme on reporting hate crime	Continue communication programme on reporting hate crime	Continue communication programme on reporting hate crime
Develop material for schools and begin education programme	Continue education programme	Continue education programme