

SOUTH WILTSHIRE STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

About the Partnership

The South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance was conceived as a local initiative originally to support community planning. It has been in existence since May 1998.

The Partnership covers the boundary of Salisbury district council. There are 20 community areas within the boundary of Wiltshire County Council, and these nest within District areas. There are 6 community areas within the boundary of Salisbury District Council. The community areas were identified by local historian Dr John Chandler and reflect the strong demographic and historical ties that create a sense of belonging. Various agencies have been realigning service delivery to reflect the community area boundaries over the last five years. This has succeeded in achieving a high degree of co-terminosity.

The Health Authority, District Council and County Council have been instrumental in setting up the Partnership. Wiltshire County Council and Salisbury District Council both active members of partnership.

Members of the Partnership

The members of the Partnership are:

- Salisbury District Council
- Wiltshire County Council
- South Wiltshire PCT
- Salisbury & District NHS Trust
- South Wiltshire Economic Partnership
- Wiltshire Constabulary
- South Wiltshire Agenda 21 Forum
- Wiltshire Wildlife
- Salisbury College
- South Wiltshire Council for Voluntary Service
- South Wiltshire Community Health Council
- Churches Together
- Environment Agency
- Government Office of the South West.
- Churches Together
- Environment Agency
- Government Office South West.

Aims and Objectives of the Partnership

The scope and purpose can be clarified through:

- the adoption of a vision for Salisbury and South Wiltshire
- a clear remit for the South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance (and its' meetings)

- the development of a strategic framework for the district containing priorities and key issues for inter agency working (above the community level)
- clear organisation and planning of meetings.

A Vision for Salisbury and South Wiltshire

The following vision is adopted for the area:

We want to make Salisbury and South Wiltshire:

“A safe and caring place, which is easy to get about and where value for money services contribute to a high quality of life and environment, with opportunities for all.”

Remit for the South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance

The remit of the South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance is:

“To deliver community priorities that only partnership working can achieve.”

The South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance comprises:

A Board and an Implementation Team.

The Board would comprise elected Councillors and lay representatives. The purpose of the Board would be to set priorities/targets for the South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance. It will meet three times a year. At the first meeting in any year, draft priorities/ targets will be agreed. Following the meeting each member of the Board will seek support from their own organisations to the adoption of the proposed priorities/targets and their contribution to achieving them. At the second meeting the priorities/targets will be confirmed and the Strategic Framework set for the Implementation Team. The third meeting, in the spring will be hosting a conference for all partnerships in the district to evaluate progress.

The Board elects the chair initially for 18 months and subsequently annually. The Implementation Team and a South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance Co-ordinator, (provided by SDC-presently Debbie Dixon) will support the Board

The Implementation Team will comprise the Chief Executive (or most senior employee) of the individual South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance organisations. The Implementation Team will meet 6 times a year, with each meeting having a clear focus (e.g. –Preparation of annual target setting for the Board, monitoring progress on current targets, identification of training /knowledge needs and sharing of best practice, annual conference for all partnerships in the district, developing new initiatives/bids, annual consultation programme).

Implementation meetings will be open to Board members if they wished to attend. A Chair is initially elected for 18 months and subsequently annually, supported by the South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance Co-ordinator.

The operation of the Partnership

The Partnership has a rotating chair. The organisation represented by the chair provides the secretariat, including the funding for the secretariat. The Partnership meets three times a year.

The Partnership has a board and separate implementation team. The board acts in effect as an Executive body. It undertakes the following:

- develops project ideas that contribute to the objectives of the Partnership

- monitors and reviews projects
- shares information on respective strategies from each of the organisations to facilitate joined up working
- reviews the effectiveness of the Partnership to ensure it constantly responds to the changing needs of the member organisations.

The Implementation team is responsible for setting the work programme performance targets and for monitoring progress. The Implementation team meets six times a year.

The Partnership has 4 themed sub-groups. These are as follows:

- community planning
- social inclusion
- rural transport
- information and communications technology.

The Partnership has recently completed a review of its structure and operation. Elected member representation is being sought, work is underway to rationalise existing partnerships and plans and it is likely that in the future membership will be widened considerably with an executive accountable to a standing annual conference.

The Partnership feeds back to the local community through the joint Best Value Plan, the community planning process and the South Wiltshire Citizen Council newspaper.

Elected member involvement

The Leader of the Council is a member of the LSP. Elected member involvement in the work of the LSP has included:

- Steering direction of the partnership.
- Supporting and enabling community planning.
- Leading and contributing to all partnerships.

Voluntary and community sector involvement

The voluntary and community sector representatives on the Partnership are from umbrella organisations providing services to the community. Hence, there are representatives from the Council for Voluntary Service, the Community Health Council and Churches Together.

In addition to the membership of the overall Partnership, there are project groups, task groups, and Community Planning Teams which have the involvement of the voluntary and community sectors.

Business Sector involvement

The business sector is represented on the Partnership by the South Wiltshire Economic Partnership. This is the umbrella organisation for business in the area.

Parish Council involvement

Parish Councils have no direct involvement on the LSP, but they are key partners on local community planning groups and other partnerships (e.g. Community Safety).

Links with neighbourhood based partnerships

The Partnership has set up six community planning teams - one in each community area. These teams draw in front line staff from the various agencies involved and report back to the overall Partnership.

Links with sub-regional partnerships

The links between the Partnership and sub-regional partnerships are not yet formally established

Improvement in Services

Improvements brought about as a result of the Partnership's work include:

- A Foyer project for young people
- Better links between health and community planning
- Improved community safety
- A shelter for the Homeless.

The County Council's PSA targets will be considered within the partnerships overall priorities and targets.

Accountability

The partners are jointly accountable for achieving the Partnership's Community Plan targets. All partners are signed up to these targets. Each partner has its own executive management structure and the partners report back to their own organisations.

Salisbury District Council has commissioned a scrutiny panel of members to examine the effectiveness of the Partnership.

An Independent review of the partnership has recently been completed by IDeA.

Relationship between the Partnership and other partnerships

The relationship between the overall Partnership and other partnerships such as the Community Legal Services partnership and Crime and Disorder Partnerships is under active consideration at present.

It is proposed that the management and operation of the Community Safety Partnership will be undertaken by the Joint Partnership Team.

The Partnership is currently establishing a joint partnership team co-located and co-managed of dedicated staff to support the delivery of priorities. The current proposals are designed to collectively agree priorities and targets for action, which will relate to all organisations and partnerships.

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