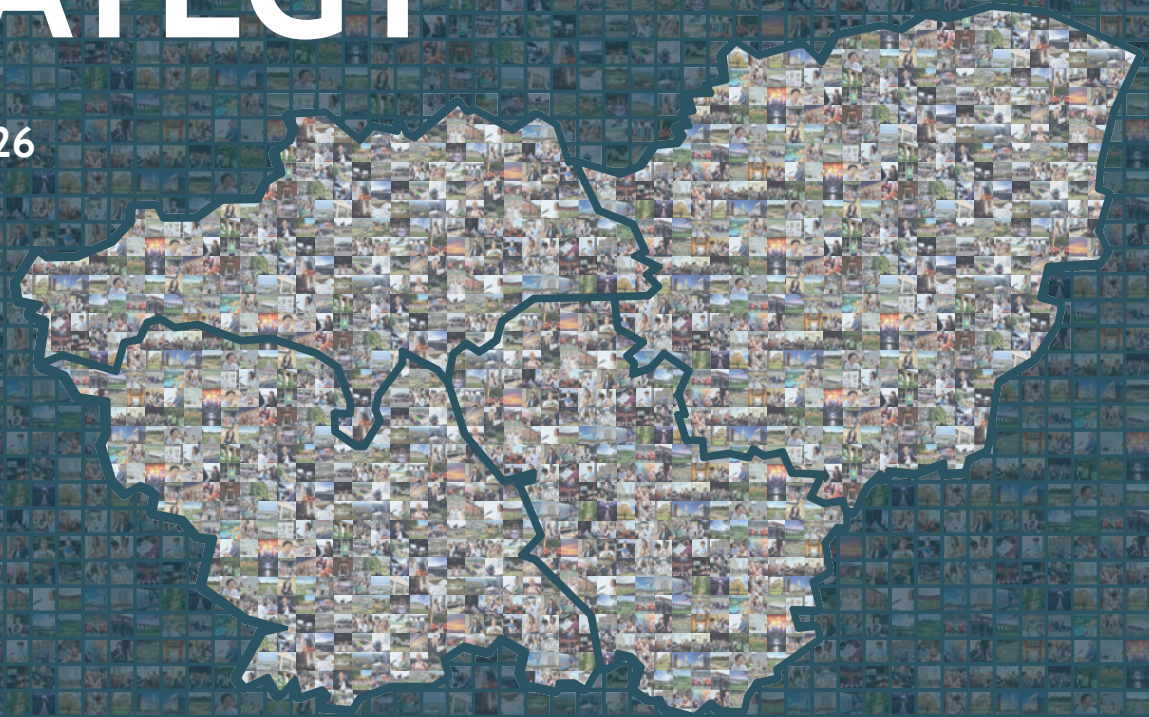


SOUTH YORKSHIRE STRATEGY

SEPTEMBER 2026



Contents

Foreword 3

About South Yorkshire..... 5

Your Views. Our Future 6

How local people helped shape the
South Yorkshire Strategy

Shared Ambition. Shared Success..... 10

Improving lives today while building the future
we want to see

Turning Ambition into Action..... 14

The steps we will take together to deliver lasting
change for South Yorkshire

South Yorkshire Strategies and Plans

Together. For South Yorkshire..... 27

How organisations will work together to deliver
the South Yorkshire Strategy

Organisations involved in developing and
delivering the South Yorkshire Strategy

Foreword



South Yorkshire is one of the UK's most distinctive regions: home to world-leading advanced manufacturing, nationally significant clean energy assets, internationally recognised universities, growing cultural and creative industries, and communities with immense strengths and deep pride. We are already leading in areas such as transport reform, neighbourhood health innovation, clean growth, and skills investment. Our challenge is not whether South Yorkshire can succeed, but how we ensure **every place and every person** benefits from that success.

Across our towns, cities, and communities, we see remarkable talent and resilience, and a shared determination to build a better future. Yet we also recognise that our region faces long standing challenges including deep and persistent inequalities in health, opportunity, income, and place

that demand sustained commitment and collective action.

The South Yorkshire Strategy will help us so we can build a bigger, better, and more resilient economy that creates opportunities, raises productivity, attracts investment, and enables more people to share in prosperity. It will align partners from across South Yorkshire - Local Authorities, the Mayoral Combined Authority, the NHS, universities and colleges, emergency services, businesses, trade unions, and the voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector – **around a united vision** for the years ahead.

Significant work is already underway across the region: improving public transport and connectivity; investing in healthier, fairer communities; strengthening skills and

education; accelerating innovation and clean growth; and broadening opportunities so that everyone can stay near and go far – all part of our South Yorkshire Growth Plan. The South Yorkshire Strategy will bring those efforts together alongside other work in our region, ensuring every pound, every project, and every partnership delivers the **greatest possible impact**.

Delivering our ambition will mean coordinating our plans right across South Yorkshire and removing the barriers that hold our region back. We will ensure every person and every business can access opportunity and thrive in a region where people want to live, work, invest, and visit.

By working collaboratively, transparently, and with shared purpose, we can make progress that people will see and feel – through stronger communities, better services, and an economy that works for everyone. By acting earlier, preventing problems from escalating and investing in resilience, we can improve lives while reducing avoidable demand on public

services and ensuring scarce resources are focused where they are needed most.

The Strategy is not a top-down plan. Decisions will continue to be made locally, by the people and organisations who know their communities best. Our collective regional role is to connect, support, and accelerate that work – helping every place in South Yorkshire to fulfil its potential.

Together, we can make South Yorkshire a place where people can stay near and go far, the healthiest region in the country, and where we can grow ever more connected, confident, and proud of our future. **When South Yorkshire works together, we achieve more.**

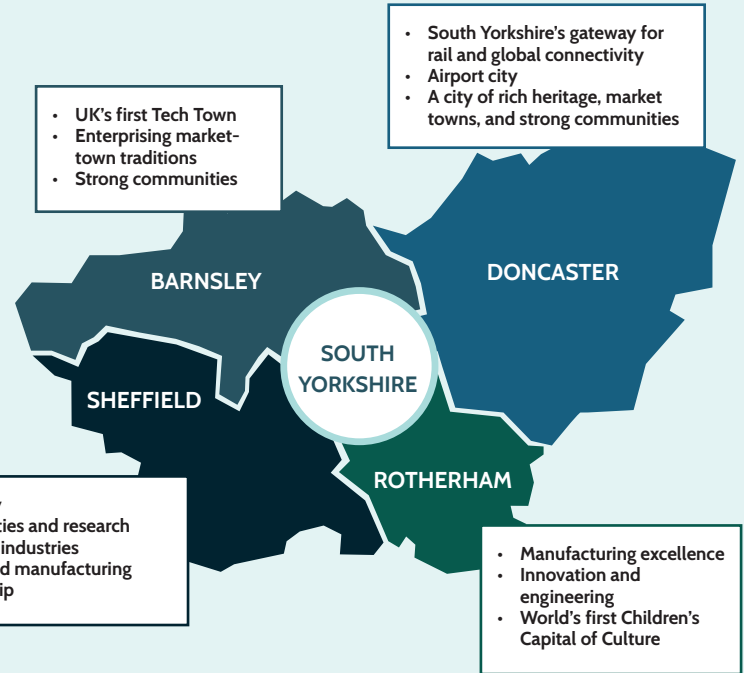
**When South
Yorkshire
works
together,
we achieve
more.**

About South Yorkshire

Four distinct places. One South Yorkshire.

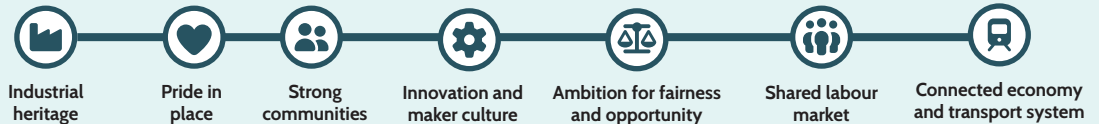
Our diversity is a strength, and by working together we can achieve more than any place can alone.

Growth Areas



- Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District
- Barnsley's digital and tech growth
- Sheffield's innovation, culture, and universities
- Strong VCFSE sector
- National parks and green assets
- Cultural and sporting strengths

What unites us



Your Views. Our Future.

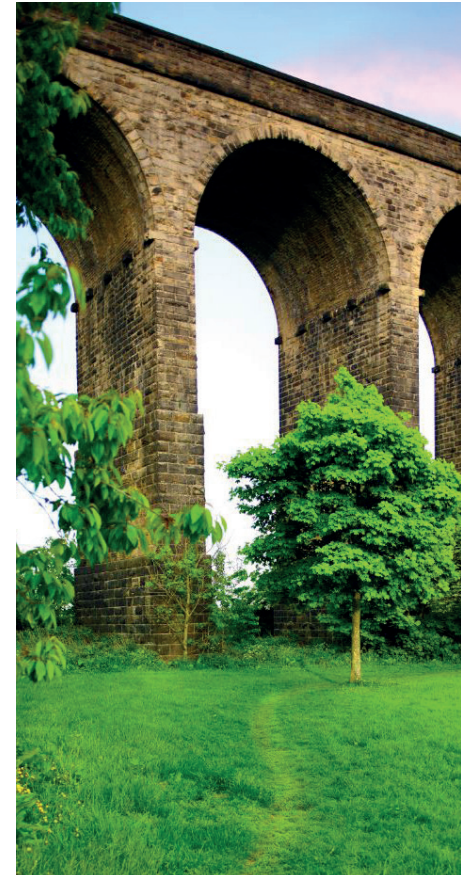
How local people helped shape the South Yorkshire Strategy.

This strategy sets out a shared vision for South Yorkshire. It reflects what local people have told us matters most and provides a common framework for organisations to work towards shared goals. By aligning efforts and priorities, it helps focus action on the changes that will make the greatest difference to local people.

South Yorkshire faces significant, interconnected challenges and opportunities. These include widening access to opportunity, improving health and wellbeing, tackling safety concerns, creating good jobs in a changing economy, restoring pride in our towns and neighbourhoods, and responding to the urgent pressures of climate change and energy security.

Our aim is to improve outcomes for people, businesses, and communities by creating opportunity, improving health, strengthening communities, and helping our economy grow. The strategy recognises that lasting change depends on strong partnerships and a continued commitment to listening to the experiences, needs, and aspirations of local people.

Led by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and developed with partners across Local Authorities, the NHS, education, community safety services, businesses, trade unions, and the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector, the strategy builds on the strong foundations already in place across the region. Rather than replacing existing plans, it connects them, identifies shared priorities, and supports a more coordinated approach to delivering change.



The strategy has been informed by engagement undertaken by partners across Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, and Sheffield, including region-wide consultations, Local Authority engagement activities, community conversations and feedback from people, businesses, and community organisations. People consistently said they want South Yorkshire to be a place where everyone can succeed, feel proud of where they live, stay healthy, travel easily, and have a genuine voice in shaping the future. Many people described very different experiences of opportunity, health, and prosperity depending on where they live and their personal circumstances. Reducing these inequalities is central to achieving our ambitions.

Combined with evidence, existing strategies and the expertise of partners across the region, these insights have informed **three long-term ambitions** that describe the future we want to create together. They provide a clear focus for decision-making, investment and collective action to build a **bigger, better, economy**.

A photograph of a large industrial manufacturing facility. In the foreground, a yellow robotic arm is mounted on a red base, positioned over a conveyor system. In the background, there are large blue and white industrial machines, including one with the 'Langeauner' logo. Yellow overhead cranes are visible at the top of the frame. The floor is grey concrete, and there are various cables and pipes running across it. A black safety fence is in the immediate foreground.

Building a
bigger, better,
economy.

Building a bigger, better economy			
Ambition Statements	Outcome Area		
1. Every person in South Yorkshire can stay near and go far		Skills and Opportunity	A good start in life with improved educational achievement, and all people having the support and gaining the skills they need throughout life to access opportunities and reach their potential
		Enterprise and Good Work	Thriving and productive existing, and new, enterprises and sectors supported to grow and innovate for the future and offer good employment and a fair wage
2. South Yorkshire is the healthiest region in the country		Health	A healthier South Yorkshire with a focus on wellbeing, longer healthy lives, and excellent care
		Communities	Safer and more vibrant, cohesive, resilient communities in which people have pride to look after themselves, each other, and their local environment, and where everyone is welcome and belongs
		Housing	Access to affordable, warm, quality housing for everyone
3. Every community is connected and proud of its place		Connections	Fast, affordable, safe, and reliable transport and digital connections to jobs, leisure, and health opportunities
		Place	Vibrant and resilient places to live and do business, with thriving cultural, sporting, and leisure offers, and diverse public spaces
		Sustainability	A more sustainable South Yorkshire with reduced carbon emissions, more affordable and sustainable energy sources, a greater resilience to climate impacts, and reduced risk of flooding



What you told us and how it shaped the strategy

What you told us	How it shaped the strategy	What you told us	How it shaped the strategy
"Support people into good, well-paid employment to alleviate poverty." Rotherham voluntary and community sector organisations, Council Plan 2025 consultation (2024)	 Skills and Opportunity People wanted support into good, well-paid employment, better Apprenticeship pathways and more opportunities tailored to individual needs. Helped shape the focus on inclusive growth, good work, skills development and reducing barriers to employment, supporting the Ambition that every person in South Yorkshire can stay near and go far.	"Affordable housing is the biggest concern for my family." Rotherham Housing Strategy consultation participant	 Housing People saw affordable housing as fundamental to staying in their communities and building a good life. Shaped the strategy's recognition of housing as a foundation for health, prosperity, and opportunity.
"We need better quality jobs, Apprenticeship, and training opportunities." Doncaster residents and businesses	 Enterprise and Good Work People wanted more good-quality jobs, Apprenticeships, and clearer pathways into work. Helped shape the focus on inclusive growth, good work, skills pathways, and business development.	"Public transport is unreliable and affects our daily lives." Doncaster resident, neighbourhood engagement.	 Connections People felt poor transport limited access to work, education, healthcare and social opportunities. Directly supports the Ambition that every community is connected, with a focus on transport and digital connectivity.
Residents consistently linked culture to "Mental health, wellbeing, emotional resilience, belonging, and social connection." Barnsley culture and community participants	 Health People described wellbeing as being about belonging, connection, culture, and purpose, not just healthcare services. Reinforced the ambition for South Yorkshire to become the healthiest region in the UK, with a strong focus on prevention, wellbeing and, social connection.	"I'd rather do it somewhere like this where there's other things going on." Sheffield participant discussing community venues and local hubs, local engagement activity.	 Place People wanted vibrant local centres and community hubs where they could connect with others and access multiple opportunities and services. Reinforced the importance of vibrant centres, mixed-use places and, neighbourhood infrastructure within the strategy.
"Barnsley does have a great sense of community, and I think that's its biggest selling point" Barnsley resident, Pride in Place consultation (2025)	 Communities People wanted to protect and strengthen the sense of belonging and community spirit that defines many South Yorkshire communities. Informed the strategy's emphasis on community power, inclusion, belonging, and social capital.	"It seems to have generated this, almost pride, in making a difference, and being a part of a community." Sheffield participant reflecting on local involvement and environmental improvement, Sheffield Big Conversation participant	 Sustainability People wanted action that improves neighbourhoods, creates pride and enables people to play a role in shaping greener futures. Strengthened the strategy's focus on sustainability as something done with communities, linking climate action, civic pride, and place stewardship.

Shared Ambition. Shared Success.

Improving lives today while building
the future we want to see.



A young boy with light brown hair, wearing a red football jersey, black shorts, and red and white striped socks, is running on a green artificial turf field. He is looking down and to his left. In the background, there is a red fence and a building with large windows.

Ambition 1

Every person in South Yorkshire can stay near and go far

Our long-term ambition is that South Yorkshire is a place where every child and young person can flourish, where talent is nurtured and opportunity is within reach for all, and where our economy works for everyone. We are seeking to build the bigger and better economy our region needs and has the potential to achieve. That means an economy that is larger and more productive, attracts investment, supports innovation, strengthens our competitive advantage in globally significant sectors, and makes real progress on decarbonisation and reducing inequality. All partners from across the public, private, VCFSE, and trade union sectors have a vital role to play in this.

To deliver real change now while building a path towards this ambition, we will build on South Yorkshire's strengths in advanced manufacturing, clean energy, life sciences, defence, digital and technology, and the creative industries to create good jobs, attract new investment, and expand opportunity. Work already underway through the South Yorkshire Growth Plan provides strong foundations for accelerating growth in these sectors and across our wider business base. This means helping children and young people get the best possible start in life, supporting people to develop skills throughout their lives, backing local businesses to innovate and grow, and ensuring that the benefits of growth are felt across every city, town, and village in South Yorkshire.

To do this we have identified two Outcome Areas:

- **Skills and Opportunity** - A good start in life with improved educational achievement, and all people having the support and gaining the skills they need, throughout life, to access opportunities and reach their potential.
- **Enterprise and Good Work** - Thriving and productive existing, and new, enterprises and sectors supported to grow and innovate for the future and offer good employment and a fair wage.

Ambition 2

South Yorkshire is the healthiest region in the country

Our long-term ambition is that South Yorkshire is the healthiest region in the country, enabling everyone to lead healthier lives and realise their full potential. We have a unique opportunity to become the UK's leading region for prevention, neighbourhood health, and tackling health inequalities. We know that health is shaped not only by healthcare services but also by where we live, the jobs we do, and the opportunities available to us.

To deliver real change now while building a path towards this ambition we will tackle the root causes of poor health, from housing and employment to, education and community safety, in a joined-up way. By addressing these wider determinants of health, we can reduce avoidable illness and the demands placed on individuals, families, communities, and public services. This means creating stronger, safer neighbourhoods, improving access to good-quality housing, and ensuring that health outcomes are not determined by where people live or how much they earn, so that everyone has the opportunity to live well.

To do this we have identified three Outcome Areas:

- **Health** - A healthier South Yorkshire with a focus on wellbeing, longer healthy lives, and excellent care.
- **Communities** - Safer and more vibrant, cohesive, resilient communities in which people have pride to look after themselves, each other, and their local environment and where everyone is welcome and belongs.
- **Housing** - Access to affordable, warm, quality housing for everyone.

Ambition 3

Every community is connected and proud of its place

Our long-term ambition is that South Yorkshire is seamlessly connected with reliable, affordable public transport and digital networks that link people to jobs and learning, leisure and health services, and each other.

We know that transport and digital access shape how we live and work. To deliver real change now while building a path towards this ambition, we will transform transport, improve digital connectivity and invest in a more sustainable South Yorkshire. This means reliable public transport, fast and affordable digital access, cleaner air, and creating places where people want to live, work, and visit.

To do this we have identified three Outcome Areas:

- **Connections** - Fast, affordable, safe, and reliable transport and digital connections to jobs, leisure, and health opportunities.
- **Place** - Vibrant and resilient places to live and do business, with thriving cultural, sporting, and leisure offers, and diverse public spaces.
- **Sustainability** - A more sustainable South Yorkshire with reduced carbon emissions, more affordable and sustainable energy sources, a greater resilience to climate impacts, and reduced risk of flooding.

Turning Ambition
into Action.



Turning Ambition into Action.

The steps we will take together to deliver lasting change for South Yorkshire.

The Ambitions and Outcome Areas drawn from regional plans and consultations provide a basis for understanding **what success could look like** for people's lives by 2035 and where effort needs to be focused to achieve it.

While 2035 sets the long-term direction of travel, it is important that progress can be seen and felt much sooner. The following tables outline examples of the changes people can expect to see by 2027 and 2030 across each Outcome Area, **demonstrating how current activity is contributing to the longer-term ambitions** for 2035. These examples are not intended to provide a comprehensive account of all activity taking place across South Yorkshire.

Instead, they illustrate key areas of regional action, alongside opportunities to learn from and build on work taking place within individual boroughs.

The **interconnected nature** of the Ambitions and Outcome Areas is also highlighted, recognising that progress in one area can contribute to outcomes in others. These relationships will continue to develop as understanding grows and delivery partners work together to maximise impact across South Yorkshire. Delivering the Ambitions will require a culture shift that fosters **stronger cross-sector** collaboration and better alignment of strategies and plans, enabling partners to work together on shared priorities.

A clear approach to monitoring and evaluation will support delivery of the strategy. For each of the 2035 ambitions,

a headline measure has been identified to help assess whether the long-term outcomes are being achieved. However, recognising that change at this scale takes time, a wider set of supporting measures will also be used to **track progress** towards these ambitions and provide earlier indications of whether South Yorkshire is moving in the right direction.

Partners will work together to further develop the measures and agree the expected trajectory for each one, including the scale and pace of change required to achieve the 2035 ambitions. Measures will also be developed to understand **how effectively organisations are working together** as a system to deliver shared outcomes across South Yorkshire.

Monitoring will draw on data from **across partner organisations and communities**



and will look beyond headline results to understand how outcomes vary between places and different groups of people. This will help identify where progress is being made, where inequalities persist, and where additional focus or different approaches may be needed. Success will not only be judged by average improvements across South Yorkshire, but **by how far we narrow the gaps between places and population groups.**

The strategy also recognises that some themes cut across all three Ambitions and more than one Outcome Area. For example, a safe and secure South Yorkshire is fundamental to delivering our vision, with feelings of **safety** in both public and private spaces underpinning health and wellbeing, economic growth, investment, community confidence, and social cohesion. Alongside this, **culture, creativity, heritage, sport and physical activity, sustainability,** and **inclusion** all contribute to multiple outcomes and help create wider benefits for people, communities and places.

Monitoring will therefore consider not only progress against individual ambitions and measures, but also the contribution these cross-cutting themes make to improving outcomes across South Yorkshire.

Together, this approach will provide an open and honest assessment of progress towards the 2035 ambitions, improve understanding of what is driving change, and help partners identify where collective action needs to be strengthened to **achieve the outcomes** set out in this strategy.

**Progress
must be seen
and felt much
sooner than
2035.**

Ambition 1 Every person in South Yorkshire can stay near and go far

Outcome Area	By 2035 we want to be seeing	To do that we know we need to focus on	By 2030 you will see	Examples of things you will see by 2027
Skills and Opportunity A good start in life with improved educational achievement, and all people having the support and gaining the skills they need, throughout life, to access opportunities and reach their potential.	• More children equipped with the skills and confidence to begin school successfully. • Young people in work, education, or training. • Residents learning throughout their lives. • More residents active in the labour market. • A strong supply of high skilled workers. • A workforce with strong foundational and technical skills. To help us understand if we're making improvement, we plan to measure things like: • Levels of child development. • 16-24 year olds not in education, employment or training. • Residents gaining higher level qualifications. • Employment rate. • Workers with higher level skills. • Workforce with good reading, writing, maths, and digital skills.	• Strengthening early years support by aligning health, family services, and inclusive neighbourhood models so more children enter school healthy, safe, and ready to learn. • Progression for young people through strong school, career, and transition support. • Clear routes from education to work including working with employers to expand apprenticeships, creative pathways, and technical opportunities. • Access to cultural and volunteering opportunities for young people. • Supporting those far from the labour market into work or work readiness. • Helping people into, and being able to stay in, good work. • Improving core knowledge and skills. • Growing a highly-skilled workforce. Related strategies/plans: South Yorkshire Skills Strategy; South Yorkshire Growth Plan; Walking, Wheeling & Cycling; South Yorkshire Creative and Cultural Investment Framework; Barnsley 2030 Strategy; Doncaster Delivering Together; Rotherham Council Plan 2025-2030: Forging Ahead; Sheffield City Goals.	• A new support model helping young people move into work. • A travel and cultural package for young people. • More people in work, with better progression for underrepresented groups. • Better access to a wider range of learning and training including a digital platform for navigating employment, skills, and training opportunities, and localised, accessible employment and skills support. • A workforce with stronger foundational and technical skills.	• Delivery of community-based schemes supporting children and families to be ready for school and to love reading. • More School Streets and safer routes to school. • Provision of balance and pedal bikes, trikes and scooters, as well as non-standard cycles for kids that need them, for children from our most deprived communities. • Increased quality and availability of careers education, information, advice and guidance delivered in schools, colleges, and employment programmes. • Personalised employment support delivered through Pathways to Work. • More employers supported to develop and embed inclusive work practices. • More support for businesses to create apprenticeship opportunities. • Better pavements, lighting, kerbs, and cycle parking on the routes to bus and tram stops serving colleges and training places. • More high-quality cycle / scooter shelters. • E-bike subscription scheme so people on low incomes can access jobs and opportunities.

Outcome Area	By 2035 we want to be seeing	To do that we know we need to focus on	By 2030 you will see	Examples of things you will see by 2027
Enterprise and Good work Thriving and productive existing, and new, enterprises and sectors supported to grow and innovate for the future and offer good employment and a fair wage.	Stronger, more diverse businesses with: • Sectors and clusters driving productivity growth. • A more dynamic business base, nested in a strong business and innovation ecosystem. • More, better jobs for people. To help us understand if we're making improvement, we plan to measure things like: • Business density. • Economic outputs per hour worked. • Level of business innovation. • Typical wage.	For our key sectors and clusters: • Support around trade, investment, and promotion. • Developing and connecting our innovation assets (resources and expertise that help create new ideas, products, and services). • Working to ensure businesses have a pipeline of the talent they need. • Ensuring leadership of our key sectors and clusters. For our wider business base: • Growing our business base. • Enabling new enterprises and startups to succeed. • Integrating, and building capacity in, our support to business. • Ensuring businesses can access the finance they need and are ready for investment. • Supporting business with clear pathways to develop and progress workforce skills. • Encouraging good business practices, including diverse business models. Related strategies/plans: South Yorkshire Growth Plan; South Yorkshire Skills Strategy; South Yorkshire Creative and Cultural Investment Framework; South Yorkshire Spatial Development Strategy; Barnsley 2030 Strategy; Doncaster Delivering Together; Rotherham Council Plan 2025-2030: Forging Ahead; Sheffield City Goals.	• Collaboration with northern regions to attract more investment. • Better, more integrated business support services aligned to skills development programmes. • More research and innovation assets aligned to our industrial strengths - advanced manufacturing, clean energy, life sciences and defence, digital and tech, and creative industries. • Better support for businesses to create inclusive and healthy workplaces. • More employment including in the growth areas of Sheffield City Centre and Innovation Spine, Don Valley Corridor, South Yorkshire Airport City and Barnsley Town Centre. • Regional supply chains and circular economy supported.	• Targeted trade missions and investor engagement to attract the right kind of investment and businesses to South Yorkshire. • Renewed, ambitious business services to support different types of businesses at all stages of their lifecycle. • More targeted support for businesses to innovate, adopt new technologies, and raise productivity. • More collaboration across businesses, research institutions, and the public sector to strengthen our research and innovation assets. • Targeted programmes delivered to employers to create inclusive workplaces that encourage people to stay and thrive in work. • Cross-regional partnerships established to develop our Growth Areas. • Employer-focused skills and workforce development programmes expanded, and the creation of a clear platform for employers to understand support available to them. • Barnsley established as UK's first Tech Town. • An Ethical Procurement Strategy helping strengthen local supply chains.

Ambition 2 South Yorkshire is the healthiest region in the country

Outcome Area	By 2035 we want to be seeing	To do that we know we need to focus on	By 2030 you will see	Examples of things you will see by 2027
Health A healthier South Yorkshire with a focus on wellbeing, longer healthy lives, and excellent care.	- Improvements in healthy life expectancy. - Significant reductions in health inequalities. To help us understand if we're making improvement, we plan to measure things like: - Years people can expect to live in good health. - Gap in preventable deaths between different groups.	- Delivering the aspirations in the South Yorkshire Health is Wealth report. - Ensuring children are born safely and in good health. - Ensuring equitable access to joined-up, preventative, high-quality integrated care through accelerated adoption of neighbourhood models, innovative tools and technology, and workforce models. - Fixing causes, not symptoms, including addressing the wider determinants of health and reducing risk factors (such as smoking, alcohol, and obesity) through targeted investment to reduce avoidable illness. - Increasing access to and take up of physical activity and enhancing access to creative health opportunities. - Building health and fairness into every decision we make. Related strategies/plans: Health is Wealth; South Yorkshire Growth Plan; South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board Five Year Strategic Commissioning Plan; Beds for Babies; Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Strategy; South Yorkshire Creative Health Enabling Plan; South Yorkshire Creative and Cultural Investment Framework; Barnsley 2030 Strategy; Doncaster Delivering Together; Rotherham Council Plan 2025-2030: Forging Ahead; Sheffield City Goals. Health and Wellbeing Board Strategies: Barnsley Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021 – 2030: the place of possibilities; Barnsley Healthy Life Expectancy Strategy; City of Doncaster Council Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2030; Fair and Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Rotherham 2025-2030; Healthy Sheffield Plan.	- Strengthened early years health offers. - Expansion of neighbourhood health models of care delivery outside of hospitals. - Improved access to, and quality of healthcare, and reduced inequalities in these. - Earlier cancer diagnosis, improved cardiovascular disease outcomes, and fewer premature preventable deaths. - Increased focus on prevention, early intervention and reduced inequality in access to mental health services and support, especially for children and young people. - More access to creativity, culture, and the arts to support wellbeing (Creative Health). - People will be moving more, especially children and young people. - Strengthened collaborative working with the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector, including a Shared Investment Fund.	Strengthen early years offer including families supported to access the basics of a crib, cot, Moses basket, and bedding with wrap-around support embedded through Family Hubs and local services. - A new Health Commissioner driving an increased focus on living well in South Yorkshire, including, local programmes to reduce harm from smoking, alcohol, and obesity, improve mental health and wellbeing, and plans to increase physical activity and access to creative health opportunities. - Emerging neighbourhood health models in every place, delivering more proactive, preventative, and integrated care in neighbourhoods such as: - The transition to a neighbourhood health model in Sheffield and Barnsley. - A new neighbourhood health hub and approach in Rotherham. - A Neighbourhood Children and Young People's Centre in Doncaster (Waterdale). Appointments closer to where you live through Health on the High Street - Barnsley Glassworks Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) and Alhambra Outpatients Hub in Barnsley Town Centre. Improved access to and quality of healthcare, and reduced inequalities in access and quality, including better access to primary care (GPs, community pharmacy, dentistry, and optometry), improved hospital waiting times and more equitable access to high quality care and support for both physical and mental health conditions.

Outcome Area	By 2035 we want to be seeing	To do that we know we need to focus on	By 2030 you will see	Examples of things you will see by 2027
Communities Safer and more vibrant, cohesive, resilient communities in which people have pride to look after themselves, each other, and their local environment and where everyone is welcome and belongs.	• People feeling heard, safe, proud, and that they belong. • People having more influence over local decisions. • Vision Zero: significant progress towards no deaths or serious injuries on South Yorkshire's roads. To help us understand if we're making improvement, we plan to measure things like: • People who are proud of where they live and feel safe where they live. • People who feel they can influence local decisions. • Number of people, including children, killed or seriously injured on the roads.	• Building community trust and confidence in policing and justice services that are fair, accessible, and responsive to needs. • Making people feel safe in their neighbourhoods and experiencing less crime, anti-social behaviour, and harm. • Improving safety on all our transport networks. • Supporting people to move away from crime, recover from harm, and build positive futures. • Protecting communities from serious violence, exploitation, and organised crime, and building communities resilient to emerging threats. • Preventing emergencies from happening in the first place through safety education and community engagement. • Ensuring community voices are central to designing new neighbourhood layouts and projects. Related strategies/plans: Police and Crime Plan; South Yorkshire Growth Plan; South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue's Community Risk Management Plan; Health is Wealth; Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Strategy; South Yorkshire Creative and Cultural Investment Framework; Barnsley 2030 Strategy; Doncaster Delivering Together; Rotherham Council Plan 2025-2030: Forging Ahead; Sheffield City Goals.	• People have confidence in visible, accessible and trusted local policing and justice services. • Fire and rescue incidents are reduced through targeted prevention and community awareness.	• More targeted and accessible neighbourhood policing and visibility for our communities, including rural areas. • South Yorkshire's first Community Confidence Board established to prioritise the voices of our communities in understanding and addressing the issues that impact on trust and confidence in policing and the wider criminal justice system. • Behavioural change and education programmes underway to prevent and address the root causes of offending including schemes to prevent young people from getting involved in crime, especially knife crime, and preventing gender-based violence. • High-quality, trauma-informed victim services in place. • More targeted patrols responding to issues on the public transport network and continuing to tackle issues relating to off-road bikes. • Home fire safety checks that target high risk and vulnerable households. • Acceleration in the remediation of high-rise buildings with unsafe cladding.

Outcome Area	By 2035 we want to be seeing	To do that we know we need to focus on	By 2030 you will see	Examples of things you will see by 2027
Housing Access to affordable, warm, quality housing for everyone.	• People living in good quality, warm homes that are affordable and meet their needs. • Homes that are increasingly more climate resilient. To help us understand if we're making improvement, we plan to measure things like: • Number of new homes built, including % that are affordable. • Homes with good energy efficiency.	• Upgrading existing homes, including private rented homes, tackling damp and mould, and connecting housing services to wider support communities. • Increasing housing growth - building the right homes in the right places prioritising affordable, energy-efficient homes on sites that are close to transport, jobs, and services. • Supporting the homeless and preventing homelessness before it happens through strengthened prevention and housing-led support. Related strategies/plans: South Yorkshire Housing Strategy; South Yorkshire Supported Housing Strategies and Homelessness Action Plans; South Yorkshire Homelessness Framework; SYMCA Retrofit Programme Plan; South Yorkshire Strategic Place Partnership; South Yorkshire Growth Plan; Health is Wealth; South Yorkshire Spatial Development Strategy; Barnsley 2030 Strategy; Doncaster Delivering Together; Rotherham Council Plan 2025-2030: Forging Ahead; Sheffield City Goals.	• Housing retrofit delivered at scale across all tenures - owner-occupied, social housing, and private rented - through area-based schemes, with energy-efficiency upgrades and ventilation measures to reduce damp and mould. • Public and private housing delivery increases to meet identified needs. • Increasing annual delivery of up to 2,000 new social and affordable homes across the region, including new council housing. • A Healthy Homes Network to co-ordinate activity, align investment, and accelerate delivery of warmer, safer, healthier homes across South Yorkshire. • A single homelessness pathway delivered through multi agency working. • An increase in specialist and supported housing, enabling people who require support to live independently and prevent homelessness.	• Targeted action to improve poor quality private rented housing and landlord standards. • Delivery of new sustainable, well-connected homes, including: • Acceleration in the development of early deliverable housing pipeline schemes regeneration in Goldthorpe. • Development of major housing-led area regeneration 'Catalyst Sites' including Hoyland (Barnsley); Unity (Doncaster); Bassingthorpe Farm, Town Centre and Gateway (Rotherham) and Moorfoot (Sheffield). • A significant increase in the delivery of social and affordable housing through partnership with Homes England, Local Authorities, and housing associations. • The start of region wide programmes to improve the energy efficiency and decarbonise existing poor-quality housing. • Working with voluntary, community faith and social enterprise groups (VCFSE) to deliver emergency housing for veterans. • Consideration of measures to improve the climate resilience of homes, including reducing flood risk and adopting passive cooling solutions, such as shading and enhanced ventilation, to manage increasing overheating risks projected for the 2030s and beyond.

Ambition 3 Every community is connected and proud of its place

Outcome Area	By 2035 we want to be seeing	To do that we know we need to focus on	By 2030 you will see	Examples of things you will see by 2027
Connections Fast, affordable, safe, and reliable transport and digital connections to jobs, education, leisure, and health opportunities.	• People able to access key jobs, leisure, learning, and health locations by affordable, reliable public transport, and improved walking, wheeling, and cycling connections. • Expanded broadband and digital connections so everyone can take part in modern life. To help us understand if we're making improvement, we plan to measure things like: • People able to reach key destinations within 45-60 minutes. • Homes and businesses with gigabit broadband access.	• Improving the reliability, accessibility, and affordability of public transport. • Improving transport connections within the region and across regions. • Integrating active travel with public transport. • Expanding public transport services linking to key locations, supporting delivery of new homes and jobs. • Improving access to jobs, education, leisure, and health services through fast, affordable, safe, and reliable digital connections. Related strategies/plans: South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan; Mayor's Transport Vision 2026; South Yorkshire Growth Plan; South Yorkshire Digital Infrastructure Strategy; Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Strategy; South Yorkshire Spatial Development Strategy; Barnsley 2030 Strategy; Doncaster Delivering Together; Rotherham Council Plan 2025-2030: Forging Ahead; Sheffield City Goals.	• Bus services across South Yorkshire under public control, delivering more reliable, affordable services. • Major renewal and enhancement of the Supertram network. • Integrated ticketing across South Yorkshire. Final plans to deliver: • A new rail station at Waverley to serve the AMID development, surrounding houses, and supporting further expansion at this major growth site. • A new Rotherham Gateway station to better connect Rotherham to Leeds, Birmingham, and beyond. • Expanded broadband and mobile coverage with pathways to devices and support so everyone can take part in modern life.	• Buses starting to be brought back under public control and a new bus fleet brought into operation. • Roll out of South Yorkshire transport brand. • Programme of bus shelter improvement works at key locations. • Improvements to the tram network and further tram stop upgrades. • Expansion of the free travel trial for under 18s. • A new travel app that is a smart, multi-functional travel assistant. • New electric-hybrid trains running on routes from Sheffield to London. • The launch of the Mayor's e-bike subscription scheme. • Digital infrastructure upgrades and inclusion initiatives.

Outcome Area	By 2035 we want to be seeing	To do that we know we need to focus on	By 2030 you will see	Examples of things you will see by 2027
Place Vibrant and resilient places to live and do business, with thriving cultural, sporting, and leisure offers, and diverse public spaces.	- Towns and cities alive with culture, sport, enterprise, and quality public spaces. - Places attracting investment and making South Yorkshire a great location for business. - Creative jobs supported and culture helping people learn, grow, and connect. To help us understand if we're making improvement, we plan to measure things like: - Number of visits to town centres. - Investment attracted into the region. - Number of jobs in the creative industries.	- A strong core city and urban centres working together in a single economy. Commercial development and institutional investment. Vibrant high streets, town and city centres. - A strong cultural, leisure, and visitor offer. Related strategies/plans: South Yorkshire Creative and Cultural Investment Framework; South Yorkshire Growth Plan; South Yorkshire Spatial Development Strategy; Barnsley 2030 Strategy; Doncaster Delivering Together; Rotherham Council Plan 2025-2030: Forging Ahead; Sheffield City Goals.	- More homegrown live events and festivals across South Yorkshire attracting domestic, national, and international visitors. - Local identity and pride in place campaigns. - Expanded secure cycle parking and improved lighting around venues and town centre transport hubs.	Regeneration underway including Barnsley Searn Digital Campus phase 2, Doncaster City Centre, Sheffield City Centre, Rotherham Markets and Central Library, Dinnington High Street, and Wath Library. - Elsecar Masterplan delivery underway which will revitalise Elsecar Heritage Centre and the surrounding area. Yorkshire Roses digital installations in Barnsley town centre. Neighbourhood Renewal Programmes including in Central Rotherham, Maltby, Conisbrough North, Mexborough West, New Rossington, Edlington, Hexthorpe, Highfields, Bentley, Askern, Mexborough town centre, Moorends, Brodsworth Miners Welfare Institute, Gleadless Valley, Stocksbridge and Barnsley Principal towns Phase 4. - Big Clean project underway to tackle graffiti, littering, and fly-tipping across South Yorkshire, making use of Community Payback and assets recovered from criminals.

Outcome Area	By 2035 we want to be seeing	To do that we know we need to focus on	By 2030 you will see	Examples of things you will see by 2027
Sustainability A more sustainable South Yorkshire with reduced carbon emissions, more affordable and sustainable energy sources, and a greater resilience to climate impacts including reduced risk of flooding.	- Homes, infrastructure, and industry resilient for the future and reducing their impact on the environment. - People benefiting from clean air and access to green spaces. - Far fewer homes and businesses at risk of flooding. - Our region's nature is more diverse. To help us understand if we're making improvement, we plan to measure things like: - Carbon emissions. - Air quality. - Number of homes and businesses protected from flooding. - Improvements in biodiversity.	- Energy systems for the future including developing an investable pipeline of clean renewable energy schemes and rolling out Heat Network Zones across the region. Flood resilience and water management. Green urban regeneration and development. - Enhancing natural habitats and supporting species recovery. - Improving air quality. - Developing clear pathways for achieving SYMCA's 2040 Net Zero Regional Target. Related strategies/plans: Local Nature Recovery Strategy; South Yorkshire Growth Plan; Net Zero Pathways Strategy; Connected by Water; South Yorkshire's Integrated Flood and Water Management Plan; South Yorkshire Spatial Development Strategy; Barnsley 2030 Strategy; Doncaster Delivering Together; Rotherham Council Plan 2025-2030: Forging Ahead; Sheffield City Goals.	- More homes, schools, and businesses made energy efficient and decarbonised, with reduced energy bills through improved building fabric, low-carbon technologies, and better summer comfort measures. - Upgraded Property Flood Resilience measures in high-risk communities (e.g., Denaby). - A region-wide, integrated approach to flood risk investment and maintenance. - Delivery of a range of prioritised interventions and investments to improve habitats and species across the region. - Significantly more renewable energy generation schemes developed and generating energy. - An expanded public Electric Vehicle charge point network across the region. - The region will be on a robust pathway for achieving the 2040 Net Zero Regional Target.	- New electric buses will start to replace older diesel buses. Flood alleviation schemes in Doncaster, Barnsley, Rotherham, and Sheffield (e.g. Conisbrough, Tickhill, Low Valley, Pastures Road Denaby, Scawthorpe, Whiston), Upper Don Flood Alleviation Scheme (Phase 2 at Neepsend) progressing, Sheaf Catchment and Blackburn Brook schemes underway. - Targeted engagement and flood preparedness in key communities such as Eel Mires Dike, Fishlake, Catcliffe, Ecclesfield, Hillsborough, and Bentley. - Opportunities for communities to identify nature recovery projects as part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy delivery. - Interventions to enhance habitats and support species recovery will start to be delivered. - More opportunities for people to access green spaces and connect with nature. - New job creation opportunities created through delivery of new renewable energy generation schemes. - Plans for public sector and commercial buildings to undergo fabric and systems retrofit - upgrading insulation, ventilation, heating/cooling systems, and controls - to cut energy use, reduce emissions, and improve climate resilience alongside the domestic programme.

Ambitions and Outcome Areas – how they work together

We recognise that many actions we take will have impact on more than one Ambition or Outcome Area. We will actively seek out benefits beyond the obvious, ensuring that every activity contributes as broadly as possible. The table below illustrates some of the ways in which activities are interconnected across Ambitions and Outcome Areas. These examples will continue to evolve as we deepen and strengthen our understanding of these relationships.

Driving a bigger and better economy

Outcome Areas

		Ambition 1 Every person in South Yorkshire can stay near and go far	Ambition 2 South Yorkshire is the healthiest region in the country	Ambition 3 Every community is connected and proud of its place
	Skills and Opportunity	Access to education, training, and jobs ensures young people and adults can succeed locally.	Good health enables people to learn and work effectively.	Transport and digital connectivity link people to schools, colleges, and workplaces.
	Enterprise and Good Work	Attracting, creating, and retaining strong businesses with fair wages will enable more people to prosper.	Healthy workers are more productive, and businesses benefit from fewer absences.	Connectivity helps businesses reach markets and attract talent, supporting economic growth.
	Health	Better jobs and skills reduce stress and improve wellbeing, supporting health outcomes.	Improving life expectancy, mental health, and access to care is central to this ambition.	Strong transport and digital links make it easier to reach health services and adopt active lifestyles.
	Communities	Local education and job opportunities allow people to stay close to family and strengthen community ties.	Good health helps people participate in community life and feel safe and included.	Reliable transport and digital networks help people connect, feel proud of their area, and take part in local decisions.
	Housing	Affordable housing near jobs and training helps people progress without leaving their community.	Safe, warm homes reduce health inequalities and support wellbeing.	Well-connected neighbourhoods make homes part of vibrant, accessible places.
	Connections	Seamless transport and digital networks make it easier to access jobs, training, and services.	Active travel options like walking and cycling improve health and wellbeing.	High-quality connections are essential for linking people to opportunities and building pride in place.
	Place	Cultural and leisure opportunities close to home help people feel they can thrive locally.	Parks and green spaces encourage active lifestyles and improve mental health.	Attractive public spaces and strong transport links make towns and cities lively and welcoming.
	Sustainability	Green jobs and skills give people opportunities in a sustainable economy.	Cleaner air and green infrastructure improve health and resilience to climate change.	Sustainable transport and digital networks reduce environmental impact and support connected communities.

South Yorkshire Strategies and Plans.

The South Yorkshire Strategy provides an overarching framework that aligns and complements the region's statutory plans (plans required by law), Local Authority strategies, and partnership priorities, helping to maximise collective impact across South Yorkshire. The related strategies and plans, some of which are still in development, include:

- **The four Local Authority strategies:**
 - Barnsley 2030
 - Doncaster Delivering Together
 - Rotherham Council Plan 2025-2030: Forging Ahead
 - Sheffield City Goals.
 - Additional Local Authority strategies further complement this work.
- **Health is Wealth in South Yorkshire: How to Become the UK's Healthiest Region**
- **Net Zero Pathways Strategy**
- **South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue's Community Risk Management Plan**
- **South Yorkshire Growth Plan**
- **South Yorkshire Housing Strategy**
- **South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board Five Year Strategic Commissioning Plan**
- **South Yorkshire Integrated Flood and Water Management Plan**
- **South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy**
- **South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan**
- **South Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan**
- **South Yorkshire Skills Strategy**
- **South Yorkshire Spatial Development Strategy**
- **South Yorkshire Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Strategy**



Together.
For South Yorkshire.



Together. For South Yorkshire.

How organisations will work together to deliver the South Yorkshire Strategy.

The aim of partners working together across South Yorkshire is simple: to help people feel healthier, happier, safer, and better off, and to strengthen the connections between our places.

Although led by the Mayoral Combined Authority, this is a strategy for the whole region. Ongoing engagement with communities and partners will help ensure the strategy is:

- **Trusted and supported**
- **Practical and grounded in real experience**
- **Strengthened by new ideas**
- **Fair and inclusive, ensuring no community is overlooked**

Within a single vision for South Yorkshire, we will deliver activity at the level where it makes the most difference – from regional coordination to hyperlocal action – with the organisations best placed to act taking the lead, and power and decision-making remaining as close as possible to communities and places. The aim of the South Yorkshire Strategy is to add value, align priorities, and support collaboration, not replace or duplicate what already works well.



These principles set out how partners will work together.

1 Put people at the centre

We focus on what matters most to people and communities. Everything we do should improve people's lives, with a particular focus on those who are too often left out or left behind.

2 Look for benefits beyond the obvious

When we make decisions, we think about how one action can help in more than one way. We prioritise work that maximises positive improvements for people, places or services - even if those improvements sit outside the original project.

3 Strengthen communities and connections

We treat relationships and a sense of belonging as real assets, and our work should reinforce the bonds between people and places.

4 Place based

We recognise the diversity of South Yorkshire's cities, towns, and rural areas.

5 Deliver at the right level

Work happens where it has the most impact - regional, local or community - with the organisations best placed to act taking the lead.

6 Be open and accountable

We involve people in shaping the things that affect them, make transparent decisions, and keep our commitments.

7 Collaborate for greater impact

By aligning priorities, sharing learning, and avoiding duplication or competition, we achieve more together than we can alone.

8 Be ambitious, evidence-led, and willing to learn

We ground decisions in evidence and insight and continually learn and adapt as circumstances change. We test new ideas, invest early in promising approaches, stay flexible, and build the skills and capacity needed to deliver real change.

Through developing the strategy, we have identified examples of where these principles are already being applied in South Yorkshire between individual partners and across specific areas of work. In implementing the strategy, partners have agreed that these principles need to become embedded and systematic across all partners and the whole range of our work.

This is a living strategy that will evolve as we learn, adapt and respond to changing circumstances. Progress will be reviewed annually using the latest evidence, performance data and feedback from people, communities, and partners. We will continue to develop measures that reflect our Ambitions and Outcomes, enabling us to track both immediate progress and long-term change towards our vision for 2035. Over time, this evidence will help inform investment decisions and collective action across the region.

As regional partners, we will be transparent about progress, publishing updates, dashboards, and practical examples that demonstrate the difference being made to people's lives, places and opportunities. By bringing together local insight, shared evidence and collective expertise, this strategy provides a clear framework for action and a shared commitment to creating a healthier, more prosperous, and better-connected South Yorkshire.

When South Yorkshire works together, we achieve more.

**When South
Yorkshire
works
together we
achieve
more.**



Organisations involved in developing and delivering the South Yorkshire Strategy

ACT Sheffield	Doncaster and Bassetlaw NHS Foundation Trust	Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	Centre (SRASAC)	The Archer Project
AESSEAL plc	Doncaster Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise	Rotherham United Community Trust	Sheffield Social Enterprise Network	The Food Works
Age UK Barnsley	Endeavour	Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber MH Trust	Sheffield Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	The Key Fund
Age UK Rotherham	FaithStar	Rush House Ltd	Sheffield Theatres	The Learning Community
Age UK Sheffield	Great Places Housing Group	SACMHA Health & Social Care	Sheffield United Community Foundation	The National Lottery Heritage Fund
Arts Council England	Green Estate CIC	SADACCA (Sheffield and District African Caribbean Community Association)	Sheffield Wednesday Football Club	The Royal Foundation
Baby Basics	Health & Social Care Rawmarsh	Save the Children UK	Sheffield Wednesday Football Club Community Programme	The Sheffield College
Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce	High Green Development Trust	SAYIT	Sheffield Women's Aid	The University of Sheffield
Barnsley NHS Foundation Trust	Historic England	Sharrow Community Forum	Shelter	Trades Union Congress (TUC)
Barnsley College	Homes England	Sheffield Chamber of Commerce	Shiloh Rotherham	University of Leeds
Barnsley CVS (Community and Voluntary Services)	Kiveton Park and Wales Community Development Trust	Sheffield Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	SOAR Community	Vigo Group
Barnsley Football Club	Lord-Lieutenant of South Yorkshire	Sheffield Churches Council for Community Care (SCCCC)	South West Yorkshire Partnership Teaching NHS Foundation Trust	Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR)
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Mindful Activities CIC	Sheffield City Council	South Yorkshire Children and Young People's Alliance	Voluntary Action Sheffield (VAS)
Baton of Hope	NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board	Sheffield Flourish	South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service	Westfield Health
Causeway	Opus Independents	Sheffield Futures	South Yorkshire Housing Association (SYHA)	YWCA Yorkshire
Chilypep (Children and Young People's Empowerment Project)	Primary Care Sheffield	Sheffield Hallam University	South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA)	Yorkshire Sport Foundation
Citizens Advice Rotherham	RAW People	Sheffield Health and Care Partnership	South Yorkshire Police	Youth Work Unit Yorkshire and Humber
Citizens Advice Sheffield	RNN Group (Rotherham and North Notts Group)	Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust	South Yorkshire's Community Foundation (SYCF)	Zest Community
City of Doncaster Council	Rotherham Ethnic Minority Alliance (REMA)	Sheffield Mencap and Gateway	St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)	
Clifton Learning Partnership	Rotherham Federation of Communities (RotherFed)	Sheffield Museums Trust		
Club Doncaster Foundation	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse		
Crossroads Care Rotherham				
Disability Sheffield				
Diverse City Development Trust				



southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/who-we-are/south-yorkshire-strategy

For further information please contact us at:

enquiries@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk