

IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION

- Date and Time :-** Tuesday 31 October 2023 at 10.00 a.m.
- Venue:-** Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.
- Membership:-** Councillors Pitchley (Chair), Cooksey (Vice Chair), Atkin, Bacon, Baker-Rogers, Barley, Bennett-Sylvester, Z Collingham, Griffin, Haleem, Hughes, Khan, McNeely, Mills, Monk and Wilson.

This meeting will be webcast live and will be available to view [via the Council's website](#). The items which will be discussed are described on the agenda below and there are reports attached which give more details.

Rotherham Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair or Governance Advisor of their intentions prior to the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive the apologies of any Member who is unable to attend the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting Held on 12 September 2023 (Pages 3 - 16)

To consider and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 September 2023 as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of interest from Members in respect of items listed on the agenda.

4. Exclusion of the Press and Public

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any part of the agenda.

5. Questions from Members of the Public and the Press

To receive questions relating to items of business on the agenda from members of the public or press who are present at the meeting.

6. Communications

To receive communications from the Chair in respect of matters within the Commission's remit and work programme.

7. Corporate Parenting Panel - Update

To consider any updates from the Corporate Parenting Panel.

8. Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board Annual Report (Pages 17 - 41)

To consider an update from the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board regarding the 2022-2023 Annual Report.

9. Elective Home Education Presentation (Pages 43 - 46)

To receive a presentation regarding Elective Home Education.

10. Work Programme (Pages 47 - 48)

To consider and approve the Commission's Work Programme.

11. Improving Lives Select Commission - Sub and Project Group Updates


For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the activity regarding sub and project groups of the he Improving Lives Select Commission.

12. Urgent Business

To consider any item(s) the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.

13. Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission take place on 5th December 2023 commencing at 10:00 am in Rotherham Town Hall.



Sharon Kemp,
Chief Executive.

IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION
Tuesday 12 September 2023

Present:- Councillor Pitchley (in the Chair); Councillors Atkin, Bacon, Baker-Rogers, Barley, Bennett-Sylvester, Cooksey, Z.Collingham, Griffin, Haleem, Hughes, McNeely, Monk, Wilson, and Mills.

Apologies for absence:- No apologies were received.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-

<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

107. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 25 JULY 2023

Resolved: - That the Minutes of the meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission, held on 25 July 2023 be approved as a correct record of proceedings.

108. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

109. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items of business on the agenda that required the exclusion of the press and public from the meeting.

110. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no questions from members of the public or press.

111. COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair advised that all the items regarding communication were covered on the agenda.

112. CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL - UPDATE

The Chair advised that the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel was scheduled for the afternoon of the 12th September 2023 and

consideration would be given to the following items during the meeting:

- An update on Fostering Recruitment and Retention.
- An update on the Fostering Panel Review.
- An update on the Statement of Intent for Corporate Parenting.
- An update on the Independent Reviewing Officer Report.
- An update on the Local Authority Designated Officer Report.
- An update on Performance Monitoring for the period of quatre one, 2023/2024.

The Chair advised that a further update on this meeting would be provided to Members at the next Improving Lives Select Commission meeting.

113. WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ACTION UPDATE

This item provided an update to members on the progress against the Written Statement of Action, following on from support and challenge meeting five, with the Department for Education and the National Health Service England.

The Chair welcomed the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People to the meeting. The Cabinet Member advised there had been many capital investments and improvements which were shared with the Commission at previous meetings. The Written Statement of Action judgement received in July 2021, had provided an opportunity for the service to be held to account and make improvements on the four areas of identified weaknesses. Re-assurance was provided that the service was in a much better place because of the improvements.

The Chair welcomed Nathan Heath, Assistant Director of Education and Inclusion, Tracey Jubb, Interim Head of Special Educational Needs and

Disabilities (SEND), Mark Cummins, SEND Project Lead and Jayne Fitzgerald, Strategic Manager for Rotherham Parent Carers Forum.

The Chair invited Nathan Heath and Mark Cummins to introduce the report and give the presentation.

The Assistant Director of Education and Inclusion advised that the accountability, challenge, and support provided to the service by the Improving Lives Select Commission, had directly impacted the Written Statement of Action. There had been a clear commitment by the service to ensure regular updates were provided to the Commission after every Department for Education meeting. The presentation would cover an update from the most recent meeting, meeting five. Meeting five was important as it included the sign off for the Written Statement of Action and the transition from improvement to business as usual. The importance of lived experience was highlighted, with a commitment provided that the service would continue to check and measure with lived experience at all appropriate points in the future.

The presentation gave an overview of the following content:

- After the July 2021 inspection, it was identified that there were four main areas of weakness and as a result it was decided that Rotherham should have a Written Statement of Action.
- The four main areas of weakness identified were as follows:
 - The variability in the quality of Education and Health Care Plans, including the contribution of health and social care partners.
 - The effectiveness of the graduated response to identify and meet children and young people's needs, especially in key stages one and two.
 - The quality of provision for children and young people's preparation for, and transition to, adulthood.

- Communication with all parents and carers of children and young people with SEND about the local offer, and the accessibility of the very valuable information included within the local offer.
- A comprehensive governance structure was in place and each area of identified weakness was led by a sub-group with its own membership, action plan and key performance measures. Monthly highlight reports were produced and presented to the SEND Executive Group, who ensured sufficient progress against the Written Statement of Action. Regular updates were provided to the CYPS Performance Board and SEND Partnership Board. The Department for Education and National Health Service England held five support and challenge meetings, to measure progress against the Written Statement of Action. Each meeting was supported by a note of visit, with feedback on progress and recommendations for the next period.
- The most recent support and challenge meeting, meeting five, was held on the 5th of June 2023 and it provided an emphasis on demonstrating evidence of impact and outcomes, moving on from the implementation phase of the Written Statement of Action. Comments from the draft note of visit following on from the meeting, suggested that Rotherham had made considerable progress in its focus on 'impact', which related primarily to the day-to-day lived experiences of children and young people with SEND and their families. Following support and challenge meeting five, it was confirmed that Rotherham would not be subject to a re-visit based on progress against the Written Statement of Action, instead any re-inspection would form part of the timetable under the new framework. It was also confirmed that the support and challenge process would be reduced, with further actions and activity being aligned to business-as-usual monitoring.
- Throughout the Written Statement of Action journey, the service collected evidence of impact through a centralised evidence bank,

this would be continued to support with inspection readiness. All Written Statement of Actions were formally signed off through the Evidence Challenge Panel process. The performance monitoring pack submitted as part of Rotherham's Written Statement of Action was shared by the Department for Education, with other local authorities as best practice. At regular points the service captured the voice of parents and/or carers and young people, through the delivery of listening events and working closely with Rotherham Parent Carer's Forum, who are key members of the Written Statement of Action sub-groups and governance structure.

- The current position of the Written Statement of Action had been presented as part of the Children and Young People's Service Performance Board, with actions continuing to be formally signed off as part of the Evidence Challenge Panel process. Sub-groups were reviewing their terms of reference, membership, and action plans, in line with the SEND Development Plan for Rotherham. This ensured that progress against each area would be maintained, with work continuing to be overseen by the SEND Executive Group. A SEND Inspection Planning Group had been established to identify key activity and planning to support inspection readiness, this included development of the SEND Self Evaluation Framework. On-going learning from the process of the Written Statement of Action would continue to influence the SEND Development work, with an increased focus on capturing evidence of impact and outcomes.
- The service would continue to strive towards continuous improvement, to ensure every child in Rotherham with additional needs would get the best possible education to reach their full potential.

The Chair thanked the officers for the presentation and invited questions, this led to the following points being raised during discussions:

- The monthly meetings were internal meetings that were separate to the support and challenge meetings. The support and challenge meetings were where The Department for Education challenged the service on their progress.
- The governance arrangements established during the process of the Written Statement of Action would continue.
- The inspection in 2021 judged the service on how far they had progressed on SEND between 2014 and 2021 and it was acknowledged that during this timeframe, the service had not progressed to the required level. The judgement in 2021 helped the service provide the right improvements in the right areas of weaknesses. Reassurance was provided that the service was aware of where further improvements were still required and the strategies being developed were not in isolation.
- As the service would move into the next part of the sustainable improvement journey, there would be challenges that sat against the national context. There was a challenge regarding inclusion in mainstream education, both for children with EHCP's and those on SEND support, this was a national, regional and Rotherham central challenge. This challenge required further improvements to embed a graduated approach and to hold accountability to a good provisional map, to ensure children received the best offer.
- Sufficiency of provision was a huge challenge, any funding provided to the local authority in relation to SEND, was based on growing provision and not the material quality of provision. The complexity of needs and best practise had changed distinctly within the last five years, significant investment was required to have the best quality provision within Rotherham.
- Another challenge was a wider level of needs, as social, emotional, and mental health had grown post-pandemic. Previously the service was in a position where the most complex needs were educated outside of Rotherham, there was now a social, emotional, and mental health school in Rotherham.

- Over the next twelve months a SEND Strategy would be developed, and the Improving Lives Select Commission would be involved in the process. There was still a large amount of work to do, but the service was in a much better position, and it now had the ability to be able to self-evaluate any weaknesses in a measured way.
- A lack of provision was challenging to the service, the service adopted a considered approach and there was a strong operational process for the SEND Panel, who ensure the approach was always child centred.
- There were some areas where provision mapping was accelerating, for example over the summer period the service had worked with Nexus Academy Trust to re-purpose a council building, which was previously the Rowan Centre, to create additional provision within the Borough.
- The Council's Cabinet had taken forward proposals discussed in June, to develop a new line of accessibility funding, which had not been available before in Rotherham. The funding would be available for schools that had an identified level of SEND need for small scale investment. This would be match funded by the local authority, to create provision that would enhance the SEND offer within the school. This was a different approach to other local authorities and was seen as very innovative, it would provide schools with the appropriate support, capacity, and tools to provide the right level of SEND support. The application process for the accessibility funding was being cascaded to all schools within Rotherham.
- The Written Statement of Action was based on quality, although the timeliness of EHCP's was considered as an area requiring significant improvement. The sub-group had developed an audit process to ensure a rigid oversight was in place, ensuring that there was a strong level of compliance within the EHCP and that the targets were SMART and tangibly linked to lived experience.

There had been a huge level of investment within the timeliness of EHCP's such as, continuous professional development, a distinct change of staffing model to work in localities and building personal relationships with schools. The timeliness for compliance with EHCP's had improved drastically and the service had moved significantly above national averages in the most recent performance period. There were further improvements required around reviews to ensure key points of transition had a focus on supporting children with the next step, although the metrics were stronger than they have been previously.

- Regarding pupil premiums, the service had significant confidence that the pupil premium funding would be utilised in a defined way. The OFSTED inspection process asked schools how they had utilised the funding and what impact that had.

Resolved:- That

- 1) The Improving Lives Select Commission accept the report and note the progress made following the final support and challenge meeting as part of the Joint Written Statement of Action.
- 2) The Improving Lives Select Commission note the planned activity and progress as part of preparation for inspection under the new framework and SEND Development plan for Rotherham.
- 3) Members of the Improving Lives Select Commission welcome the opportunity to visit Kimberworth Place, date to be confirmed.

114. ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN ANNUAL REPORT

This item provided an update on the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (RSCP) 2022-2023 Annual Report.

The Chair welcomed Laura Gough, Head of Service for Safeguarding Children and Families, Darren Downs, Independent Chair and Scrutineer of the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership and Laura

Koscikiewicz District Commander at South Yorkshire Police. The Chair invited Darren Downs to give the presentation.

The presentation gave an overview of the following content:

- The report was very comprehensive and celebrated the achievements made, alongside the required improvements and future areas of focus. There was a real strength in the quality of the RSCP and the engagement levels within it.
- Performance and scrutiny were areas of improvement for the RSCP, this included a specific focus on measuring impacts.
- There was a focus on the wider partnership in relation to challenge and accountability, specifically within the voluntary and community sector.
- Capturing the voice of children was a key focus, this would include inviting young people along to the RSCP day, to be held in November.
- In relation to the previous year, there had been excellent inspection grades across the RSCP, which were good indicators of the direction of travel. The Evolve Team had also received good grading throughout the Childrens Services Grading Inspection. South Yorkshire Police were graded as excellent in relation to protecting vulnerable people.
- The RSCP had consulted on future priorities and the report detailed the four future priorities for the RSCP, which were, exploitation, neglect, performance and safeguarding. Each priority had a sub-group that reported to the partnership, these groups would continue to evolve over time.
- The RSCP had a focus on continuing to develop the inspection work for audits, such as quarterly dip-sampling activities.
- Rotherham would be hosting Safeguarding Awareness Week in November; this would promote the work completed in Rotherham across South Yorkshire. The RSCP was also in the process of

developing an annual learning event, which would take place early next year.

The Chair thanked the officers for the presentation and invited questions, this led to the following points being raised during discussions:

- The reduction in child protection plans was due to an increase in early intervention by the RSCP. There had been high investments into the Early Help Programme, in terms of resources and training for staff and wider community groups. The family group conference process and family group meetings had also been heavily invested in.
- Training was an area of focus, specifically around digital safety which continued to evolve. Regular training was on-going for the RSCP.
- There was internal training completed by all individual agencies and organisations within the RSCP. For example, South Yorkshire Police had held specific training around digital awareness and spotting the signs of exploitation.
- The RSCP had focused on keeping children safe at home, safe in communities and ensuring safe systems. There had been situations where keeping a child safe within their home had been a better outcome in the long term for the child. Keeping a child within their home had sometimes increased risk and the RSCP role was to provide the family with the relevant guidance and support to manage that risk. The latest figures showed that out of all the children on child protection plans, only one had evolved to a looked after child. This highlighted that the management within the community and within the home was working effectively.
- The RSCP had committed to dip-sampling individual cases on a quarterly basis, to continue learning from experiences and ensure improvements.
- In Rotherham, organisations were very good at working together to

keep children safe. There were several groups that worked together to keep children safe. For example, children in need were supported by a team across the RSCP, children on child protection plans were supported by a core group and high-risk children were supported by MACE. This had a significant impact on the reduction of child protection numbers.

- The number of repeat children missing from home was much lower in Rotherham, than in the rest of South Yorkshire. The number of high-risk children missing from home was also much lower than statistical neighbours. This was because the RSCP identified needs and vulnerabilities earlier and placed a multi-agency response around the child to reduce potential harms.
- The service had now recruited to the post of Safeguarding Education Lead, to ensure children are kept safe in Education.
- The Local Government Association was currently working towards the development of a register of children who are being electively home educated, this would make it easier for safeguarding checks to be completed.
- There were on-going changes in the guidance and legislation, an example was provided that the Working Together Review and Refresh would be released in the near future, this would provide further clarity around the thresholds and legal responsibilities.
- The report discussed 'a disconnect with health colleagues' this related to the threshold for risk of significant harm, which was not always in alignment with social care. Clarification was provided that this was in relation to the application and definition of thresholds. The Healthcare Service was a complex system with many different specialisms, the definition of 'significant harm' to one medical professional differed to another medical professional's definition. Therefore, meeting the threshold of 'significant harm' would sometimes be dependent on which part of the Healthcare Service an individual visited. Work was being completed within the Healthcare System to ensure the threshold was applied equally

across all services.

- The MASH Baby Clinic that was set up on a temporary basis to manage thresholds and ensure early identification, was now continuing as a permanent measure.
- The RSCP would always continue their gold standard response to child sexual exploitation. The response to child sexual exploitation was identified as gold standard by His Majesties Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and Ofsted. The Policing Advisor to the Prime Minister visited the Evolve Team and advised that the work delivered by the team was a best practise model. South Yorkshire Police were now applying the Evolve Model developed in Rotherham, to Barnsley, Sheffield, and Doncaster.
- The neglect subgroup was working on understanding what areas of neglect were showing the biggest increases, to establish prioritisation of those identified areas. The cost-of-living crisis was discussed at the Wider Partnership, it was noted that the healthcare service and voluntary sector both had roles to play regarding neglect and the cost-of-living crisis. Safeguarding Awareness Week would involve discussions around the cost-of-living crisis and information on what support was available. South Yorkshire Police had also completed training with all officers to ensure they were re-educated on the cost-of-living crisis, this enabled officers to complete assessments which identified the support and help that was required.
- Neurodiversity was an area for the partnership to track and to improve the understanding across the RSCP and wider professionals.
- The safeguarding and education sub-group would focus on the voice of the child and the school. A high number of referrals and information around exploitation were provided by peers. This was positive as it highlighted the good work of the education programmes across Rotherham, such as Crucial Crew.

Resolved:- That

- 1) The Improving Lives Select Commission accept the report and note the progress made.
- 2) The Improving Lives Select Commission requested feedback following the conclusion of the Safeguarding Awareness Week which was taking place in November in Rotherham.
- 3) The Improving Lives Select Commission welcomed the opportunity to visit the MASH hub, date to be confirmed.
- 4) The Improving Lives Select Commission requested an off agenda briefing to provide more detailed information regarding the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership 3-year plan (2023-2026).

115. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered its Work Programme, and the Chair provided the following update:

- Elective Home Education had been removed from the Work Programme for the next meeting on the 31st October 2023, as it was proposed that this be looked at as a sub-group.
- The item on Domestic Abuse had been added to the Commissions agenda for the meeting on the 5th December 2023.
- The Work Programme would be added to the agenda for each meeting for comment and refinement.

Resolved: - That the Work Programme for 2023-2024 be approved.

116. IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION - SUB AND PROJECT GROUP UPDATES

The Chair provided a progress report on sub and project group activity which included the following:

- The sub-group for Elective Home Education was under

construction and an expression of interest would be circulated to all members in due course.

Resolved: - That the update be noted.

117. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

118. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Chair advised that the next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission would take place on 31 October 2023 commencing at 10am in Rotherham Town Hall.

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission take place on 31 October 2023 commencing at 10am in Rotherham Town Hall.

People of Rotherham are able to live a life free from harm where all organisations and communities

- Keeping people safe from abuse is everyone's business
- Work together to prevent abuse
- Knows what to do when abuse happens



ANNUAL REPORT

2022/23

INTRODUCTION BY MOIRA WILSON

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Independent Chair



**I am pleased to present
Rotherham's Safeguarding Adults
Board Annual Report for 2022/23.**

Partnership working in Rotherham has remained strong with all partners contributing to the Board to ensure that people in Rotherham are

protected and safeguarded. The sub-groups of the Board are chaired by representatives from across the partnership. They take forward the Board's priorities; this report gives examples of work achieved during the year. Attendance continues to be strong, and I would like to thank all subgroup Chairs and members for their continued involvement.

In April 2022 all Board members came together to develop the SAB's new three-year strategic plan for 2022 until 2025. We agreed three new priorities:

- **Back to Basics** – Working with partners to ensure the six principles of safeguarding are embedded in practice. Making Safeguarding Personal is part of everything we do.
- **Systems, Processes and Performance** – Make sure that all services have appropriate systems and processes in place to support and safeguard adults effectively.
- **Strengthen Partnership** – Make sure that partners, organisations, and communities will work together to prevent abuse from happening.

In September we joined with Rotherham Children and Young People's Partnership for our joint check and challenge review of safeguarding across Rotherham. We held these sessions in person for the first time since the pandemic and identified a number of shared objectives for us to take forward together.

In November 2022 another successful Safeguarding Awareness Week was held across South Yorkshire. We delivered a mixture of face to face and virtual training to over 600 people and feedback was positive.

I would like to thank partners for their continued support and look forward to continuing to deliver our new strategic plan.

MESSAGE FROM Cllr DAVID ROCHE

Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board



**The Rotherham
Safeguarding
Adults Board
brings partners
together and
promotes true
partnership
working**

**across all agencies to ensure that
safeguarding is embedded in
all aspects of working life. This
Safeguarding Annual Report for
2022/23 reflects the work that
is done across Rotherham by all
partners and organisations to
help protect the vulnerable.**

This past year has seen partners provide evidence to the Safeguarding Adults Board to give assurance that there is a strong sense of partnership and working together to help safeguard the most vulnerable adults in our community.

As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, it gives me great pleasure to take this opportunity to acknowledge the commitment of all the Board partners including the members of the subgroups that support the Board and ensure the work is done.

'Safeguarding is everyone's business', and this message is constantly shared across all aspects of service, we continue to work together to protect and safeguard the vulnerable.

Recognise. Respond. Report.

Councillor David Roche

Adult Social Care and Health

Keeping people safe from abuse is everyone's business

RECOGNISE • RESPOND • REPORT

The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) works to protect adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect.

The RSAB's primary objective is to ensure that local safeguarding arrangements and partnerships act to help and protect adults at risk or experiencing neglect and/or abuse. The RSAB is a multi-agency strategic partnership made up of senior/lead officers and nominated safeguarding leads from within adult social services, criminal justice, health, housing, community safety and voluntary organisations.

The RSAB coordinates the strategic development of adult safeguarding across Rotherham and ensures the effectiveness of the work undertaken by partner agencies in the area. The Board aims to achieve those objectives whilst supporting individuals in maintaining control over their lives and in making informed choices without coercion.

Who is at risk?

An adult at risk is someone who is aged 18 or over who:

- Has needs for care and support
- Is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect, and is unable to protect themselves

What is abuse?

Abuse can be:

- Something that happens once
- Something that happens repeatedly
- A deliberate act
- Something that was unintentional, perhaps due to a lack of understanding
- A crime

Abuse can happen anywhere, at any time and be caused by anyone including

- A partner or relative
- A friend or neighbour
- A paid or volunteer carer
- Other service users
- Someone in a position of trust
- A stranger

Types of abuse:

Physical abuse

Hitting, kicking, punching, kicking, inappropriate restraint

Domestic abuse

Psychological, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional abuse by a current or former partner or family member

Organisational abuse

Poor treatment in a care setting

Financial or material abuse

Theft, fraud, misuse of someone else's finances.

Sexual abuse

Being made to take part in a sexual activity without consent

Discriminatory abuse

Harassment based on age, gender, sexuality, disability, race or religion

Neglect and acts of omission

Failure to provide care or support

Psychological and Emotional abuse

Shouting, ridiculing, or bullying

Modern slavery

Human trafficking and forced labour

Self-neglect

Declines essential care support needs, impacting on their overall wellbeing



Doing nothing is not an option!

ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REVIEW of 2022/23

During 2022/23 the RSAB continued to work with partners to protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect in Rotherham. The Board and the executive group continued to meet on a quarterly basis and the Independent Chair re-introduced face to face meetings post pandemic.

All Board members came together in April 2022 to develop the SAB's new strategic plan that will last from 2022 until 2025. The partnership agreed three new priorities.

- **Back to Basics** – Working with partners to ensure the six principles of safeguarding are embedded in practice. Making Safeguarding Personal is part of everything we do.
- **Systems, Processes and Performance** – Make sure that all services have appropriate systems and processes in place to support and safeguard Adults effectively.
- **Strengthen Partnership** – Make sure that partners, organisations and communities will work together to prevent abuse from happening.

The new strategic aims will be the focus of the work carried out by the Board over the next term and will be monitored through an action plan,

Safeguarding Awareness Week 2022

Safeguarding Awareness Week SAW22 was held across a local and South Yorkshire regional footprint. Events of the week saw Adults, Children's and Safer Rotherham Partnership delivering training and awareness sessions to the safeguarding partnership. Over the five days there were 27 awareness sessions held across the borough, these included Suicide Prevention, Ampro Bereavement Services and the Trauma Resilience Service delivered a specialist session on Coping with Trauma.

Over 600 registered attendees were booked to take part in events over the week. Across South

Yorkshire the Working Together Partnership delivered two regional awareness sessions on Self-Neglect and Cyber Crime. Partners came together to share safeguarding information on a market stall in Rotherham Town Centre and interacted with the public to raise awareness.

Joint Self-Assessment

The Safeguarding Adults Board and the Childrens Safeguarding Partnership completed their second joint self-assessment with partners in September 2022. The self-assessment included an improved focus on check and challenge. Partners were invited to face to face sessions with the Independent Chair's and were able to have meaningful discussions while presenting their agency reports. The process provided both Adults and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships with assurance that the residents of Rotherham were being effectively safeguarded.

Published Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR)

In March 2023 the Safeguarding Adults Review named "Samantha" was published, the independent author completed the review and made recommendations for the Safeguarding Partnership to implement so learning can be shared and improvements to service considered.



ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-25



ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-25

Our vision is to make Rotherham a place where adults feel safe, secure, and free from harm and abuse. Our mission is to promote partnership working and to co-ordinate the effective delivery of safeguarding arrangements across the Borough.

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board – Who we are

The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is a multi-agency partnership which has statutory functions under the Care Act 2014. The main focus of the SAB is to ensure that in Rotherham safeguarding arrangements work effectively so that Adults at risk are able to live their lives free from abuse or neglect.

An Adult at risk is a person aged 18 or over who has needs for care and support and as a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

Unpaid carers such as partners, relatives or friends can also get help and support if they are being abused.

In this Plan we will call an Adult at risk the 'Adult'.

Our Strategic Statement – What we plan to do

We will work together with partner organisations and people in our communities so that Adults can live the best lives they can with their wellbeing and rights being supported, safe from abuse and neglect.

Our work will follow the six Safeguarding Principles which are: Empowerment; Protection; Proportionality; Prevention; Partnership and Accountability.

How are we going to do this?

We are going to work on three areas of equal importance, which will be our priorities. We will continue to work with our partners to make sure that by 2025 these priorities are achieved.

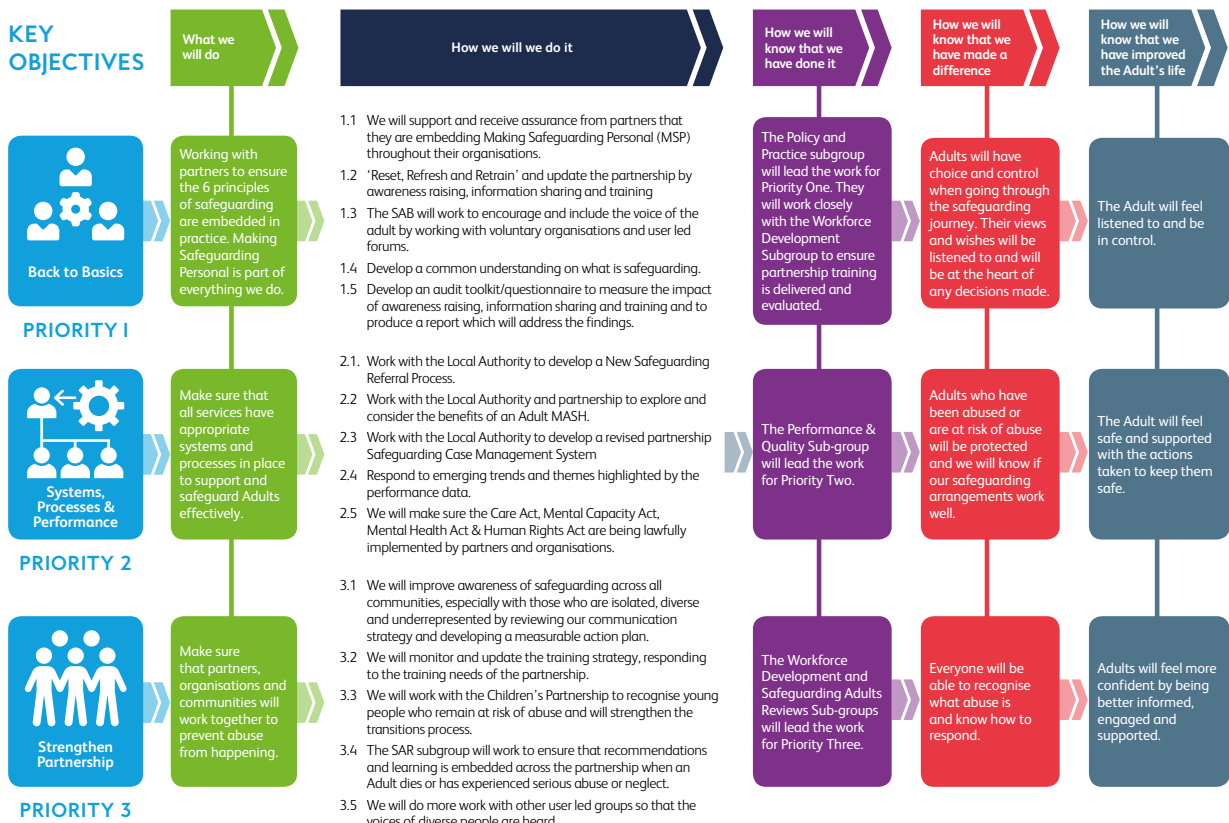
How will we know if we have achieved our priorities?

We will measure our progress and achievements through our Delivery Plan which will be updated every three months and presented to the Safeguarding Adults Board.

The Structure of the Safeguarding Adults Board – How we will work

- Board with an Independent Chair
- Executive Group groups
- Workforce and development Subgroup
- Performance & Quality Sub-group
- Policy and Practice Sub-group
- Safeguarding Adults Reviews Sub-group
- Task Groups (working)

KEY OBJECTIVES



The priorities for the Board for 2022/23 were:

Priority	Resulting Action
Develop a new Strategic Plan for 2022 - 2025	<p>Plan a Board Development Day with an independent facilitator to bring the safeguarding partnership together to produce a new strategic plan for 2022-25.</p> <p>Agree the new key objectives and strategic aims of the Board and how the partnership can work together to deliver the priorities identified.</p> <p>This will provide the Board and the subgroups with their workplan for the next three years and ensure all partners are on board with the plan.</p>
Work jointly with the Safeguarding Childrens Partnership to self-assess our partners safeguarding arrangements.	<p>Consult with the safeguarding partnership on how they would like the Safeguarding Adults and Children's Boards to carry out a self-assessment.</p> <p>Manage the self-assessment process to ensure all partners complete their submissions and ensure the check and challenge session provides useful feedback to the Boards and their partners.</p> <p>This allows the partnership to contribute to the self-assessment process and ensures that the feedback sessions are effective.</p>
Commission a Peer Review of the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board.	<p>Partners have now agreed that the Local Government Association will carry out a peer review and dates have been agreed for July 2023.</p> <p>Preparation includes completing a self-assessment, compiling a catalogue of documents to provide as evidence to the review team and invite colleagues from across the partnership to be interviewed by the review team.</p> <p>This will help the Board progress and develop as a strong partnership.</p>

The RSAB has four subgroups to ensure the priorities of Board are delivered. The Sub-Groups each have a work plan and during 2022/23 they were able to deliver the following specific pieces of work:

Performance and Quality Subgroup

Priority	Resulting Action
<p>The Performance and Quality subgroup will carry out an audit of Policies held by partners. The audit will target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Abuse • Safeguarding • People in Persons of Trust (PiPoT) • Mental Capacity Assessment (MCA) 	<p>Partners were requested to supply the subgroup with their policies to assure the Board that safeguarding is consistent across the borough. Where documents were missing, agencies were asked to consider the development of procedures and report back to the subgroup.</p>
<p>Work with health partners to explore a common agreement on the reporting of pressure sores.</p>	<p>A working group was developed including colleagues from health, adult social care and commissioning to develop a practical agreement on how safeguarding issues relating to pressure sores should be reported into safeguarding.</p> <p>Work continues to include guidance in a Safeguarding Threshold Tool.</p>

Workforce Development

Priority	Resulting Action
<p>Develop an evaluation process to assess the impact of training on the safeguarding workforce across the partnership.</p>	<p>Work with partners to develop a way of gathering feedback from attendees at training provided by the RSAB.</p> <p>Explore different ways of communicating with attendees following training and ensure we are asking meaningful questions to shape future training.</p>
<p>Work with the adult and children's safeguarding partnership to deliver Safeguarding Awareness Week 2022.</p>	<p>27 awareness sessions delivered across five days, face to face and virtual</p> <p>649 registered attendees</p> <p>Two regional awareness sessions – Self-neglect and Cyber Crime</p>

Policy and Practice

Priority	Resulting Action
Work with the partnership to bring the Self-neglect and Hoarding Policies and Procedures into one document.	Following recommendations made by independent authors in safeguarding adults reviews the partnership have redesigned the Self-neglect and Hoarding Policy into one document, this includes easy to follow flow charts and the clutter scale to aid workers using the policy.
Refresh and update policies that are shared across the partnership.	<p>The subgroup reviewed and refreshed the Escalation Policy that is used by the partnership to raise concerns if issues are identified during a safeguarding matter.</p> <p>The People in Positions of Trust (PiPoT) policy has also been refreshed to inform the partnership of their PiPoT responsibilities.</p>

Safeguarding Adults Review

Priority	Resulting Action
The SAR subgroup commissioned two SAR's during 22/23 and one SAR named Samantha was published March 2023.	<p>SAR Samantha was completed and signed off by the RSAB in December 2022, the report was published on the RSAB website in March 2023 and the report was shared across the partnership for learning purposes.</p> <p>This SAR looked at issues of self-neglect and mental capacity.</p>



World Social Work Day, 15 March 2022

LOOKING FORWARD

to 2023/24

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

ROTHERHAM'S SAFEGUARDING AWARENESS WEEK



CHILDREN AND ADULT ABUSE

WILL NOT BE TOLERATED

The new strategic plan for 2022/25 provides the Board and its subgroups with a new and refreshed work plan and this will be monitored by an overall action plan that will be reported to the Board. The new strategic aims set out clear objectives for the subgroups and all partners to deliver on and this will be achieved by working together over the next three years.

The Local Government Association will be undertaking a Peer Challenge during July 2023, this will involve six reviewers visiting Rotherham over a three day period and undertaking a series of interviews with safeguarding colleagues from across the partnership. The review team will be provided with a self-assessment completed by the Board that will highlight our strengths and area for improvement.

The RSAB has asked the Peer team to concentrate on the following areas:

Outcomes for and the experiences of people who use services

This theme looks at what differences there have been to the outcomes people experience in relation to Adult Safeguarding and the quality of experience of people who have used the services provided.

Leadership, Strategy and Working Together

This theme looks at the leadership of the RSAB and how they deliver their statutory duties. There is recognised and active leadership to safeguard adults in each of the statutory partner organisations.

Following the Peer Challenge the Board will receive a report of the teams finding and this will also provide the Board with areas for improvement and recommendations on how changes could be made.

Safeguarding Awareness Week 2023

SAW23 will take place the 20 to 24 November. The Rotherham Safeguarding Partnership will be organising training and awareness sessions throughout the week. The South Yorkshire launch event will be hosted by Rotherham this year and will bring together colleagues from across South Yorkshire to celebrate the launch of this important week. The topic for the launch event will be Online Safeguarding, with a focus on how we keep children's and adults safe while online, the emerging themes in fraud and online scams and the South Yorkshire context and challenges for online safety.

KEY PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS 2022/2023

The partners of the RSAB all have a responsibility to help deliver the priorities that are set out in the strategic plan. Each partner has provided evidence to how they deliver the four priorities of the Board. Here are some examples of the good practice, learning and customer stories that ensure that the Rotherham Safeguarding Partnership is committed to working together to safeguard its citizens and to continue to raise awareness of safeguarding.

Rotherham Council

Making Safeguarding Personal

How does your organisation ensure the six principles of safeguarding are embedded in practice. Making Safeguarding Personal is part of everything we do.

Safeguarding systems have been refreshed and redesigned during 2022/23 and mandatory fields have been included in the design to ensure no safeguarding case can continue without outcomes being recorded.

Recording the wishes and outcomes of all persons involved in a safeguarding concern is necessary to ensure we are capturing the principles of MSP.

Rotherham Council ensure all workers are able to access Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) training.

Billy returned home to live with family following a hospital admission, home care services were commissioned to support Billy at home despite his family insisting they would care for him. Billy discloses to home support agency he is fearful for his life, has little food and being excluded from watching tv and rest of family life.

Safeguarding Concerns are raised with Rotherham Locality Service and an exit plan arranged into emergency care home placement.

Social Work continues with Billy in relation to ongoing safeguarding adults' enquiries relating to finances, longer term planning and relationships with family members.

Safeguarding was made personal for Billy ...

He was always at the centre of his safeguarding journey and **empowered**.

He was **protected**.

Establishment of strong relationships and partnership working was evident.

Transparency of actions taken.

Further safeguarding concerns **prevented** in relation to financial abuse suspected.

Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust:

How does your organisation ensure the six principles of safeguarding are embedded in practice? Making Safeguarding Personal is part of everything we do.

Empowerment – MSP is included in the Think Family training for staff. The Safeguarding team reinforce that the adult's outcomes are to be sought where possible when considering a safeguarding referral. Referrals to the advocacy service are made where deemed necessary. The Safeguarding team quality assure the referrals generated by TRFT staff and feedback to them.

The safeguarding team work closely with the Learning Disability and Autism team. Their expertise is used to establish effective communication methods and support with their patient group when a safeguarding concern has been raised.

Training compliance is monitored via Safeguarding Key Performance indicators and the Safeguarding Standards set by the Integrated Care Board (ICB). These are reviewed at the monthly Operational Safeguarding Group which reports to the Safeguarding Committee held quarterly and chaired by the Chief Nurse

Prevention – Safeguarding information and guidance is provided to staff via the Hub. There is a visible presence on the ward areas from the safeguarding team to guide and provide advice and coaching. Safeguarding information is also visible in the form of posters and ward boards across the organisation.

Proportionality – The principles of the Care Act 2014 and MCA 2005 are practiced when working in partnership with adults to meet their identified safeguarding outcomes where possible. Staff refer to advocacy services when appropriate. The Trust also has an Learning Disability and Autism team that support patients to have a voice in the care they receive and in service design.

Protection – Training compliance is monitored via Safeguarding Key Performance Indicators and the Safeguarding Standards set by the Integrated Care Board (ICB). These are reviewed at the monthly Operational Safeguarding Group which reports to the Safeguarding Committee, held quarterly and chaired by the Chief Nurse.

Appreciative enquiries are completed to share learning, best practice and embed any learning in practice across the Trust.

Safeguarding policy and guidance is freely available through the Hub.

Partnership – Staff are guided by the Organisation's Information Governance Policies, procedures and Caldicott principles. Guidance is provided when information may be shared without consent. However staff will always seek to work with an adult and be open about any actions that may be taken

The Adult Safeguarding Team continues to work in partnership with Rotherham Council to provide "health" input for safeguarding investigations. This involves offering support to Rotherham Council colleagues around investigations, Decision Making Meetings (DMM) and preparations for Outcomes meetings (OM), even when there is no TRFT involvement. This represents continued commitment to partnership working.

Accountability – TRFT supports meaning of, "safeguarding is everyone's responsibility."

To ensure accountability, staff have training to ensure they are clear about their responsibilities in relation to raising safeguarding concerns.

A young adult woman attended due to significant facial injuries. She declined to disclose to staff what caused the injuries and maintained she had fallen.

UECC staff and ward staff work sensitively with the woman to provide access to external domestic abuse support and gain consent to involve our Rotherham Council children's services to ensure the impact on the children could be considered fully.

This was an excellent example of 'Think Family' in practice, demonstrating consideration of not only the presenting concerns, but of the wider issues involved. TRFT staff were praised for their vigilance and professional curiosity, and the team were able to share this across the trust to promote learning from good practice.

SY ICB Rotherham Safeguarding Team (Formerly NHS Rotherham CCG)

How does your organisation make sure that partners, organisations and communities will work together to prevent abuse from happening?

NHS South Yorkshire ICB at Rotherham Place is committed to partnership working in all matters of Safeguarding Adults. The ICB is represented within RSAB at executive level and also embedded within all RSAB sub-groups. The ICB is also active and engaging within the Rotherham Safer Partnership, is a statutory member within Rotherham Channel Panel and actively engages within other key areas at a local level such as Domestic Abuse.

As a commissioner of health care in Rotherham, oversight and assurance is obtained from commissioned services through receiving annual Provider Safeguarding assurance declarations (as part of the NHS Standard Contract Quality Schedules).

In addition to this, the ICB in Rotherham Place is actively involved in liaising with partners within identified Safeguarding concerns, as well as having regular monthly Safeguarding Adults interface meetings with the main NHS providers and participation within quarterly strategic meetings as a valued partner.

NHS South Yorkshire ICB at Rotherham place have successfully jointly led on the introduction of the new annual Provider Safeguarding Assurance Document at Rotherham Place, as part of a larger piece of work at the ICB to use a standardised template across all of South Yorkshire at all Places. This will assist providers or cross ICB place borders in creating a single assurance document instead of multiple versions, saving time and repetition of work.

Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDaSH)

How does your organisation make sure that all services have appropriate systems and processes in place to support and safeguard Adults effectively.

The Trust utilises the SABs policies and procedures and all safeguarding legislation to ensure that our patients are appropriately safeguarded.

Robust mechanisms are in place to scrutinise incidents of patient safety, including safeguarding, and offers the opportunity to embed learning into practice.

A young woman with a diagnosis of psychosis had several previous admissions to mental health inpatient services with a similar presentation. Last presentation to services was that of a diagnosis of personality disorder. During the most recent admission the patient was antenatal and would be term (ready to birth) during the inpatient stay.

A multi professional approach was taken to create a robust risk assessment and protection plan for the patient, care givers and baby. The Court of Protection was required and detailed plans circulated to all involved, including local authority, RDaSH and TRFT staff. This ensured every possible outcome for the birth was explored for risk and mitigations in place accordingly, in the least restrictive way.

The impact on all involved was acknowledged as being a complex case that required a professional debrief, afterwards from a psychologist and during from supervision provided by the RDaSH safeguarding team.

The case demonstrated outstanding evidence of making safeguarding personal through advocacy for the patient's human rights and emotional wellbeing long term. Trauma informed practice was prevalent, recognising the trauma of the situation for all involved and responding to the trauma through debrief, supervision and psychologist input. A Think family approach was clear, considering the impact on the baby, patient, and other significant members of the family, working within legislation and safeguarding frameworks, whilst recognising the emotive nature of the situation.

Do you know the signs of adult abuse?



Recognise • Respond • Report

South Yorkshire Police

How does your organisation make sure that all services have appropriate systems and processes in place to support and safeguard Adults effectively?

The force has identified a lead officer managing the portfolio of Protecting Vulnerable adults. This officer is at Chief Inspector level. The force lead chairs a series of meetings that, amongst other things ensure our systems and processes are scrutinised to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Any concerns regarding any of these processes are raised within this process and addressed straight away.

Within Rotherham we have created the Vulnerability Pathway. This is a series of platforms upon which vulnerability can be managed dependant on Threat, Risk and Harm. An individual can be escalated or de-escalated should the risk change.

This process is true multi-agency and all partners including the voluntary sector are invested in the process.

Our systems are utilised daily and are embedded within 'daily business'. In Rotherham we have created a process whereby vulnerable adult alerts are scrutinised by specific officers for quality. This also allows officers to properly assess the threat, harm and risk identified within the alert.. This ensures Safeguarding concerns are being addressed appropriately and in a timely manner.

Individuals are assessed throughout the process to monitor the level of risk and to measure whether this has changed since the referral. Embedded within the process is a three month review to look at the situation as it evolves to ensure the risk has not escalated to put the individual at any further risk. If the picture has changed the individual can be referred straight back into the pathway at the level commensurate with the current risk.

L is a 30 year old woman who has suffered significant trauma throughout her life as a result of both physical and sexual abuse. Neglected from a young age she rebelled and found herself in a world of petty crime and class B drugs. This soon escalated into far more serious crime and an addiction to Heroin and Crack Cocaine.

Over the years she entered into several abusive relationships resulting in two children both of whom were taken into care. Her life was extremely chaotic , she was 'sofa surfing' and engaging in extremely risky behaviour around drugs and alcohol.

Services have been a part of her life as long as she can remember.

Over the last two years the VARM process has engaged her. She has a advocate allocated from the trauma and resilience service and for once she feels that she is being listened to. Through the work of the VAARM she has reduced her drug intake and is engaging with the drug and alcohol service. She has a place that she can call home and is looking forwards to decorating it. She has a steady boyfriend and whilst the relationship is not completely free of risk it is far more stable than her previous ones.

We have to accept given the trauma that LB has suffered throughout her life that there will always be a degree of chaos and associated demand upon services. That said having seen her at her lowest in a hopeless situation the work of the VARM has taken her to a new level I doubt even she thought possible.

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (SYFR)

How does your organisation make sure that partners, organisations and communities will work together to prevent abuse from happening?

SYFR attend the Safeguarding Adult Board and relevant sub groups to support the multi agency work in Rotherham and across South Yorkshire. SYFR are aware of the escalation routes if required.

The Safeguarding Officers and High Risk Coordinator have professional conversations and use appropriate challenge if required in relation to safeguarding adults.

SYFR offer a partnership scheme called Safer South Yorkshire (formerly Safe & Well) to ensure that organisations can sign up to refer those they work with for a Home Fire Safety Check. Partnership work can support people to live safe and prevent abuse and neglect from happening. When abuse and neglect happens we can work

together to ensure we are proportionate and offer appropriate protections.

SYFR are involved in the Self neglect and Hoarding work around South Yorkshire and work with a range of agencies to support people in the community.

SYFR are engaging in partnership with the Adult Social Care teams and are delivering awareness sessions for staff on Home Fire Safety in high fire risk. This is a positive partnership that ensures we can work together to keep our communities safe. SYFR offers Safer South Yorkshire referral partnerships to a range of services to support our prevention work.



Rotherham Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS):

How does your organisation make sure that community organisations and groups will work together to prevent abuse from happening?

Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR) hosts and co-ordinates a number of VCS Networks and Consortia, including the developing VCS 'Supporting Adults in Rotherham Network' (SAIRN) as a means of disseminating changes in policy and practice, training opportunities and campaigns out to the wider VCS. In addition, the SAIRN aims to provide a consultation forum where proposals can be reviewed and feedback from the VCS communicated to both the Adult Safeguarding Board and to the Anti Social Behaviour Policy and Practice Sub-group via Voluntary Action Rotherham's representation.

The Rotherham VCS, through the VCS Networks and Consortia, has continued to show its commitment to Adult Safeguarding across the Borough and the work of the Adult Safeguarding Board via a nominated representative – Irshad Akbar of You Asked We Responded (YAWR) Services.



RECOGNISE · RESPOND · REPORT

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

A Concern

A Concern is a feeling of anxiety or worry that a Vulnerable Adult may have been, is or might be, a victim of abuse. An alert may arise as a result of a disclosure, an incident, or other signs or indicators.

A total of **3,666** concerns were reported through the new Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC).

Each concern is looked at and the three-point test is applied.

The safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs).
- Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect.
- As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

If the concern does not meet the criteria of the 3 point test the case may be signposted to a different team. We will always ensure the person is safe and not in any danger.

3,666 Safeguarding Concerns were received in 2022/23

Section 42 Enquiry

The Care Act 2014 (Section 42) requires that each local authority must make enquiries, or cause others to do so, if it believes an adult is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect. An enquiry should establish whether any action needs to be taken to prevent or stop abuse or neglect, and if so, by whom.

‘Safeguarding adults’ is the name given to the multi-agency response used to protect adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect. When an allegation about abuse or neglect has been made, an enquiry is undertaken to find out what, if anything, has happened.

At any point during this investigation a case can exit the safeguarding process.

The subject of the investigation must be aware and, in most cases, agree to the safeguarding enquiry unless they are unable to or a crime has been committed.

550 Section 42 enquiries began 2022/23

Decision Making Meeting (DMM)

The DMM will bring all relevant people together to ensure that, if the enquiry continues, the right questions will be asked of the right people. The voice of the person at risk of harm must be heard. Plan the way forward, look at who is best placed to investigate the concern.

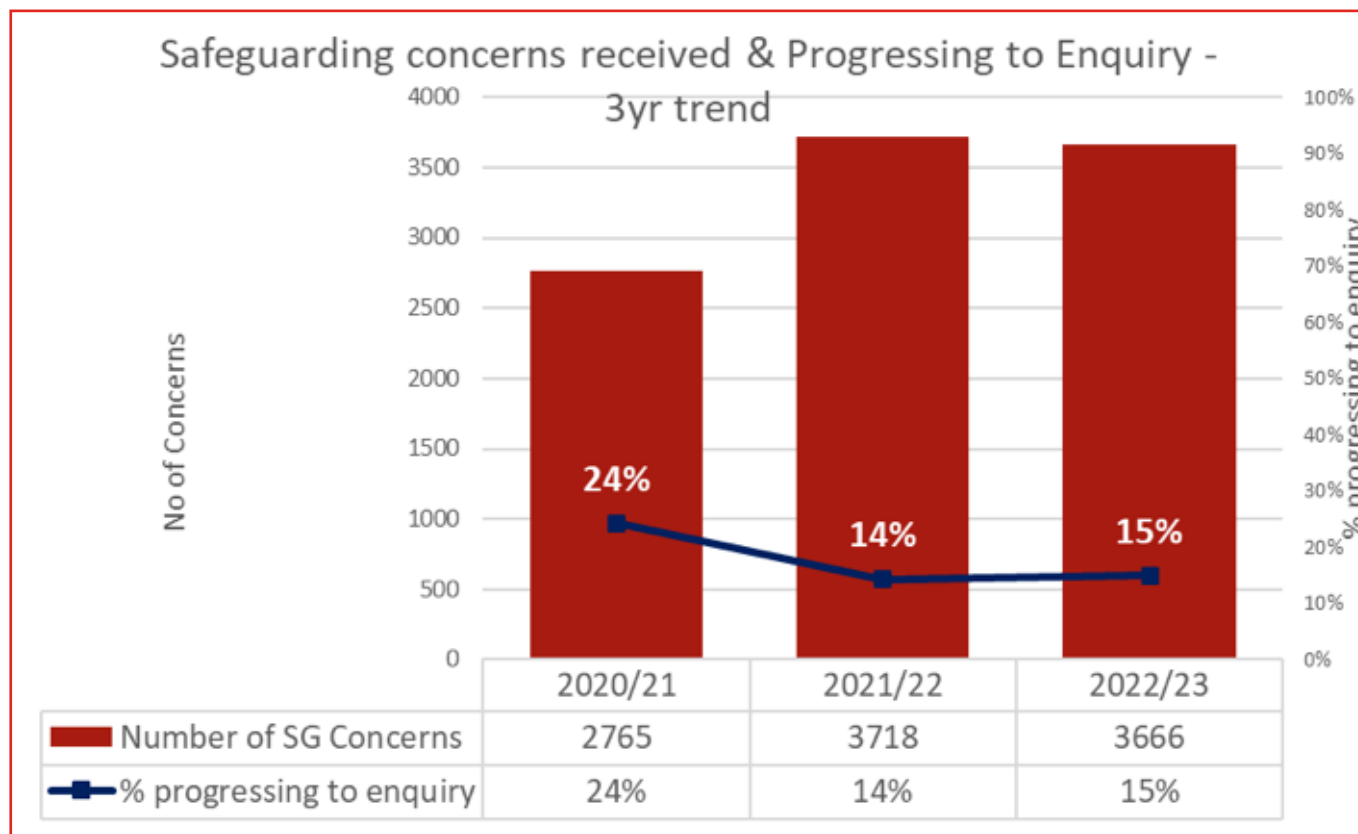
This meeting may be held virtually, to ensure it happens in a timely manner.

Outcomes Meeting

The Outcome meeting will bring all interested parties together including the individual if they wish to attend. Support from friends, advocacy or family is also encouraged. The voice of the person at risk of harm must be heard throughout the meeting and they must be given the opportunity to tell their story.

The meeting will bring the investigation to a conclusion and recommendations must be agreed by all interested parties and timescales and expectations clearly identified.

Safeguarding Annual Performance: 2022/23

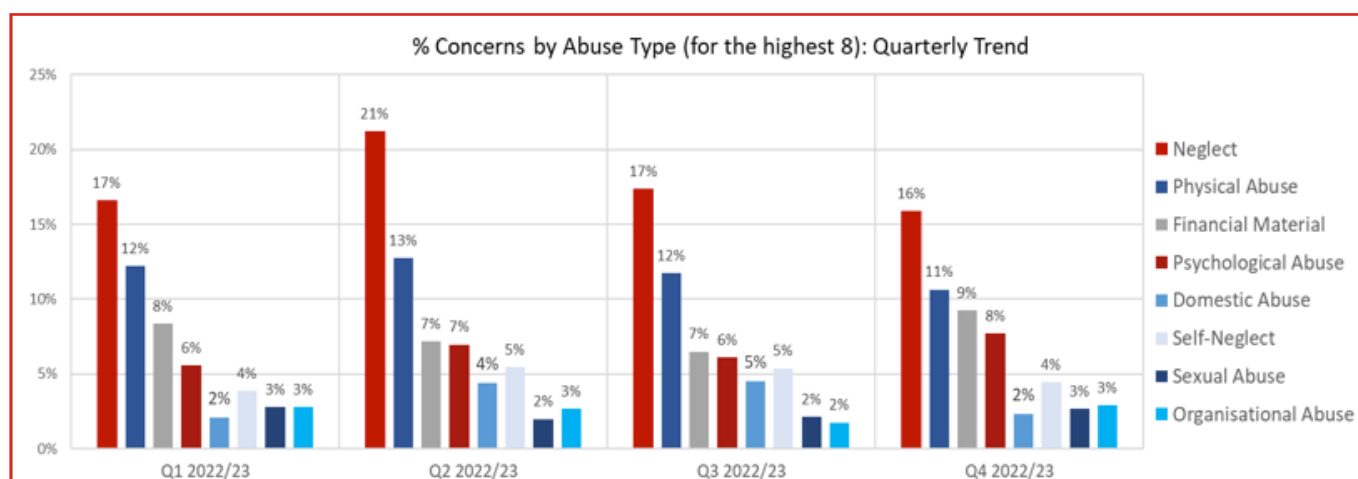


In the previous reporting year there was a 34% increase in new safeguarding concerns, (3,718 in 2021/22 compared to 2,765 in 2020/21).

The high level of demand has continued in 2022/23 with just 52 fewer totalling 3,666 new concerns reported, but there has been a slowing from the first two quarters of the year when more than 1,000 received compared to the last six months (quarter 3 had 800 and quarter 4 had 855).

The quarterly analysis shows the upward trend and clear increase over the last 3+ years.

Although volume of concerns are high, progression rates remain low ending the year at 15% just 1% higher than last year. Of the remaining 74% or 593 concerns not progressing to enquiry in quarter 4, 593 were closed with no action following initial investigation.



Proportion of enquiries by abuse type*	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	One Year Direction of Travel
Physical Abuse	28.4%	23.6%	18.8%	-4.8%
Sexual Abuse	6%	5.1%	6.8%	1.7%
Psychological Abuse	16.7%	14.5%	16.1%	1.6%
Financial Abuse	24.9%	25.5%	19.9%	-5.6%
Neglect and acts of omission	39.1%	40%	38.8%	-1.2%
Discriminatory Abuse	0.6%	1%	.6%	-0.4%
Organisational Abuse	9.8%	8.6%	7.3%	-1.3%
Domestic Abuse	7.2%	4.9%	3.9%	-0.9%
Sexual Exploitation	1.5%	1%	1.1%	0.1%
Modern Slavery	1.2%	0%	0.3%	0.3%
Self Neglect	6%	12.8%	10.9%	-1.9%
No abuse type recorded	1.8%	3.2%	10.1%	6.9%

*Please note one enquiry may be linked to multiple types.

The table and chart show the breakdown in types of abuse recorded over the last four years, with neglect and acts of omission being the largest group of recorded incidents.

Neglect (38%), Financial (20%) and Physical abuse (19%) continue to represent the three highest enquiries abuse types reported. In 2022/23.

Neglect and acts of omission covers concerns including:

- Failure to provide or allow access to food, shelter, clothing, heating, stimulation and activity, personal or medical care
- Providing care in a way that the person dislikes
- Failure to administer medication as prescribed
- Refusal of access to visitors
- Not taking account of individuals' cultural, religious or ethnic needs
- Not taking account of educational, social and recreational needs
- Ignoring or isolating the person
- Preventing the person from making their own decisions
- Preventing access to glasses, hearing aids, dentures, etc.
- Failure to ensure privacy and dignity

Safeguarding Adults Review – (SAR)

A Safeguarding Adults Review must be carried out if:

- An adult dies (including death by suicide) and abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor in their death. In such circumstances the SAB should always conduct a review into the involvement of agencies and professionals associated with the vulnerable adult.
- An adult has sustained a potentially life-threatening injury through abuse or neglect, serious sexual abuse, or sustained serious and permanent impairment of health or development through abuse or neglect, and the case gives rise to concerns about the way in which local professionals and services work together to safeguard vulnerable adults.
- Serious abuse takes place in an institution or when multiple abusers are involved, the same principles of review apply. Such reviews are, however, likely to be more complex, on a larger scale, and may require more time. Terms of reference need to be carefully constructed to explore the issues relevant to each specific case.

The SAR is commissioned by the SAB and all partners who have had involvement with the subject of the enquiry will be required to participate in the review. The results of the review are published by the SAB in the form of a final report.

Number of SARs Commissioned 2022-2023

2 SAR's were commissioned in 2022/23.

Number of SARs Completed 2022-2023

1 SAR was completed and published March 2023.

SAR Samantha

Samantha was a 33 year old female of White British origin who had longstanding mental health illness, diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia who was found deceased further to Covid symptoms (as reported to the fire service by her mother). It was noted that Samantha had been deceased for several days before she was found. The coroner recorded death by natural causes from an Idiopathic thrombotic pulmonary embolism.

Samantha lived alone in a private rented property – poorly maintained by the landlord, in need of repairs and in a neglected state. Samantha had been noted by services to be disheveled and struggling to care for herself in the previous months.

Samantha was known to a range of services who found it difficult to engage with her.

Police received multiple calls from Samantha with concerns that there were intruders in her property and that she could hear people in the house. None of these incidences were found to be because of intruders. It was noted that Samantha had not been taking her medication for management of mental health symptoms for some time.

The independent author noted.

Professionals found it difficult to engage with Samantha and this was where organisational factors had an impact. Within mental health services, there was an inability to continue to try and engage with Samantha as she was stating that she did not want help. Samantha's mental capacity was discussed within a multi-disciplinary team meeting, and the organisation referred elsewhere to undertake further mental capacity assessments. This showed a gap in understanding of mental capacity assessment requirements within the organisation. The absences of personnel in social care and environmental health were not addressed

organisationally, resulting in Samantha not being seen for several weeks.

From an interagency perspective there was no recognition by any agency that there needed to be a wider multi agency response indicative of an appropriate response to self-neglect.

The restrictions related to Covid-19 also had an impact on the assessment as several appointments were cancelled by the family due to the restrictions in place at the time. This was unavoidable and is being addressed with a number of professionals reviewing the UK covid response on safeguarding at a national level.

The findings of this review mirrored some of those found by researching self-neglect SARS, in particular understanding of assessment of mental capacity where there may be concerns related to executive functioning.

Recommendations

1. Learning from Previous SARS

1.1 RSAB should seek to collate all recent learning from SARs related to self-neglect and create one self-neglect action plan. The current response to self-neglect should be tested as a baseline using multi agency case file audits following publication of this SAR and at some point in the future to assess how well learning has been embedded. This is in line with the strategic plan for RSAB.

2. Referral and decision makin

2.1 In the development of the new referral system as per the RSAB strategic plan the following must for part of the process:

- RSAB to seek the development of a Transfer Protocol between Mental Health Trust and Adult Social Care that includes clarity on lead roles, challenge and escalation and dispute resolution.

3. Multi Agency Frameworks and Processes

3.1 RSAB must escalate and expedite VARM guidance that includes:

- Threshold criteria for referral.
- The right designation/organisation for the Chair or to rotate Chairing.
- Escalation process.
- How safeguarding processes under the Care Act sit within the VARM process map. e.g. Does VARM stop when Section 42 starts and/or vice versa?
- Where CMARAC fits in.
- Is there a step up and step-down process from other processes?
- Commitment of agencies to attend VAP at the right level rather than downward delegation.
- Assurance gathering on the efficacy of the system.

4. Self-Neglect; a safeguarding issue

4.1 RSAB to update the Self-neglect policy and procedures incorporating all new learning from this review.

- Ensuring a multi-agency response with guidance on which agencies may need to be considered to include.
- Flow charts of each stage of process including signposting and other processes, downloadable for ease of reference.
- Responses outside of S42.
- Engagement with difficult to engage people.
- Policy and process in one document so all in one place rather than separate.
- Identify where VARM and other processes fit with self-neglect.
- Importance of being professionally curious.

4.2 RSAB Subgroups to spotlight Self Neglect and being professionally curious during Safeguarding Adult Awareness week (November 2022).

4.3 RSAB to ask that the appropriate RBC Department provides a presentation and briefing regarding how Selective Licensing may work together with other organisations to protect against harm from self-neglect.

5. General Learning Briefing

5.1 RSAB should consider various methods of sharing the learning from this review e.g. podcast, video, etc. as well as the traditional learning briefing.

5.2 A case study should be developed to support individual and team reflection.



ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ATTENDANCE

Date of Safeguarding Adults Board Meeting (excludes e-learning)

	June 2022	September 2022	December 2022	March 2023
South Yorkshire Police	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Rotherham Foundation Trust	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rotherham Integrated Care Board	✓	✓	✓	✓
Director of Adult Social Care, Rotherham Council	✓	✓	✓	✓
South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rotherham Council Services	✓	✓	✓	✓
Voluntary Sector	✓	Apologies	✓	Apologies
National Probation Service	✓	✓	✓	Apologies
Cabinet Member for Adults Services	Apologies	✓	Apologies	Apologies

Rotherham Council's Cabinet Member for Adults Services supports the work the Safeguarding Adults Board with a visible presence at events and discussions throughout the year and is provided with monthly updates on all safeguarding adults' issues as well as the work of the Board.



Do you know the signs of adult abuse?



Recognise • Respond • Report

Rotherham Council 01709 822330
 Police non emergency: 101 or emergency: 999

Keeping people safe from abuse is everyone's business

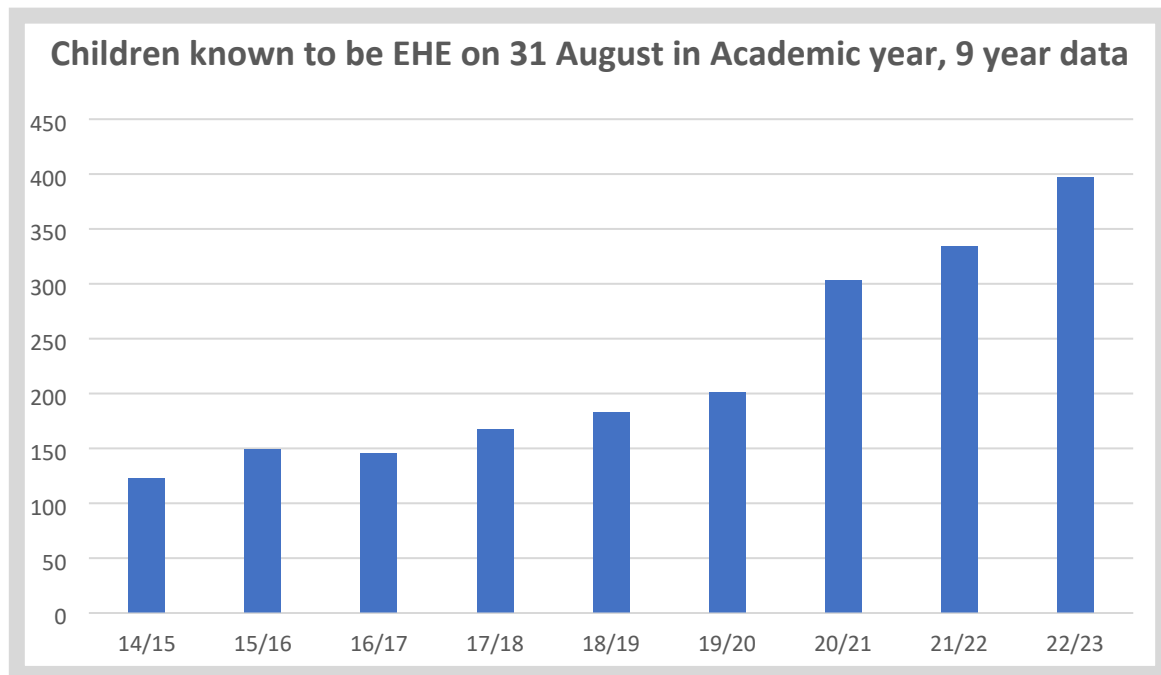
For more information about types of abuse
www.rotherham.gov.uk/abuse



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Elective Home Education Dashboard 2022-23

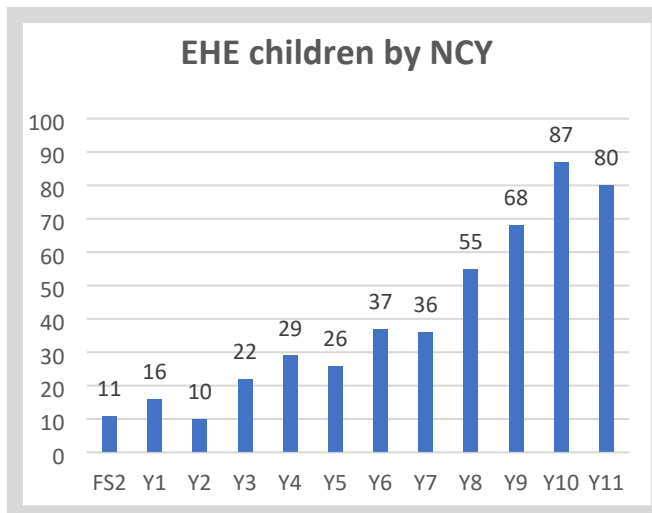
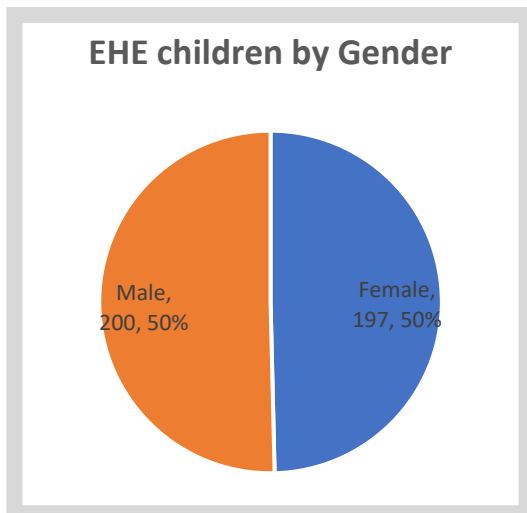
Unless otherwise indicated, data relates to Rotherham Children and Young People who were known to be Electively Home Educated on 31 August 2023. Although the year 11 children reported on had reached statutory school leaving age by this point, they are still included in the breakdown for completeness as they had been supported by the service during the preceding academic year.



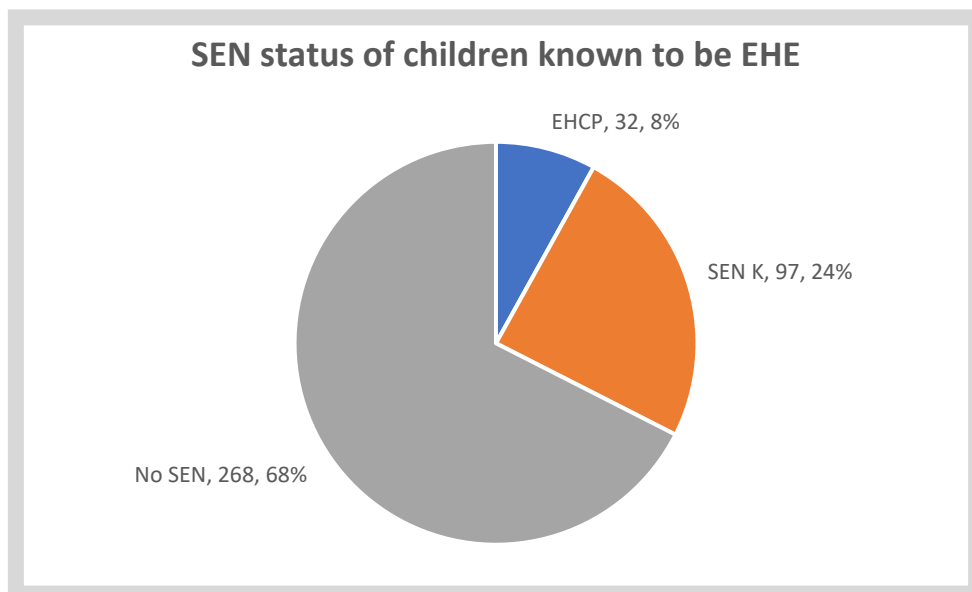
- There has been a year on year rise in the number of CYP who are known to be EHE. The steeper increase in 20/21 coincided with National trend seen following return of all children to education after the first National Lockdown; there has been a steady rise since then.

Elective Home Education in Rotherham on 31 August 2023

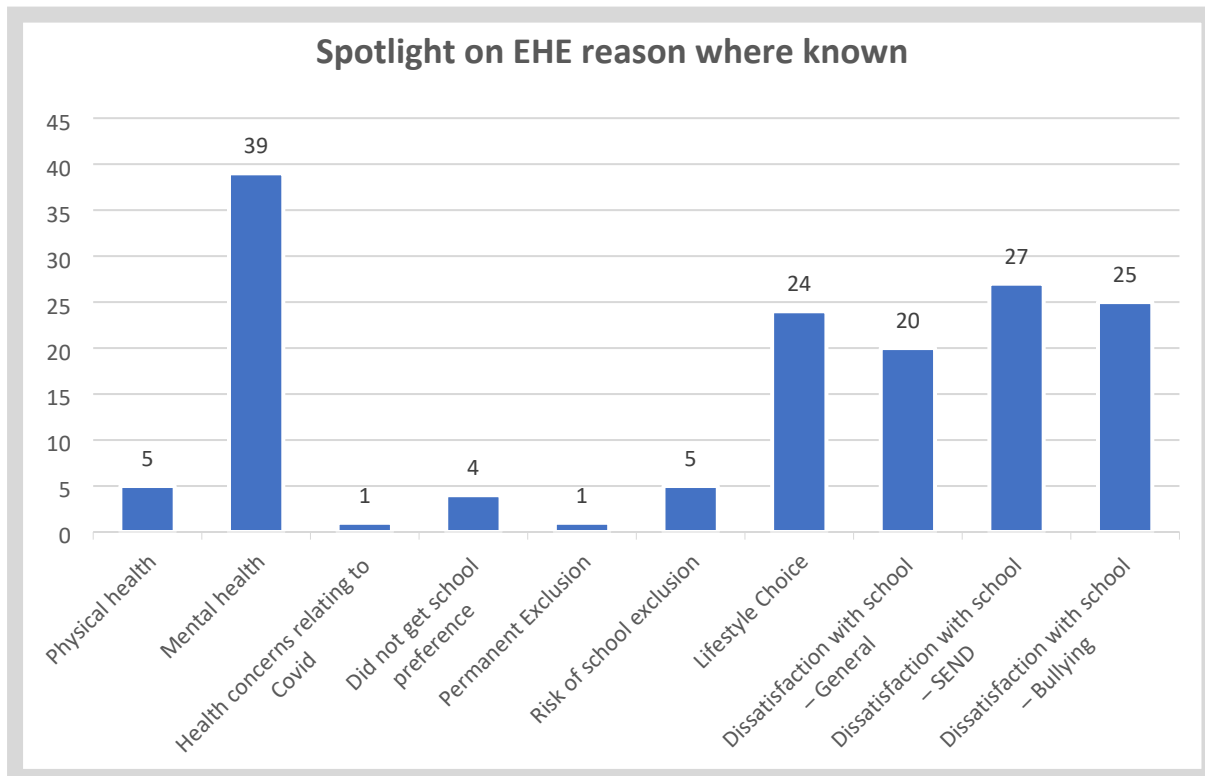
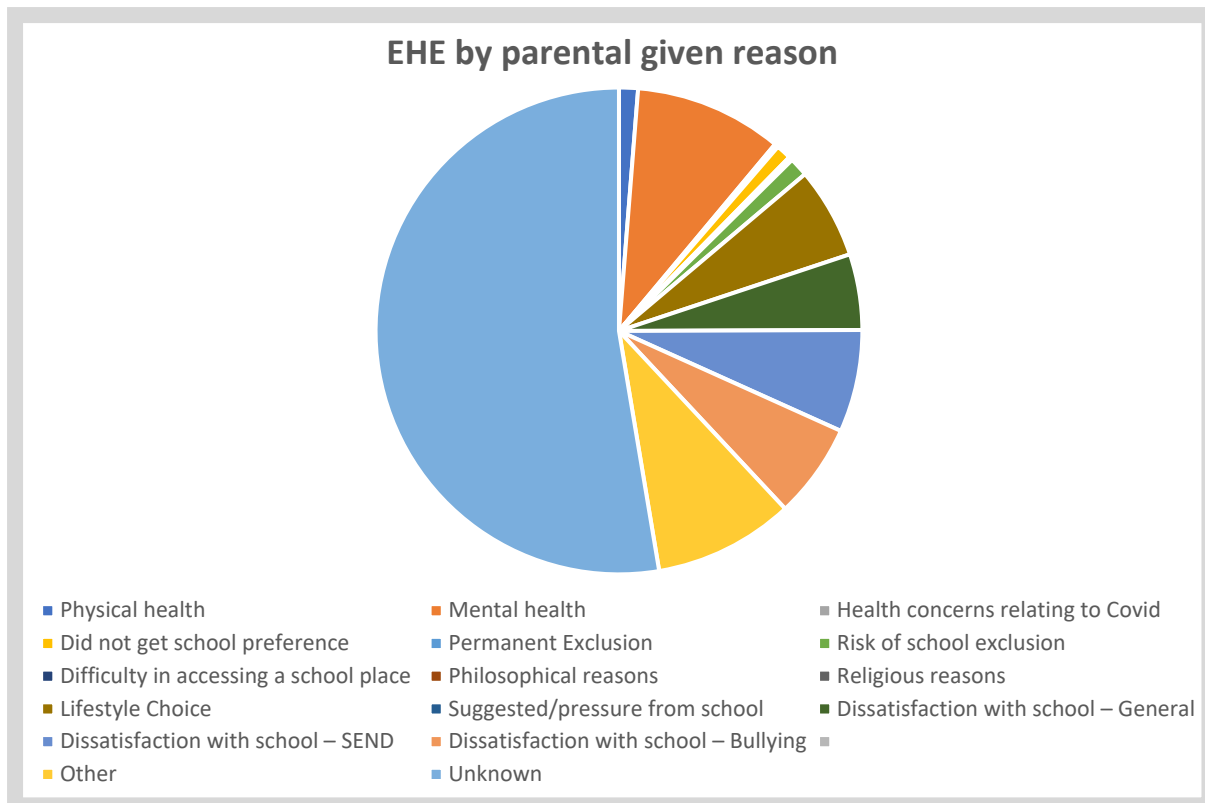
Total children known to be EHE	397
Child Protection	3
Child in Need	9
Early Help involvement	23



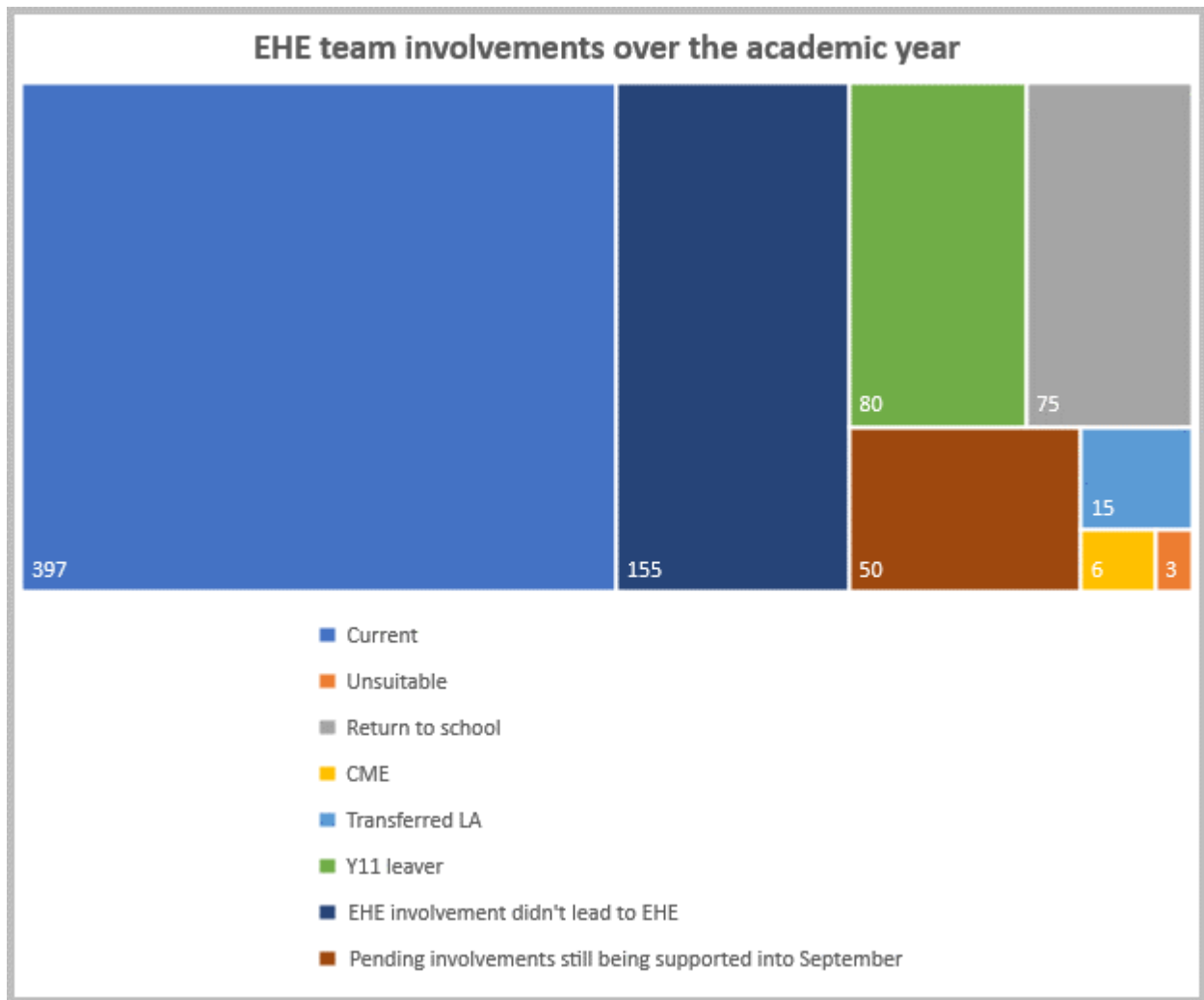
- There is an even split of boys and girls who are EHE in Rotherham.
- EHE numbers rise through primary and into secondary, with a peak at year 10. This is in line with National reported trend. Numbers rise year on year as parents make decisions to withdraw children at different points in their educational journey. Increasingly parents report that children are not able to cope with the emotional demands placed on them as they progress through school, including the rigour of a KS4 curriculum and GCSE study.



- The majority of children EHE in Rotherham do not have SEN needs recorded at the point they are deregistered from the school roll. Just under a third are recorded as having SEN needs, and are in receipt of either SEN support or have an EHCP.



- For over half of the children (53%) who are known to be EHE in Rotherham, the reasons for the parental decision to EHE remain unknown, with a further 9% recorded as ‘other’. This means that parental reasons to EHE are only reported for less than 40% of children.
- The further spotlight on known reasons shows that mental health is the most commonly reported reason, with dissatisfaction with school for reasons of bullying, SEND or other also being more commonly given reasons. 6% of the total reasons given are for lifestyle choice.



- The majority of the teams work remains working in a supportive way to ensure that LA statutory duty is discharged in respect of children who are known to be EHE.
- 155 children remained on school roll as a result of intervention from the team- this is typically where a parent indicates to school that they intend to EHE and following a supportive conversation or meeting with a member of the team they go on to decide it isn't the most appropriate pathway for their child. Although this work doesn't form part of the core LA duty in relation to EHE the experience of the team is that this prevents children becoming EHE and then parents realising relatively quickly that they wish for their child to return to school.

Statutory intervention following EHE unsuitable decision

Referral to FAP to identify school place (parent hasn't applied when asked to do so)	6
Referral to LASAP and subsequent School Attendance Order issued	1

Appendix 1: Improving Lives Select Commission –Summary Work Programme 2023/24

Chair: Cllr Lyndsay Pitchley
Governance Advisor: Natasha Aucott

Vice-Chair: Cllr Wendy Cooksey
Link Officer: David McWilliams

The following principles were endorsed by OSMB at its meeting of 5 July 2023 as criteria to long/short list each of the commission's respective priorities:

Establish as a starting point:

- What are the key issues?
- What is the outcome that we want?

Agree principles for longlisting:

- Can scrutiny add value or influence?
- Is it being looked at elsewhere?
- Is it a priority – council or community?

Developing a consistent shortlisting criteria e.g.

- T: Time: is it the right time, enough resources?
 O: Others: is this duplicating the work of another body?
 P: Performance: can scrutiny make a difference?
 I: Interest – what is the interest to the public?
 C: Contribution to the corporate plan?

Meeting Date	Agenda Item
13 June 2023	Counter extremism in schools/ Radicalisation of young people and extremism
25 July 2023	CYPS Performance and Year End performance Rotherham Youth Justice Service Progress Report
12 September 2023	Written Statement of Action Update Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report
31 October 2023	Adults Safeguarding Partners Annual Report Elective Home Education Presentation
5 December 2023	Looked After Children's Sufficiency Strategy Update Domestic Abuse Strategy Update (Council Plan Performance)

30 January 2024	Child Exploitation Update (Including post abuse support) Carers Strategy Update
5 March 2024	Early Help Update Family Hubs Update

Suggested Review Activity	
Early Years Strategy – Workshop	
Pandemic Related Risks to Children’s Development - TBC	
Preparation for adulthood tbc (with health?)	
Suggested joint work with Health Select Commission	
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Update	
Place Partners Adult Mental Health Services	