

IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION

- Date and Time:-** Tuesday 29 October 2024 at 10.00 a.m.
- Venue:-** Rotherham Town Hall, The Crofts, Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH
- Membership:-** Councillors Pitchley (Chair), Knight (Vice-Chair), Baggaley, Blackham, Bower, Brent, T. Collingham, Elliott, Fisher, Foster, Garnett, Harper, Hughes, Monk, Reynolds, Ryalls and Sutton.

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 (Pages 5 - 11)

To consider and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 September 2024, as a true and correct record of the proceedings and to be signed by the Chair.

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. The Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report 2023 - 2024 (Pages 13 - 41)

This agenda item will consider an update on the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Report 2023-2024.

The report includes an overview of the developments made by the Partnership in the last year, including the progress of the new delivery groups for neglect and safeguarding in education. It also details the work of the Child Exploitation Delivery Group and the work of the Performance, Practice and Learning Group, and major milestones achieved.

7. The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023 - 2024 (Pages 43 - 74)

This agenda item will consider an update on the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2023-2024.

The 2023-2024 Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report summarises the work of the Board and its subgroups to enhance the profile of safeguarding. The report includes contributions from all strategic partners, highlights positive partnership working and provides a range of customer stories that evidence good safeguarding practice.

8. Work Programme (Pages 75 - 76)

To consider and approve the Commission's Work Programme.

9. 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 Improving Lives Select Commission.

10. Urgent Business

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

**The next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission
will be held on Tuesday 3 December 2024
commencing at 10.00 a.m.
in Rotherham Town Hall.**



SHARON KEMP OBE,

Chief Executive.

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IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION
Tuesday 17 September 2024

Present:- Councillor Knight (in the Chair); Councillors Blackham, Bower, Brent, Elliott, Fisher, Foster, Harper, Hughes, Monk, Reynolds and Sutton.

Apologies for Absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Baggaley, Garnett and Pitchley.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-
<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

23. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: - That the Minutes of the meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission, held on 30 July, 2024 be approved as a correct record of proceedings.

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

25. 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.

26. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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

27. CORPORATE PARENTING PARTNERSHIP BOARD UPDATE

This item provided an update on the recent meeting of Corporate Parenting Partnership Board and the following was noted:

- The Chair of the Board welcomed and introduced three newly elected Councillors who were now members of the Board. It was agreed that each Councillor would champion and lead on a specific corporate priority.
- The Assistant Director for Childrens and Young Peoples Services (CYPS) presented a proposed draft Terms of Reference to the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board. The Board agreed on the terms, purpose, and responsibilities listed within the Terms of Reference.
- The Performance and Business Intelligence Manager presented a high-level overview of the Performance Scorecard Report to the Board, which included a summary of performance for key indicators across the Looked After Children Services for Quarter One 2024/2025.

- The Assistant Director for CYPS delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the Local Government Association Care Leavers Peer Review recommendations, which included the plan and progress made to date for Rotherham's Care Leavers. It was noted that following Peer Review in March 2024, there had been a new Leaving Care Strategy, an updated Rotherham Sufficiency Strategy and the implementation of a Strategic 16 Plus Sufficiency Working Group.
- The Children in Care Council (CICC) and the Leaving Care Forum were welcomed to the Board, the two groups represented the voices of children in care and those transitioning out of care. Both groups delivered a presentation to the Board which included their lived experience, their development as a group, and how they were participating in discussions on various aspects of corporate working.
- The Head of Provider Services delivered a presentation on the recent changes to sixteen plus supported accommodation, this was an available placement option for children who were sixteen plus and had support needs and was based on a comprehensive assessment of needs. The Head of Service shared details of the new regulations that applied to this type of provision and how sufficiency was a key priority for the service, further details were shared about internal governance and how this was being monitored.
- The next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Partnership Board would take place on 10 December 2024 and a further update would be provided to members at the subsequent Improving Lives Select Commission meeting.

28. OFSTED FOCUSED VISIT OUTCOME

This item provided an overview on the outcomes from the Ofsted Focused Visit to Rotherham Children's and Young People's Services (CYPS) on the 14-15 May 2024.

The Chair invited Councillor Cusworth, Cabinet Member for Children's and Young Peoples Services to introduce the report and the following was noted:

- Since 2015 the Councils Childrens and Young People Services had progressed significantly, from an Ofsted judgment of adequate to obtaining and maintaining a good judgment.
- There were still areas of challenge, however this visit had recognised all the progress and hard work the local authority had done.
- The Ofsted Focused Visit Outcome letter stated that "the response to children who are subject to child in need and child protection planning is very effective. A stable senior leadership team is unstinting in its determination to make children in Rotherham safer

and improve their outcomes”.

- There had been a delay in publishing the letter, this was due to the local and national elections and the periods of purdah before each election.
- The Cabinet Member thanked the elected members present for their leadership and cross-party political will, which had helped drive forward the improvements, ensuring a whole Council approach to children’s safety and well-being.

The Chair invited the Assistant Director for CYPS to lead on the presentation and the following was noted:

Background-

- Following an inspection in July 2022 Ofsted judged Rotherham Children’s Services to be Good.
- The report provided to the Commission outlined the findings from the Ofsted Focused Visit to Rotherham Children’s and Young Peoples Services on 14 and 15 May 2024.
- The process took two weeks in total, and Inspectors evaluated the effectiveness of the following:
 - Performance management
 - Management oversight
 - Supervision for frontline practitioners
 - Quality assurance
 - Continuous professional development of the workforce.

Key Messages-

- The headline findings recorded that the response to children who were subject to child-in-need and child protection planning was very effective. Strong corporate support ensured a whole-council approach to understanding children’s vulnerability and responding to risk and need.
- It was recognised that senior leaders and council members were ambitious and aspirational for children subjected to children in need and child protection planning. There was a ‘whole council’ response to making vulnerable children a priority.
- It was recognised that the local authority had a strong Children in Need and Child Protection Service, that appropriately and effectively assessed children and applied the right thresholds to ensure that children were protected, and needs were met.
- There was clear extensive targeted support and early help that underpinned services. Partnership services were good and multi-agency staff were an important part at all stages of intervention. When immediate action was required to safeguard children, this took place swiftly.
- Action planning following Ofsted inspections was overseen by senior leaders during the Change Management Board, with a clear focus on impact monitored via performance management and quality assurance.

Action Planning-

- To support further improvement Ofsted identified that children's unique needs and individual characteristics could better inform their plans. Senior leaders were already aware that this was an area requiring further development, following activity to improve the identification of children's identity needs when planning for their future. This was corroborated in the report and recognised by the service within the submitted self-assessment.
- Ofsted felt that senior leaders knew themselves well, they had a solid understanding and a good line of sight to frontline practice. They knew the strengths and areas for improvement in this practice area. This was reflected in the service's self-assessment. Inspectors did not find any area for improvement in this practice area that senior leaders were not already sighted on.

Next Steps-

- The headline findings from the focused visit in May stated that the services response to children was "*resulting in sustained improvement to the lives of many children and their families.*"
- The Ofsted Inspection for Local Authorities Childrens Services (ILACS) evaluation criteria and grade descriptors stated, "*The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection' is likely to be judged outstanding if the response to children and families is consistently good or better and results in sustained improvement to the lives of children, young people and their families.*"

Good to Great-

- Ofsted concluded that "*the response to children who are subject to child-in-need and child protection planning is very effective. Strong corporate support ensures a whole-council approach to understanding children's vulnerability and responding to risk and need.*" It was noted that this put the local authority in a very strong position for an Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) judgement.
- Children's Services was due a judgement ILACS visit at some point in 2025. More information would become available at the next Annual Engagement Meeting in February 2025.
- The service continued to work on their aspirational "Good to Great" plans in each individual service area.

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

- In relation to promoting the good outcome of the focused visit, the service had published a press release. The Cabinet Member for CYPS worked with the Local Government Association to mentor other Cabinet Members and Scrutiny Chair's, this spread the message of good work to other local authorities. The Department

for Education had written to the local authority as a result of the focused visit outcome letter, and expressed an interest in the Engage Service, who were recognised as a point of good practice. The Engage Service worked with children and their wider family at an early stage, to support them at home, with the aim of avoiding them entering the care system. It was advised that the Council's work relating to child sexual exploitation was recognised as Gold Standard.

- Child Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) reported to Scrutiny on a regular basis. Trauma awareness sessions were held with elected members the previous year. Early intervention with family support reduced the need for access to mental health services. The Corporate Parenting Partnership Board would be holding a discussion at a future meeting relating to CAMHS, to ensure that looked after children would be prioritised on the waiting lists for services.
- The service was aware that there were unmet needs nationally, relating to children's emotional wellbeing and mental health. Due to increased demand, there was waiting lists for children who had an assessed mental health need. There was a therapeutic team within the Children in Care Service called the Support for Change Team. The team engaged with other services to provide wrap-around support to meet therapeutic needs.
- There had been positive outcomes from Family Group Conferences and Family Group Meetings, which resulted in some children being supported by their extended family, rather than becoming children in care and some instances where children in care were returned to their birth families.
- It was requested that the service developed a document which would be shared with members of the Commission. The Document would include detail of the support services available to constituents in Children's and Young People's Services, such as the Engage Programme. The document would also include positive outcomes that would highlight good practice.
- The Cabinet Member received anonymised case studies from the Service on a regular basis, this identified the real impact of the service.
- Ofsted last inspected the Council's Children's and Young Peoples Services in June 2022. Ofsted inspections took place every three years. The Ofsted Focused Visit would take place between the full inspection dates.
- The full ILAC Inspection framework included reviewing the services self-assessment, reviewing all data the Council held in relation to children, demographics, the number of looked after children, children on child protection plans and children in need. It also included audit activity on site, meetings with young people and key partners. After the inspection a full report would be provided to the local authority.
- Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) had advised the local authority that they would complete a Special Educational

Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Inspection between the 30 September and 4 October 2024. The framework would be intensive, the inspectors would be on site for a full week, having conversations with the Rotherham Parent Carers Forum, the Chief Executive and relevant Cabinet Members. Audit activity would be completed alongside reviews of individual children and consultations would take place with children and the Rotherham Parent Carers Forum, to assess how the Council gathered views of children and families across the board.

- The Local Area SEND Inspection last took place in July 2021. The inspection was a joint inspection with a focus on partners such as health and education partners.
- Ofsted advised the service that further focus was required on child plans to ensure they were more accessible and understandable to children and families. The child plans were re-designed and made simpler, the new plans were in place.
- The Joint Assistant Director for Commissioning's position was jointly funded between the local authority and health services. The role was seen by Ofsted as good practise. The Joint Assistant Director for Commissioning's team was responsible for monitoring the waiting lists for CAMHS.
- The Cabinet Member was assured that for urgent crisis points and acute situations, the waiting lists were a lot shorter than the waiting lists for neuro-diverse assessments.
- The neuro-diverse assessment waiting lists had reduced over recent years from an average of three years to two years, the introduction of the screening tool Helios contributed to the reduction of waiting lists. It was noted that the waiting lists still required further reductions and there was a requirement for schools to be inclusive to meet the needs of the child whilst they were awaiting a diagnosis.
- A graduated response was required to children's mental health, it was a broad spectrum, and it was noted that not all children required CAHMS support to have their needs met. It was important for the service to raise awareness and be trauma informed.

Resolved:- That the Improving Lives Select Commission:

- 1) Note the information within the report and the progress made to date.
- 2) Request that the Assistant Director for Childrens and Young Peoples Services provides an A4 summary of the services available in CYPS (such as Engage), that elected members can share with constituents.

29. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered its Work Programme, and the following was

noted:

- The Work Programme had been updated and included additional items following the Chair and Vice-Chair Work Programme meeting in August.
- Children's and Young People's Services would be holding a consultation session relating to the development of the SEND Strategy with members of the Commission. This would take place on 21 October between 11.00- 12.30pm and invites had been issued to members.

Resolved: - That the Work Programme for 2024/2025 be approved.

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

The Chair provided a progress report on sub and project group activity and the following was noted:

- The Preparation for Adulthood Spotlight Review Recommendations Report was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the recommendations to be presented to Cabinet were approved.
- Following discussions, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board recommended that the Improving Lives Select Commission consider completing further work the high number of SEND figures within Rotherham's and the impact this would have on budgets relating to transition to adulthood.

Resolved: - That the update be noted.

31. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

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Summary Sheet**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Improving Lives Select Commission – 29 October 2024

Report Title:

Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership – Annual Report 2023-2024.

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report:

Nicola Curley, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

Report Author:

Darren Downs, Independent Chair, Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership

Ward(s) Affected:

All wards

Report Summary:

The annual report of the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership. The attached report is the final version of the report in terms of content and information, however, it is awaiting finishing touches via the design team such as images and layout. The content is finalised and will not be edited or amended.

Recommendations:

That the ILSC note the contents of the report.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – RSCP Annual Report 2023-2024

Background Papers:

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required:

No

Exempt from the Press and Public:

No

Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership – Annual Report 2023-2024

1. Background

- 1.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership is required to publish an annual report, and the report attached is the 2023-2024 report.
- 1.2 The annual report reflects the Partnership's commitment and achievements, as well as identifying areas that we need to continue to make improvements to, in order to ensure we meet the overarching priorities of being Safe at Home, Safe in the Community and having Safe Safeguarding systems.
- 1.3 The report highlights the developments made by the Partnership in the last year, including the progress of the new delivery groups for Neglect and Safeguarding in Education. It also details the work of the Child Exploitation delivery group and the work of the Performance, Practice and Learning group, and major milestones achieved.
- 1.4 The report touches on plans in the partnership for the future years, and how we plan to continue building and strengthening the partnership further with a focus on exploitation, neglect and safeguarding in education.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The RSCP Annual report highlights and celebrates the work of the partnership throughout the year 2023-24. The year 2023-24 has seen the partnership retain our key principles in respect of Rotherham's children.

- Safe at Home
- Safe in the Community
- Safe Safeguarding Systems

This has been an exciting and active year, in which the partnership has realigned with new strategic priorities for Neglect and Safeguarding in Education – a first of its kind known of in England. This work has been in addition to continuing the well-established Child Exploitation delivery group and workplan. The partnership has also consolidated the quality assurance, training and child safeguarding review process into a new Practice, Performance and Learning Delivery Group. The reports sets out key achievements in this priority areas, such as training delivery and key data which demonstrates the Rotherham context.

Key achievements this year have seen;

- A reduction in children subject of child protection planning and being looked after by the Local Authority
- 5 audit processes – focusing on Early Help, Care leavers (Transitions and Exploitation), Persistent School absence, Early Help – (Joint Targeted Area Inspection preparation), Persistent Youth Violence.
- 975 staff attended training from across the partnership

A vision for partnership activity in 2024-25 and beyond is also provided by the RSCP Independent Scrutineer.

The report is attached in Appendix A

1. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Not Applicable.

4. Consultation

4.1 The report has been developed across the partnership and all the statutory partners have been consulted and inputted into the report. They have all taken the report through their respective committees for information across the partnership.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Not Applicable

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

6.1 Not Applicable

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 Not Applicable

8. Human Resources Implications

8.1 Not Applicable

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 These issues are highlighted within the report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Implications

10.1 These issues are highlighted within the report.

11. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

11.1 Publication of this report is the responsibility of the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership, and the partnership has been fully consulted and involved within the publication.

12. Risks and Mitigation

12.1 Not Applicable

13. Accountable Officer(s)

13.1 Nicola Curley - Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services.

	Named Officer	Date
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services	Not Applicable	
Assistant Director of Legal Services	Not Applicable	
Head of Procurement (If appropriate)	Not Applicable	
Head of Human Resources (If appropriate)	Not Applicable	

Report Author: Darren Downs, Independent Chair, Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership

This report will be published on the RSCP's website.



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Section 1

Introduction

Welcome to the annual assurance report from the Rotherham Safeguarding Children partnership (RSCP) for the year 2023-2024. This annual report pulls together then key activity of the RSCP within the last year and the assurance gained in relation to the safety of children in the Rotherham area. In line with statutory guidance (Working together to Safeguard children 2023), it should cover:

- What the partnership has done as a result of the arrangements, including child safeguarding practice reviews, and
- How effective these arrangements have been in practice.

In addition, the report should also include:

- The contribution of each safeguarding partner to the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements
- Any themes identified from scrutiny and audit processes
- Evidence the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies
- Analysis of areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities
- Analysis of learning from serious incidents
- Key decisions and actions taken by the safeguarding partners in the yearly cycle
- How safeguarding partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families
- Financial arrangements for the period
- How safeguarding partners ensure adequate representation and education at both operational and strategic levels
- How data is being used to encourage learning, and how information sharing has improved practice
- The learning identified from independent scrutiny
- Any updates to the published arrangements
- Evidence that national reforms have been implemented.

The RSCP priorities have been renewed for 2023-24 and are themed under three key delivery objectives:

- **Child Exploitation**
- **Neglect**
- **Safeguarding in Education**

The above priorities were also informed by the key principles below, which underpinned all activity undertaken by the RSCP to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Rotherham:

- **Safe at Home**

- **Safe in the Community**
- **Safe Safeguarding Systems**

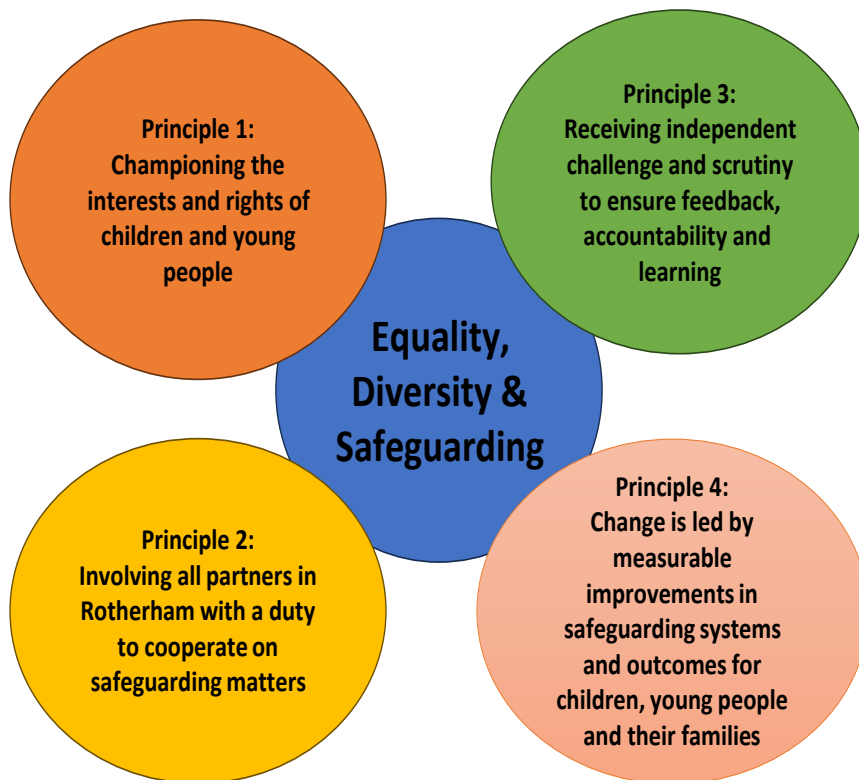
The Safeguarding Partners for the 2023-2024 year were:

Chris Edwards, Chief Officer, NHS Rotherham Integrated Care Board.

Sharon Kemp, Chief Executive, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Sarah Poolman, Deputy Chief Constable, South Yorkshire Police

RSCP Principles



Foreword from the RSCP Independent Chair – Darren Downs

It is a great pleasure to not only contribute to the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP) annual report but to also be the independent chair and scrutineer of the partnership, taking on the role in early 2023, and I look forward to continuing to provide reassurance and scrutiny over the coming years.

The Annual Report 2023-24 reflects our commitment and achievements, as well as identifies areas where we need to continue to make improvements to ensure we meet the overarching principles of being Safe at Home, Safe in the Community and having Safe Safeguarding systems. I continue to be impressed by the strength and level of engagement across the partnership and the commitment and passion to safeguard our children and give them the best start in life.

The partnership has had some new members in the last year, and it is an ideal opportunity to thank those that have left the partnership, for their work and commitment in recent years in helping us achieve the position we are in now in. The year has seen a number of audits and inspections building on the previous HMICFRS and OFSTED inspections, these continue to identify that safeguarding activity is good across the partnership. This is something we will continue to build on in the coming year to ensure the services we deliver are the best they can be.

Rotherham has a large proportion of its population between 0-19 years of age, with 23.2% of people falling into that category, and a large proportion below the age of 15. The concentration of children varies across the borough with some areas seeing a quarter of their population aged below 15, which presents some challenges. The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) was 265 at the year end, which is a significant reduction from 396 at the same point in 2023 and a really positive sign that we are identifying risk at an earlier stage, and intervening to reduce this risk before it comes of greater concern. The vast majority of the CPPs relate to emotional abuse, followed by neglect, and provide good evidence of the reasons for continued collaboration between the statutory boards and in particular the Rotherham Safer Partnership.

One area where further work is needed is in addressing the disproportionate level of children from our minority communities on CP plans and cared for by the partnership. The communities of Rotherham continue to change, and it is important that as a partnership we ensure no community is disadvantaged and that all children have the best start in life.

As we move into the next year and plans are refreshed for the future years, I look forward to continuing to push the partnership to make positive improvements and to ensure that all children on Rotherham have a positive and safe foundation to build upon. Many of the previous projects and improvements such as EVOLVE, MASH, and MACE will all continue, and we look to strengthen services further with a focus on neglect and safeguarding in education.

It is key that we continue to celebrate and promote the good work that is taking place and improve the relationships and visibility we have with communities and partners, including our active voluntary sector. This will be a key area of focus for the

partnership, and I will update you in the next annual report around the progress we make in this area.

Section 2

Welcome to Rotherham



Rotherham is a large minster town in South Yorkshire, England which along with its nearby settlements form the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham, with a population of 265,800 (ONS, 2021).

In Rotherham there are 61,600 0–19-year-old children living in the Borough (23.1% of the local population – ONS, 2021). There has been a significant increase in the Eastern European Roma population (from Slovakia and Czech Republic since 2004 and Romania since 2014), concentrated in a few central neighbourhoods (Boston Castle, Rotherham East, and Rotherham West). The Borough is divided into 21 wards covering a wide diversity of urban, suburban and rural areas, covering an area of 110 square miles.

Whilst the majority of children get a good start in life, child poverty is highly polarised across the Borough and life chances can vary greatly. In the most deprived areas, 25% of the population are aged 0-15, but in the least deprived, the proportion is only 16%. Rotherham has a lower proportion of young people aged 18-24 than the national average due to young people moving elsewhere to study or work.

Key Demographics

Further local and national demographics information tells us that: -

- 23% of children living in Rotherham are in low-income families (England 20% - 2022).
- Our Free School Meal (FSM) entitlement rate is above national average, 25.2% compared to 23.1% at Primary phase and 24.1% compared to 20.9% at Secondary phase (DfE 2021/22).

- According to the 2019 Indices of Deprivation, deprivation in Rotherham has **increased** with the Borough now ranked **44th** most deprived district on average IMD score, compared to 52nd in 2015. Rotherham's rank means that the Borough is amongst the 14% most deprived local authority areas in England.
- In 2019, the key drivers of deprivation in Rotherham remained **Health & Disability, Education & Skills**, and **Employment**. Of these, Health & Disability deprivation was most severe and widespread whilst Employment and Education deprivation were more concentrated and polarised. Health and Crime deprivation have increased the most since 2015 according to the Indices.
- 20.1% of our school age population is from Black and Minority Ethnic background (BME) (England 36.1%) (DfE 2021/22)
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is claimed for 7.7% of children aged under 16 years in the local authority area compared with 5.3% in England as a whole
- In the borough 549 children were recorded as receiving Elective Home Education (EHE) at the year end 2023/24
- School OFSTED ratings in the borough are as follows: Outstanding = 16 schools, Good = 77 schools, Requires Improvement = 16 schools, Inadequate = 4 schools
- 8056 Children and Young People identified for SEN Support covering Reception to Y11 as at end of March 2024
- At the time of writing this report 179 young people were not in Education, Employment or training (NEET)
- At the end of March 2024, 616 fixed exclusions were in place for secondary schools, with 10 permanent exclusions. 59 fixed exclusions were in place for primary schools with 1 permanent exclusion.
- 3360 children had an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) at the end of 2023-24
- 503 children were in Local Authority care as at 31 March 2024

Equality and Diversity

The RSCP is mindful of the representation of children from minority backgrounds within statutory processes, and will be launching an equality, inclusion, diversity and belonging strategy over the next 3-year period. It is evident that those from minority backgrounds are overrepresented in or Child Protection (CP) plans and in our Care, with children from non-white backgrounds representing 23% of those subject to a CP plan and 30% of children in care. As a further example, children from a Gypsy/Roma

background constituted 5.5.% of those on CP plans and 8.1% of children in care compared to a population of 0.049% in the borough.

Exploring Child Protection Plans and Looked After Children

	2022-23			2023-24		
	Rotherham	Statistical Neighbour Average	National Average	Rotherham	Statistical Neighbour Average	National Average
No of children subject of CP plans (per 10,000)	70.4 (82.7)	59.2	42.1	45.6	60.0	43.2
No of children looked after (per 10,000)	96.2 (97.8)	102.4	70.0	87.7	103.1	81.8

As can be seen, there has been a significant reduction in the numbers of children subject of CP planning over the course of the year, following a consistent downward trend in preceding years. From a high within year of 434 children in June 2023, there were 265 children subject to a CP plan as at 31 March 2024 in the following categories:

2022-23		2023-24	
Category of Abuse	No. of children	Category of Abuse	No. of children
Emotional	210	Emotional	115
Neglect	141	Neglect	126
Physical	25	Physical	16
Sexual/Multiple	18/2	Sexual	8
Total	396	Total	265

Alongside the overall reduction in CP numbers, there has been a significant decrease in the amount of children subject to CP plans for emotional harm this year, the largest category now being that of Neglect.

Whilst detailed analysis is yet to take place, it is acknowledged the category of emotional harm is most often linked to situations of domestic abuse and there is some potential that numbers have reduced as a consequence of the following practices:

- Children that were subject to plans for a prolonged period exiting the CP process
- Domestic abuse being managed within Child in Need processes, with safety planning taking place within this arena
- A decline in CP requests from the front door/MASH service at the point of initial concern
- The impact, further downstream, of the Reducing Parental Conflict intervention, an Early Help initiative
- There has also been a fairly high reduction in the number of CP conferences undertaken within 2023-24, with 271 in the first half of the year compared to 157 in the second half.

As a result of these findings the safeguarding partnership will look to reassure themselves that children are receiving the appropriate level of intervention. This will be part of the scrutiny process in 2024-25 and will be overseen via the Practice Performance and Learning (PPL) delivery group.

In relation to children in care, rates have remained consistent at around 500 children in care for the year. This equates to 87.7 children per 10,000 at the close of 2023-24, the national average being 71 and the statistical neighbour average being 101 children, and an area of continued work for the next year.

Section 3

Governance and Structure of the RSCP

The RSCP was established in September 2019 in accordance with the Childrens Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2019 (WT19).

The new legislation enshrined in Working Together 2023 (WT23) has reaffirmed the role of the three statutory safeguarding partners, and has further defined the remit of chief officers, leaders and managers within the governance. The partnership is reviewing the safeguarding arrangements in line with the WT23 guidance during the current year and will ensure that we continue to meet expectations and protect our communities. It is not anticipated that governance structures will alter at this point.

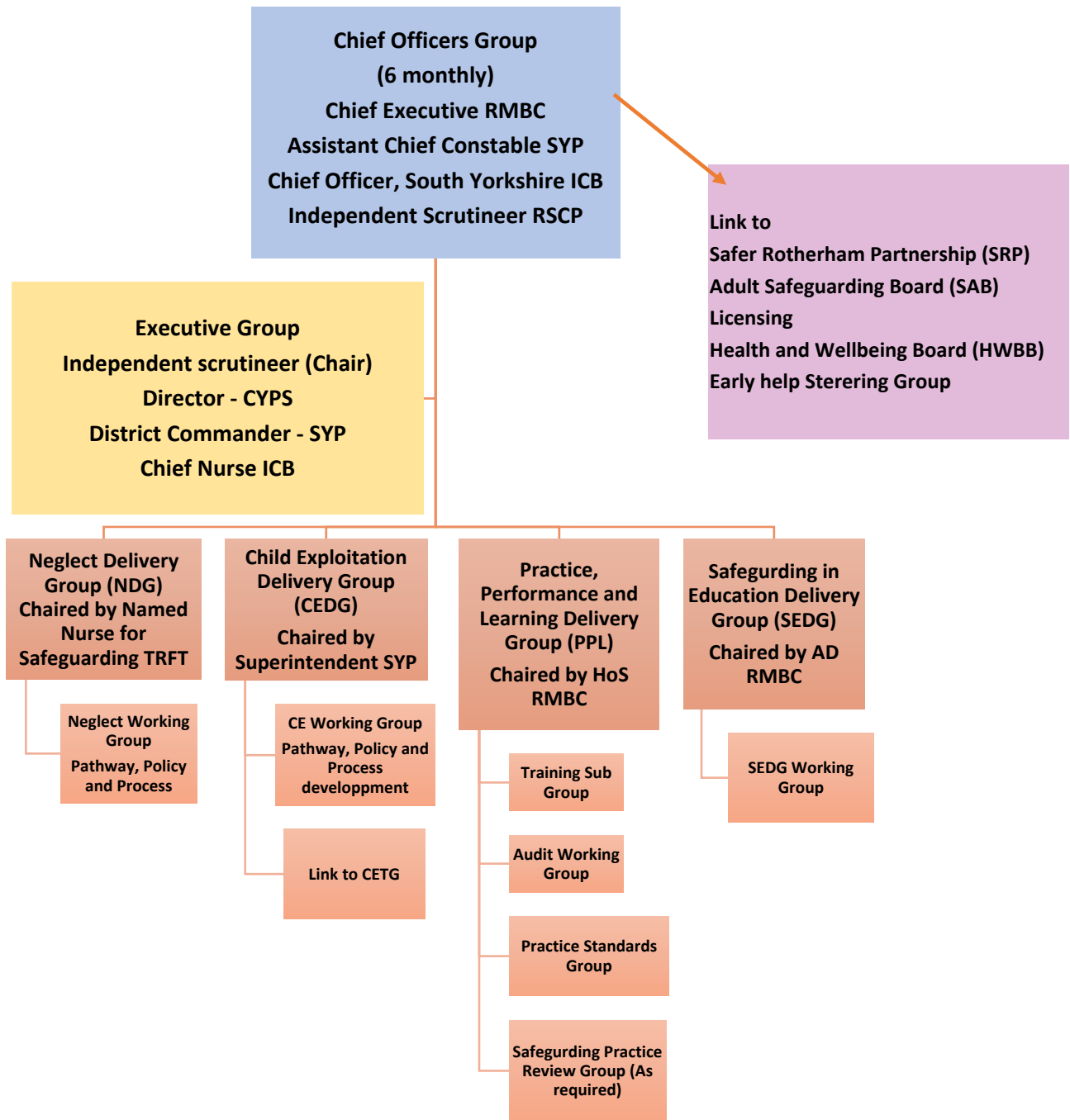
The Executive Group continues to set the strategic direction and priorities of the Partnership. The priorities are aligned with those of the other key partnership boards; Health & Wellbeing, Rotherham Safer Partnership and the Safeguarding Adults Board. The three main statutory partners, Rotherham Council, South Yorkshire Police and South Yorkshire ICB continue to work collaboratively with the wider partnership and Voluntary Consortium to deliver a safer Rotherham. The partnership continues to demonstrate a commitment to ensuring the voice of children and young people is at the heart of the safeguarding agenda in Rotherham.

Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership has renewed the Delivery Groups alongside the strategic priorities for 2023-2026. This is in response to emerging

themes in the education safeguarding arena and a wish to continue to promote and develop the role education plays within children's safeguarding. In addition, a delivery group focusing solely on Neglect has been created. This is in recognition of the complex and challenging context that exists around neglect and a steadfast commitment from the RSCP to address and reduce the impact of neglect on Rotherham's children. The Practice Performance and Learning (PPL) delivery group has taken on the areas of quality assurance, training and learning from practice. This includes the oversight and management of all safeguarding practice reviews. The Child Exploitation Delivery Group (CEDG) has remained and is focussed on the exploitation of children and young people and delivery of the new Child Exploitation Strategy. The partnership has maintained strong links with the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) throughout 2023/24.

The delivery groups have a nominated chair and representatives from across the different multi-agencies that make up the partnership, ensuring everyone has accountability in the partnership, and that accountability and challenge is maximised. These groups meet every two months and progress activity reporting progress into the bi-monthly Executive Board, providing reassurance on activity to executive members, and having their work scrutinised. The details of all the priorities and membership is contained in the local Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) which is being updated in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 guidance. The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) reports into the RSCP on any issues that have safeguarding concerns identified within them and provides a copy of their annual report.

RSCP Structure



Funding Arrangements

The RSCP funding is provided by the three main statutory agencies, with a small contribution from Probation. Management and oversight for budget spend is provided through the Partnership Executive Group.

Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership Funding	
Rotherham Council	£115,352
NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group	£115,352
South Yorkshire Police	£44,475
Probation	£2048
Total Budget	£277,227

Section 4

Strategic Priorities and Activity of the delivery groups

a) Practice Performance and Learning Delivery Group (PPL)

Case Reviews

During 2023-24 the RSCP has convened 1 rapid review, in November 2023, after a notification was made to the National Panel. The outcome was to convene a multi-agency local review, coordinated by the business manager, which would be overseen within the PPL delivery group. This is still in progress and due to conclude in October 2024.

At present there is one Safeguarding Practice Review (SPR) being undertaken, which will report late in 2024. This is being completed by an independent author, overseen directly by the Executive Group, and the National Panel will be updated once the review report is available.

The decision to notify the National Panel rests with the Local Authority and with input from the senior representatives of the three safeguarding partners, and meetings to make this decision are convened on a case-by-case basis and decisions recorded by the PPL group. Rapid reviews are held for all children notified and may also be held if partners feel there is potential learning for the partnership from the scoping. To date in addition to the above, four children have been the subject of partnership discussion, none progressing to notification or rapid review due to the criteria not being met.

Audit

The RSCP has completed 5 audits during the year covering the following themes:

- Early Help,
- Care leavers (Transitions and Exploitation),
- Persistent School absence,
- Early Help – JTAI related,
- Persistent Youth Violence.

Partners completed comprehensive audits, looking into individual children's records, sharing information and findings to understand practice, both good and areas for improvement. The findings have been communicated across the partnership, including a full report and seven-minute briefing. Colleagues across the partnership have worked well with challenge and scrutiny to evidence that children were safe, their experiences were understood and that learning for future practice and training has been identified. Alongside quantitative analysis a total of 23 deep dive audits were completed and judged as follows:

- 1 Outstanding,
- 17 Good,
- 5 Requires Improvement.

There were no children identified that were felt to be in unsafe situations.

Individual Partner Agency Audit Activity

	Q1 Early Help Cohort 40 Deep dive 6	Q2 Mock JTAI Cohort 20 Deep dive 7	Q3 Care Leavers Cohort 28 Deep dive 6	Q4 Persistent Absence Cohort 4 Deep dive 4
TRFT	21	20	24	4
RDASH	15	20	12	.4
CYPS	23	20	28	4
Education	2	20	25	4
SYP	6	20	6	4

6 **Annual Review** 25 June, 2024

Learning for practice was identified in the following areas and has informed the learning and development action plan for 2024-25, which will be delivered by the PPL group and monitored by the Executive.

- Practitioners need to continue to explicitly describe and evidence the impact of neurodiversity and intersectionality for our children. A review of Pathway Plans for care leavers is underway to improve detail and quality to assure they are strengths based, restorative and aspirational.
- Relevant Information Sharing between regional Police Forces and Health Authorities needs to be improved.
- Consistent review and challenge processes to be developed for Alternative Education Provision, where this is not seen to improve outcomes for the child.
- The routine, consistent and robust completion of Graded Care profile 2 (GCP2) and case mapping needs to be further embedded and evidenced in records. History and involvement should be considered holistically at all transition and transfer points within the system.

The RSCP audit consultant is responsible for compiling action plans from each audit conducted, and with the oversight of PPL will follow up on these action plans to ensure they are delivered, and that reassurance is provided to partners and that practice improves. This is then scrutinised by the Executive to ensure progress is made against the learning.

Audits have been identified for 2024-25 by the Executive having been influenced by the findings from this year's audits and areas of focus. The outstanding audit for the year will focus on any emerging issues or themes. The three audits identified are as follows:

- Quarter 1** - Neglect and use of GCP2 for children subject to child protection planning
Quarter 2 - Elective Home Education and information sharing
Quarter 3 - Domestic Abuse and Children (JTAI theme)
Quarter 4 - Child Exploitation and unconscious bias (tbc)

Training and Learning

The RSCP has continued to provide a core offer of training for colleagues in 2023-24. In this time 975 staff have attended courses as detailed in the table below

Course	Sessions	Staff attended
Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding	1	44
Cumulative Harm and Child Neglect	1	59
Designated Safeguarding Leads/Education Safeguarding Forum	4	191
Striving Towards Trauma Informed services	1	6
Safer Recruitment	Online	214
LADO and Allegations Management	3	70
Level 3 Safeguarding Children	4	123
Recognising and Responding to Children who Display Sexually Harmful Behaviour	1	34
Safer Sleep	2	19
Unconscious Bias in Child suffering Child Exploitation (Mar/Apr 2024)	12	215
Totals	29	975

In November 2023, the RSCP held the Safeguarding Awareness Week in conjunction with Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB). The main themes covered was online abuse, and over 100 colleagues and senior leaders attended both a local and regional launch of the awareness week. Professionals attending stated that they benefitted from the following aspects of the launch events.

- Use of real examples and situations
- Networking opportunity
- South Yorkshire Police Fraud Awareness
- Real Safeguarding Stories
- Really informative and should be shared wider to assist staff
- A session on online fraud prevention

Over the course of the week, 17 further sessions were delivered to colleagues, and covered themes such as extremism, current and emerging risk, and an introduction to parent advocacy.

The “Be The One” suicide prevention awareness session was also well attended with in excess of 500 people attending virtually and face to face from the region.

Procedures

The RSCP receives twice yearly updates via the Tri-X online procedures system. This system, aside from changes to national legislation, allows for the update of local guidance. In 2023-24 updates were completed for the following areas

- Dangerous Dogs
- Sudden Traumatic Bereavement pathway
- Prevention of homelessness and provision of accommodation for 16- and 17-year-old young people, who may be homeless and/or require accommodation

b) Child Exploitation Delivery Group (CEDG)

The RSCP's child exploitation offer is well established and long running. During 2023-24, the delivery group has been progressing the CEDG 2023-28 Workplan which contains the activity required to deliver the priorities of the CE strategy. The work focusses on the four pillars of Prepare, Prevent, Protect and Pursue, with activity against all four being coordinated across the partnership, each agency playing their role. The group is supported by the CE Strategy which seeks to enhance our work in the field of contextual safeguarding, ensuring that our processes, policies and responses to children are equipped to deal with risk outside the home.

Achievements

Preparation

- The Evolve Team has continued to work directly with young people affected by child exploitation. They contribute to assessments, investigations, mapping activity, collating information, and analysing the prevalence of child exploitation in the Borough, in relation to children and young people, perpetrators, and locations. The team has also supported professionals and partners such as schools, through providing guidance, advice, and a comprehensive RSCP training package.
- The voice of the service user continues to be captured through many feedback processes. When a child or young person leaves the Evolve Service, a feedback session is undertaken to discuss the activities completed, services provided, and the provision of support provided. The Partnership hears two case studies in every Child Exploitation Delivery Group meeting, alongside monthly audits which also contain service user feedback.
- A variety of meetings are held in order to share information and to support the prevention of exploitation and the protection of children.
 - The Child Exploitation Tactical Group (CETG) had a weekly meeting which was chaired by the Police and attended by CYPS. During the meetings intelligence was shared to provide a multi-agency response and next steps.

- Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) meetings were held to respond to and discuss identified children and young people at high risk of child exploitation.
- The multi-agency Operational Missing Meeting would take place fortnightly, to identify ways to reduce the number of young people who went missing, focusing on those children considered high risk with repeated missing episodes.
- The RSCP CEDG commenced work to develop the CE contextual safeguarding pathway for practitioners, in order to identify and screen the risk of exploitation and ensure that children receive the right level of support at the right time. This work should conclude in late 2024.
- On the 20 June 2023, twenty-seven senior delegates from across the partnership, Social Care, Police, Health, and the Voluntary sector, attended an RSCP stakeholder event to look at Rotherham's journey through Child Exploitation and plan for 2024 and beyond.

Protection

- During 2023, seventy-seven young people were referred to the Evolve Team.
- Seventy-three young people's cases were closed to the Evolve Team, following successful intervention and a reduction in risk of exploitation to low.
- Evolve completed three hundred and forty-four child exploitation risk assessments in total in 2023.
- There was one hundred and forty-one identified risks in relation to child criminal exploitation.
- There were one hundred and seven identified risks in relation to child sexual exploitation.
- There were fifty identified risks in relation to both criminal and sexual exploitation.
- There were forty-six identified as no risk, where the exploitation risk had reduced and there was no risk identified.
- Risk assessments were completed and then updated every twelve weeks.

Prevention

- Operation Keepsafe is a well-established, multi-agency targeted activity, which focused on working on areas to engage with young people, to raise awareness of exploitation.

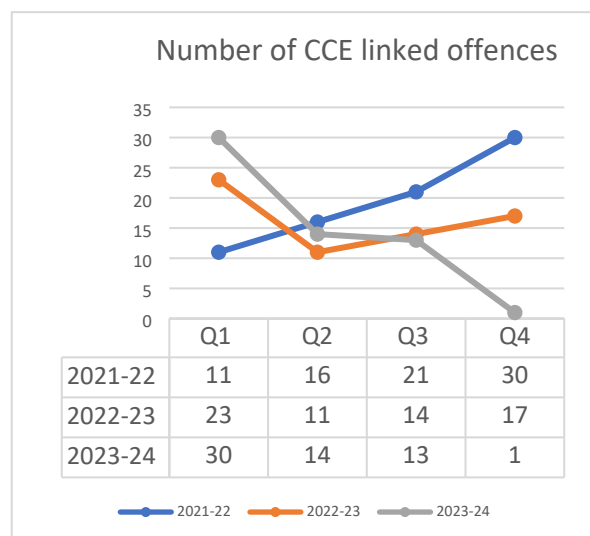
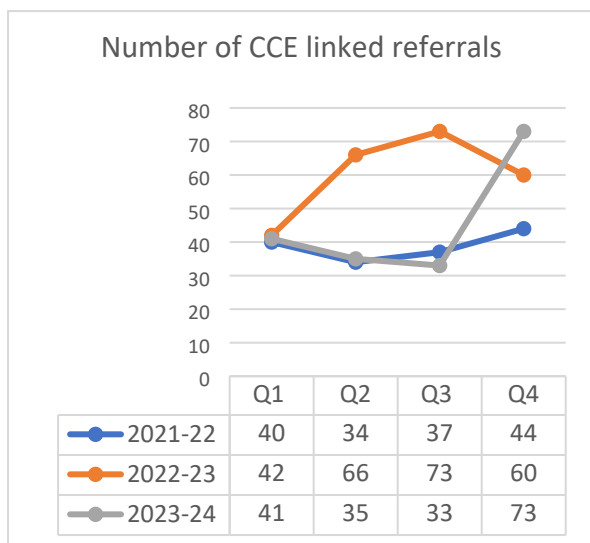
- To date, Keepsafe activities have engaged with over 1700 children and young people in the community since the start of April 2021. This had impacted positively on both individual and groups of children, and supported communities in keeping their children safe.

Pursuit of Offenders

- In 2023, the Police staff training programme focused on all officers that worked in safeguarding roles, to ensure they were qualified to a national standard, such as completing the Specialist Child Abuse Investigators Development Programme (SCAIDP) and the Specialist Sexual Offences Investigator Development Programme (SSAIDP), from the College of Policing. A significant number of officers had already completed this training, and this will be a rolling programme to ensure those who need it are trained.
- The police were also training all staff to qualified College of Policing PIP2 serious and complex investigation standard. This again is the core minimum standard to be trained to for policing in this arena.

Key Data and Analysis

Child Criminal Exploitation

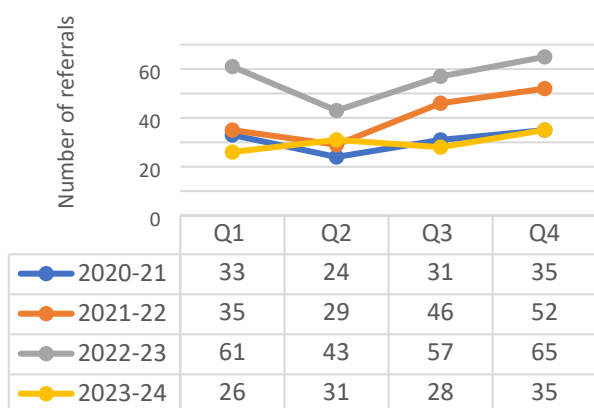


The arena of Child Criminal Exploitation continues to be of significant prevalence and concern in Rotherham but also nationally, as can be evidenced in the table below.

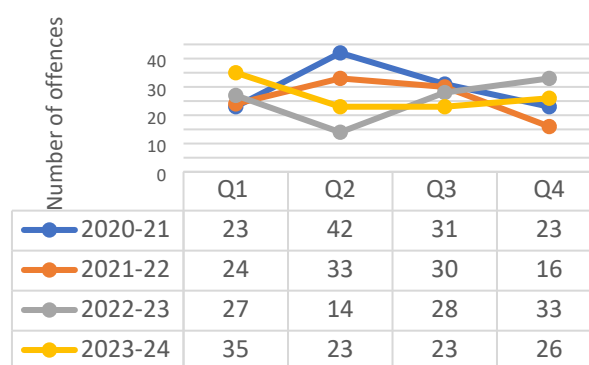
Number of CCE linked referrals	Q1 2021/22	Q2 2021/22	Q3 2021/22	Q4 2021/22	Total for year
	40	34	37	44	158
	Q1 2022/23	Q2 2022/23	Q3 2022/23	Q4 2022/23	Total for year
	42	66	73	60	241
	Q1 2023/24	Q2 2023/24	Q3 2023/24	Q4 2023/24	Total for year
	41	35	33	73	182

Child Sexual Exploitation

CSE linked referrals SYP and Stovewood



CSE Offences SYP and Stovewood



What's working well?

- CCE and CSE referrals shows that we are capturing and identifying this risk early.
- Training on the risks of vaping to young people, including the additional vulnerability to exploitation, was delivered to four education settings and to 68 professionals over a number of sessions. The feedback from these sessions

was positive however more education in this area is being requested, particularly by schools.

- Training on Minimising Unconscious Bias in Child Criminal Exploitation has been delivered to 197 professionals across the partnership. The sessions were aimed at those working directly with young people involved in exploitation and looked at how unconscious bias can impact our work.
- A community Online Safety awareness session has been developed and delivered to members of the public alongside the Digital Inclusion Team. The session is being adapted to target parents and carers to help protect young people online with a particular focus on image sharing which continues to be raised as an issue by professionals working with young people.

Online Crime

We are continuing to see an increase in online criminal activity in keeping with the national picture. In Q4 2023-24 there were 96 child victims of crime tagged with an online indicator, a 26% increase from Q3.

58% of victims were female, 40% were male and 2% were unrecorded. The majority of offences were Harassment 29%, Malicious Communications 24%, Sexual Activity with a Child under 16 - 13%, and Sexual Activity with a Child under 13 - 10%.

c) Neglect Delivery Group (NeDG)

For 2023-24 The RSCP commenced a new delivery group, focused on tackling Neglect in the community and our families. This group has been supported by the new RSCP Neglect Strategy, which will be formally launched at the Safeguarding Awareness Week in November 2024. The strategic intent of this group is to oversee activity in order to promote early identification of neglect and to support partners to address the issues effectively, minimising the impact of neglect upon the child.

Neglect is a form of child abuse that can have serious and long-lasting impacts on a child's life - it can cause serious harm and even death.

The four main types of neglect are:

- **physical neglect:** not meeting a child's basic needs, such as food, clothing or shelter; not supervising a child adequately or providing for their safety.
- **educational neglect:** not making sure a child receives an education.
- **emotional neglect:** not meeting a child's needs for nurture and stimulation, for example by ignoring, humiliating, intimidating or isolating them.
- **medical neglect:** not providing appropriate health care (including dental care), refusing care or ignoring medical recommendations (Horwath, 2007).
- Neglect is nationally the most prevalent form of child abuse, and accounts for a large proportion of those children subject to child protection plans and

receiving child in need intervention in Rotherham. Children who have been neglected might experience short-term and long-term effects, which can include problems with brain development.

- Taking risks, like running away from home, using drugs and alcohol or breaking the law.
- Getting into dangerous relationships.
- Difficulty with relationships later in life, including with their own children.
- Higher chance of having mental health problems, including depression.

(NSPCC)

Achievements so far

The RSCP has sought to support practitioners to identify neglect with consistency and rigour; to this end the partnership has reaffirmed its commitment to the adoption of the *Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2)* as the core methodology for identifying the presence and level of neglect suffered by children. The delivery group has overseen the following activity, for completion 2024-25:

- Development of a new Pathway for the use of the Graded Care Profile 2, specifically supporting the use of the approach for children with a Child Protection Plan.
- Increased availability of GCP2 training to multi agency partners, supported by CYPS training capacity.
- Planning for the formal launch of the Neglect strategy at Safeguarding Awareness Week, the week is focused on neglect and will include a public awareness campaign.
- Compilation of data to demonstrate the use of the South Yorkshire Police *SHARED* tool, licenced by NSPCC.
- Formulation of the Rotherham Neglect Screening Tool, Planned for launch in late 2024, alongside the GCP2 pathway.

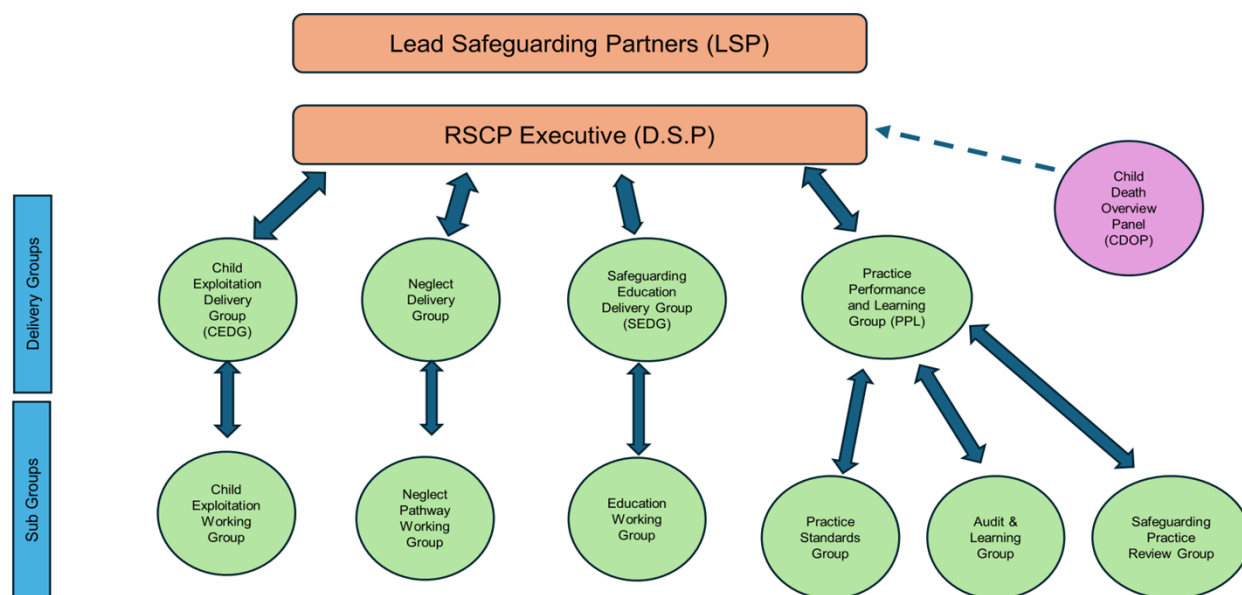
d) Safeguarding in Education Delivery Group (SEDG)

The Safeguarding in Education Delivery Group has commenced in 2023-24 in order to reflect the importance of education within the partnership. Whilst Working Together 2023 has not taken the step of including Education as a statutory partner within safeguarding partnerships, the RSCP remains committed to working as closely as possible with the sector to ensure that children from Rotherham are safeguarded in all educational settings.

The Safeguarding in Education Strategy 2024-2027 will launch in February 2025 and will be supported by a detailed work plan. Key domains of this plan will include:

- The continued processing and monitoring of section 175 reports, including audit and quality assurance activity.
- The safety of children in all education settings in the borough.
- The safety of children who are not attending school – including those subject to suspensions, exclusions and part time timetables.
- The development of a line of sight to those children who are electively home educated and to ensure that partners address any safeguarding concerns for these children.
- The development of a line of sight for those children who are not Rotherham residents but who receive education in Borough.
- Sharing of strategic and child specific safeguarding information – emerging themes, context and national guidance.
- The development of consistency across different schools and education phases in how safeguarding is managed operationally (Quality Mark); set a standard of expectations for all schools across Rotherham.
- Working with families to further support our children; understanding the barriers to accessing and engaging in education.
- Measuring the impact and success of specific initiatives such as Operation Encompass and considering further work to reduce risk to children of school age.

Appendix 1 - Plan on a Page 2024-25



The Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP) will continue to deliver the three-year plan running from 2023 – 2026. It will maintain an overarching remit in ensuring that children throughout Rotherham are Safe at Home, Safe in the Community and that Safe Systems exist to deliver excellent services. The RSCP will deliver against three key strategic priorities in this period.

The strategic priorities are:

- Neglect
- Safeguarding in Education
- Child Exploitation

The following coordination and delivery groups will have oversight of the partnership's activities against these priorities:

- Child Exploitation Delivery Group Group (CEDG) - This is an established group with a 5-year strategic plan in place and will continue to work on the changing nature of exploitation and the challenges presented through online activity.
- Neglect Delivery Group (NeDG) - Neglect continues to be a significant factor in child protection and this group will prioritise early identification, prevention and multi-agency coordination in reducing harm.
- Safeguarding in Education Delivery Group (SEDG) - This group will continue to work to the identified priorities through the production of a strategy and comprehensive scorecard.
- Practice, Performance and Learning Delivery Group (PPLDG) – This group will continue to focus on ensuring practice improvements are delivered and that learning is communicated across the partnership. It will deliver the audit schedule and RSCP performance data, along with delivering the reviews required.

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Select report type
Name of Committee

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Lives Select Committee – 29th October 2024

Report Title

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2023-24

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Report Author(s)

Jackie Scantlebury Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Manager
01709 254863 or Jackie.scantlebury@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The Care Act 2014 states that all Safeguarding Adult Boards (SAB) must produce an annual report to promote its profile with the public and other local multi-agency partnerships as well as the profile of safeguarding adults in its area.

The 2023 – 2024 Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report therefore summarises the work of the Board and its subgroups to enhance the profile of safeguarding.

The report includes contributions from all strategic partners, highlights positive partnership working and provides a range of customer stories that evidence good safeguarding practice.

A summary of safeguarding performance is included in the report.

Recommendations

That Improving Lives Select Commission:

1. Consider the report.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Report 2023-24

This appendix is the final version of the report, no changes will be made to the content of the report. The communication and design team are working on developing the

report in a PDF that is compliant with accessibility requirements it will then be published on the RSAB website.

Appendix 2 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Strategic Plan 2022-25

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2023-24

1. Background

- 1.1 The primary objective of the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) 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 has an independent chair who is accountable for the effective delivery of the Board. The Care Act 2014 also specifies that there are three statutory core partners:

1. Local Authority.
2. Integrated Commissioning Board
3. Police

The RSAB is a multi-agency, strategic partnership made up of the three core members alongside:

- Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
- RDaSH
- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- Probation Service
- Voluntary and Community Sector
- Cabinet member for Adult Care
- Other Council service representatives across housing, community safety and criminal justice
- Children and Young People's Partnership

The Care Act 2014 requires all Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs) to produce an annual report. In Rotherham uses the report to evidence what has been achieved by the partnership, includes customer stories, practice improvements, looks forward to the coming year and outlines the plans that are in place to deliver against the RSAB Strategic Plan.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Annual Report 2023/24 looks at what has been delivered by the safeguarding partnership against the strategic plan priorities for the year.

Priority 1

Commission a Peer Review of the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board.

Action

A team of inspectors from the Local Government Association (LGA) came to Rotherham in July 2023 and spent three days speaking with safeguarding

partners. The Safeguarding Adults Board provided the inspection team with a full self-assessment and a collection of documents as evidence prior to the inspection.

The Peer Review findings report was presented to the Board in September 2023 and a development day was held in November 2023 with all partners in attendance. The development day focussed on creating an action plan to respond to the Peer Review recommendations.

Priority 2

Reset, Refresh and Retrain and update the partnership by awareness raising, information sharing and training.

Action

The Safeguarding Board worked with partners to ensure that a new training package was available from April 2024. A new prospectus was available from May 2024.

The partnership training needs are continually monitored to ensure demand is being met and new and emerging trends are included in the training offer.

Priority 3

The safeguarding partnership will improve awareness of safeguarding across all communities, especially with those who are isolated, diverse, and underrepresented by reviewing our communication strategy and developing a measurable action plan.

Action

The Safeguarding Adults Board worked with the Council Communications Team to refresh the communications approach for the RSAB.

Rotherham celebrated Safeguarding Awareness Day on 21 June 2024 when safeguarding fold out information cards were distributed across the borough, colleagues handed out information to partners and to members of the public including Rotherham Indoor Market and Rotherham Leisure Centres.

Safeguarding Awareness Week was held in November 2023 and the safeguarding partnerships explored new ways of reaching members of the public with safeguarding messages around fraud and scams. Rotherham United Football Club supported us to reach a wider audience by sharing information via their match day program through the use of a QR code. Using a QR code meant the partnership were able to maximise information shared with residents to raise the profile of safeguarding.

- 2.2 The Safeguarding Adults Board has four subgroups that sit under the Board and the Executive Group. Membership of the sub-groups includes representatives from across the partnership and each of the groups has a work plan that supports delivery of the strategic plan. The annual report captures and references the critical work of the sub-groups.

The annual report enables each of the partners to share a customer story to provide evidence of good safeguarding practice and partnership working. The report also provides assurance that each of the partners are working to the aims of the board by answering one of the following questions:

- How does your organisation make sure that all services have appropriate systems and processes in place to support and safeguard adults effectively?
- How does your organisation make sure that partners, organisations, and communities will work together to prevent abuse from happening?
- How does your organisation ensure the 6 principles of safeguarding are embedded in practice? Making Safeguarding Personal is part of everything we do.

The annual report sets out the aims for the year ahead, highlighting what the partnership will be focused on and what the subgroups will be working to deliver. The focus for 2024/25 will be to:

- Complete delivery of the Peer Review recommendations.
- All sub-groups will develop new work plans for the next 12 months.
- Strengthen the voice of the person in safeguarding.
- Delivering a comprehensive training package.
- Work with Children's Safeguarding to carry out a safeguarding self-assessment with all partners.
- Begin the preparation for a new strategic plan that will guide the board from 2025/28.

Performance information is also included in the annual report to evidence the breadth of safeguarding activities for the reporting period.

The annual report includes details of completed Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) during the period. In 2023/24, SAR Noelle and SAR George were presented to the Safeguarding Adults Board. The review was commissioned to look at two individuals and issues accessing mental health services. Recommendations from the review are published in the annual report.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Improving Lives Select Commission note the Safeguarding Adults Annual Report for 2023-24.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The report was presented and signed off by the Safeguarding Adults Board on 18 September 2024.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The Safeguarding Annual Report will be available electronically via the Safeguarding Boards website, <https://www.rsab.org.uk> from the 1 November 2024.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 S43 of the Care Act 2014 sets out the statutory duty of the Council to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board for the borough of Rotherham.

A Safeguarding Adults Board has the objective to help and protect adults in its area who have care and support needs and who are at risk of neglect and/or abuse and unable to protect themselves. A Safeguarding Adults Board may undertake any lawful activity which is necessary and desirable to achieve its objective.

The Care Act 2014 requires all local authorities set up a Safeguarding Adults Board to co-ordinate local work to safeguard adults who need care and support. The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) works to protect adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect. The RSAB must:

- Produce an annual report on the effectiveness of adult safeguarding within their area.
- Produce a strategic plan that sets out the aims of the board.
- Commission Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SAR's) when needed.

The Council has the lead in co-ordinating responsibility for safeguarding, this includes strategic responsibility and establishing multi-agency arrangements to ensure the effectiveness of what the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board members do.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct HR implications.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The Safeguarding Adults Board is a partnership board and has representation from Children's Services.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 This report supports the Council to comply with legal obligations encompassed in the:

- Human Rights Act (1998), to treat everyone equally with fairness dignity and respect with a focus on those who are disadvantaged as a result of disability and
- Equality Act (2010) to legally protect people from discrimination in the wider society.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2023/24 will not significantly impact the Council's or area-wide emissions, or otherwise effect progress towards these goals.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Annual Report 2023/24 has been produced collaboratively with partners.
- 12.2 Partners of the board will share across their respective organisations.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Annual Report 2023-24 has no risk associated with it.

Accountable Officer(s)

Ian Spicer

Strategic Director of Adults, Housing & Public Health

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	Name	Date
Chief Executive		Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.
Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)		Click here to enter a date.
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)		Click here to enter a date.
The Strategic Director with responsibility for this report	Please select the relevant Strategic Director	Click here to enter a date.
Consultation undertaken with the relevant Cabinet Member	Please select the relevant Cabinet Member	Click here to enter a date.

J

Jackie Scantlebury RSAB Manager, Jackie.scantlebury@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

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Annual Report 2023/2024

Protecting adults from abuse and neglect

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

Introduction by Moira Wilson
Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Independent Chair



I am pleased to present Rotherham's Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2023/24. 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 July 2023 we commissioned an independent safeguarding peer challenge undertaken by the Local Government Association, and you can read more details of their findings in the report. The feedback has been very most helpful in revising our strategic priorities and working together on the recommendations made by the peer review team.

Following our SAB development day in November 2023 we are working on three key themes:

-

- Strengthening user voice – making sure that we hear the experiences of people who may have been involved in safeguarding to continuously improve safeguarding across the partnership.
- Strengthening the Board - reviewing how we work together at the Board, Executive and SAB subgroups so that our decision-making arrangements are robust and clear.
- Making the best use of data – using data from all safeguarding partners to help us make informed decisions, including information about quality as well as safeguarding activity

I would like to thank partners for their ongoing support. Looking forward we will be updating our strategic plan for 2025 onwards, with all partner contributions a vital component of this work.

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 2023/24

Local Government Peer Review of Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board

In July of 2023 the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board commissioned the Local Government Association to carry out a Peer Review of the Board and its safeguarding arrangements with partners.

To support RSAB on its improvement journey the peer team made the following recommendations:

- Use the groups and mechanisms which already exist in your partner organisations to start the work to increase voice in the work of the Board. Take time to think what questions you would want to ask these groups.
- Set aside some time for a development session to better understand the relevance of the various meetings, who attends them and why. We recommend reconsideration of the best way to include representation of the independent care provider market.
- Review how the RSAB sets its agendas to encourage oversight of broader safeguarding related matters arising from partnership working.
- Ensure you have robust SMART plans which you can track and monitor. Look to other Boards for good practice and templates in this area.
- Explore how best you can use the data and information to identify areas for improvement, celebrate successes and answer the 'so what' questions.
- Consider whether partners' understanding regarding the safeguarding pathways and expectations around these is sufficiently clear and shared and whether there are strategic or operational changes which can ensure better alignment.

The Board held a 'Development Day', bringing partners together to explore the recommendations made and to develop an action plan that would ensure the improvement. The partnership categorized the recommendations into themes.

THEME 1 - STRENGTHENING THE USER VOICE

Work with partners to establish what user groups are in place.

Where does the 'Voice of Experience' sit within current subgroups.

Refresh the Communication Strategy and how we deliver and improve on current arrangements.

THEME 2 - GOVERNANCE, STRENGTHENING BOARD ARRANGEMENTS

Restructure the Board, refresh the membership of the Executive Group and update the Terms of Reference for the Board and its subgroups.

The Executive will oversee the delivery of the Strategic Plan to ensure it is delivering on the aims of the SAB.

The Board agenda will be developed by the Executive Group.

THEME 3 - MAKING THE BEST USE OF DATA AND INFORMATION

Ensure performance reports have a partnership contribution.
Ensuring data is qualitative not just quantitative with an accompanying narrative that gives context.



Work began immediately to implement the recommendations that were made by the Peer Review and the first action was to change the structure and governance of the Safeguarding Board and the Executive Board. The Executive Board now consists of the three strategic partners, Director of Adult Social Care, Borough Commander for Rotherham South Yorkshire Police and the Director of Nursing for Rotherham Integrated Care Board for Rotherham Place the group is chaired by the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board. The Executive Group will oversee all action plans, performance reports and audit reports to ensure the Safeguarding Board receive clear and concise information.

The four subgroup chairs report to the Executive at the quarterly meeting to ensure they are informed of ongoing work streams. All the Boards subgroups refreshed their terms of reference and have gone on to hold development sessions to ensure they are delivering on the aims of the strategic plan and the peer review action plan.

Work continues to ensure strong links with the Childrens Safeguarding Partnership and the Safer Rotherham Partnership. Attendance at partnership safeguarding strategic meetings including Health and the Police is monitored to assure the board that all safeguarding messages are shared across the partnership.

The SAB Website is currently under redesign, and we are working with RMBC communications team to make the improvements that will include a partnership professional page where safeguarding information can be shared. The website will be more user friendly and will contain useful information that members of the public can access including how to report a safeguarding concern and what happens after.

All partners were asked to share details of their customer groups and forums so the board could maximize the impact of hearing the voice of the customer and have many channels to

share safeguarding messages and learning. Each of the subgroups have a standing agenda item for Customer Voice to ensure it stays the focus of all pieces of work and partners are asked to share customer stories on a regular basis.

The Independent Chair has visited Voluntary Action Rotherham to talk about the role of the Board and how safeguarding is a partnership approach in Rotherham. A visit to South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue was requested to ensure that senior fire officers knew how important the role of their organisation was to the safeguarding partnership. The Independent Chair and members of the Board will be attending more meetings to promote the function and role of the SAB.

To ensure that performance data contains more partnership contributions, all partners will be asked to complete a performance on a page template, this information will be added to the performance dashboard to provide a wider view of safeguarding performance across the borough.

Safeguarding Awareness Week 2023

Safeguarding Awareness Week SAW23 was held across a local and South Yorkshire regional footprint. Rotherham hosted the regional launch of SAW23 at New York Stadium where sixty safeguarding professionals and leaders came together to celebrate the start of a week filled with training and awareness sessions. The theme of the launch was Fraud and Scams and South Yorkshire Police presented an update on the regional and national picture of cyber awareness and fraud protection.

Events of the week saw Adult Care, Children’s Services and Safer Rotherham Partnership delivering training and awareness sessions to the safeguarding partnership. Over the 5 days there were 22 awareness sessions held across the borough, these included Suicide Prevention, Deprivation of Liberty – Safeguarding the Person’s Rights, Advocacy Services for children and adults and training sessions with colleagues from Public Health on Making Every Contact Count.

Below is an outline of the attendance figures for Safeguarding Awareness Week events.

Event	Attendance Figure (Approx)
Virtual	300
Face to Face	100
Regional Virtual	160

Rotherham Safeguarding Partnership worked with Rotherham United Football Club to raise awareness of fraud and scams, we created a QR code that held lots of information regarding current scams and how to protect yourself, the QR code was included in the match day program and was displayed around the ground.



Safeguarding Caused Enquires

The SAB worked with the Council and partner agencies to clarify the legislative requirements when there is 'cause to be made' in relation to the partnerships statutory duty under s42 of the Care Act 2014.

Whilst the local authority will always have formal responsibility in relation to an adult safeguarding enquiry, there may be cases where the local authority is not the right agency to undertake the enquiry. In these cases, the local authority can cause partners to make an enquiry on the basis that is the most appropriate agency or has the expertise to do so.

Causing an enquiry to be made is distinct from requesting actions from another organisation as part of an enquiry being carried out by the local authority. The local authority retains accountability and oversight of the enquiry and outcomes, and it cannot delegate its lead co-ordinating duty of enquiry to another organisation or agency.

The SAB facilitated meetings with all partners and ensured everyone received and understood the necessary information to ensure the realignment of the approach to caused enquiries means that the partnership are fully compliant with their statutory duties as outlined in relevant legislative frameworks.

The priorities for the board for 2023/24 were:

Priority	Action
Commission a Peer Review of the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board.	A team of five inspectors from the Local Government Association (LGA) came to Rotherham in July 2023, an inspection team spent three days speaking with safeguarding partners. The Safeguarding Adults Board provided the inspection team with a full self-assessment and a collection of documents as evidence prior to inspection. The Peer Review findings report was presented to the Board in September 2023 and a development day was held in November 2023 with all partners in attendance to develop an action plan based on the findings of the Peer Review.

<p>Reset, Refresh and Retrain' and update the partnership by awareness raising, information sharing and training.</p>	<p>The Safeguarding Board worked with partners to ensure that a new training package was on offer from April 24. A new prospectus will be available from May 24. The partnership training needs are continually monitored to ensure demand is being met and new and emerging trends are included in the training offer.</p>
<p>We will improve awareness of safeguarding across all communities, especially with those who are isolated, diverse, and underrepresented by reviewing our communication strategy and developing a measurable action plan.</p>	<p>The Safeguarding Adults Board worked with RMBC Communications team to refresh the Communications Approach 2023 to 2025 for the Board. Rotherham celebrated Safeguarding Awareness Day on 21 June when safeguarding fold out information cards were distributed across the borough, colleagues handed out information to partners and to members of the public including Rotherham Indoor Market and Rotherham Leisure Centers. Safeguarding Awareness Week was held in November and the safeguarding partnerships explored new ways of reaching members of the public with safeguarding messages around fraud and scams. Rotherham United Football Club allowed us to share information via their match day program and by using a QR code we were able to maximize the amount of information we shared.</p>

The RSAB has four subgroups to ensure the priorities of board are delivered. The Sub-Groups each have a work plan and during 2023/24 they were able to deliver the following specific pieces of work:

Performance and Quality Subgroup

<p>The Performance and Quality subgroup carried out a multi-agency audit of safeguarding referrals that had been recorded as 'no further action'.</p>	<p>An audit tool was developed to enable professionals and partners to evaluate the effectiveness of the Safeguarding Adult process and outcomes for service users, carers, and professionals when a safeguarding concern was not progressed into the safeguarding system. Representatives from across the partnership met to examine 8 case files to ensure that the correct decision was made when the case had been received as a safeguarding enquiry. A findings report was prepared, and feedback was given to partners and services.</p>
<p>Ensure the quarterly performance report provides performance data from across the partnership. Provide a narrative that compliments the report and highlights the exceptions,</p>	<p>Work continues to ensure the quarterly safeguarding performance report includes performance data from across the partnership, partners will be asked to complete a 'Performance on a Page' proforma. The request to partners is that they will provide the safeguarding board with relevant and timely information around training, referrals, audits and area of concern and good practice. The dates of Executive and Board meetings will be scheduled to ensure performance data is available and the preparation of the performance report is considered.</p>

Workforce Development

<p>Procure a new training offer. Ensure the RSAB training offer is offering value for money and delivering the training that is needed by the partnership.</p>	<p>The Workforce Development subgroup have examined past training offers and monitored attendance from across the partnership to develop a training offer that can provide the amount and type of training that is needed. Working with RMBC procurement team, a new prospectus was available offering a range of courses that are needed by the partnership. Training materials and training content is all quality assured.</p>
<p>Work with the adult and children's safeguarding partnership including the Safer Rotherham Partnership to deliver Safeguarding Awareness Week 2023.</p>	<p>Rotherham hosted the South Yorkshire Regional Launch at the beginning of the Safeguarding Week and welcomed safeguarding leads from across the region to hear presentations from South Yorkshire Police and the Collingwood Theater Company on the topic of Fraud and Scams. During the week over 700 attendees were able to access virtual and face to face training and awareness sessions on a range of safeguarding topics.</p>

Policy and Practice

<p>Work with all safeguarding partners to ensure the Board that the Council’s statutory safeguarding duties in relation to causing enquiries is embedded and working.</p>	<p>The Policy and Practice subgroup worked across the partnership to involve all partners in the caused enquiry process, this was to ensure that everyone understood their role in the safeguarding pathway and that the process was robust and delivering effective safeguarding practice.</p>
<p>Develop a common understanding on what is safeguarding. Work with partners to provide advice and guidance regarding when to refer a matter into safeguarding.</p>	<p>A threshold guidance document has been developed by the subgroup to offer guidance to all partners including health, care providers and police. The threshold document is to be used across Rotherham to support professionals, partners, and providers to decide on whether to report a safeguarding concern for an adult with care and support needs. It also helps differentiate between quality issues and safeguarding and provides alternative actions that can be considered.</p>

Safeguarding Adults Review

<p>The SAR subgroup will work to ensure that recommendations and learning is embedded across the partnership when an adult dies or has experienced serious abuse or neglect.</p>	<p>Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) Multi-Agency Learning Approach has been developed with partnership involvement to ensure that recommendations from Thematic Reviews and SAR’s are embedded in practice. Partners will ensure learning events are available after all reviews, 7-minute briefings are circulated to the whole workforce and learning points are shared via newsletters and team briefings.</p>
<p>The Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) subgroup completed one SAR during 2023/24, the SAR was presented at Board in March 2024.</p>	<p>The SAR subgroup commissioned a SAR that involved two people who had similar issues accessing mental health services. The author of the report worked with partner agencies to deliver one report that looked at the issues the two individuals had in their adult lives and their relationship with mental health services. The report was presented to the Safeguarding Board in March 2023. Work continues to develop the report and recommendations made by the author.</p>

Looking forward to 2024/25

The Safeguarding Adults Board and its subgroups will continue to work on the recommendations made in the Peer Review Report, the Board will oversee the action plan to ensure all improvements are delivered with partnership involvement and in a timely manner.

All of the subgroups will be holding development days to ensure their terms of reference are up to date and that the membership of the group is inclusive and has a true reflection of the Rotherham safeguarding partnership.

The voice of the customer remains high on the agenda of all subgroups to ensure we are hearing and responding to the people of Rotherham. Safeguarding awareness will be targeted, and we will use the voluntary sector to help share the important messages around safeguarding and keeping safe. We will work closely with HealthWatch and Voluntary Action Rotherham and they will be part of the Safeguarding Board membership to bring their voice and the voice of their service users to the partnership.

We will offer a comprehensive training package that is available to all partners and the voluntary sector, and we will continue to respond to training requests that are the outcome of safeguarding reviews and audits. During safeguarding awareness week 2024 (SAW24) we will work with the Safeguarding Childrens Partnership and the Safer Rotherham Partnership to deliver a wide range of training and awareness sessions aimed at colleagues, volunteers, and members of the public. We will run a campaign that will look at domestic abuse in older people and will host a learning event for all partners, there will be posters and leaflets to support the campaign and will be used to share important messages.

September 2024 will see all partners come together to present their safeguarding self-assessment to the adults and children's independent chairs. All statutory partners were requested to complete a comprehensive self-assessment that focuses on safeguarding arrangements for adults and children within their organisations and they will be questioned and challenged by the independent chairs at the event in September. This process provides assurance to the safeguarding boards that safeguarding arrangements in Rotherham or robust and partners are working to continually improve services for their customers.

The Safeguarding Board continues to meet quarterly and early in 2025 we will hold a Development Day to prepare a new strategic plan that will take the board from 2025 to 2028. The focus of the day will be to ensure we are on track to complete all of the strategic aims that were identified in the 2022-25 strategic plan and then to plan and agree our new strategic aims moving forward.

Appendix 1

Key Partnership Contributions 2023-24

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 Borough Metropolitan Council

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

The local authority worked with partners to ensure that the safeguarding pathway was in line with the Care Act 2014, and followed the persons journey, the partnership approach ensured that all safeguarding enquires were reported into the local authority.

The local authority will always have formal responsibility in relation to an adult safeguarding enquiry, however, there may be cases when the local authority is not the right agency to undertake the enquiry. In these cases, the local authority can cause partners to make an enquiry on the basis that it is the most appropriate agency or has the expertise to do so.

Although the local authority cannot delegate its duty under s42 of the Care Act 2014, the local authority can cause another agency to make whatever enquiries it thinks necessary to enable it to decide whether any action should be taken in the adult's case. This means that:

- The local authority can decide that another agency can undertake a s42 enquiry and report its findings back to the local authority.
- The local authority can request a number of different organisations to make enquiries depending on the nature of the safeguarding concerns and if there is more than one adult affected by these.

CUSTOMER STORY

Mr P was referred to the Complex Lives Team following concerns about extensive hoarding in his property, a first floor RMBC council flat which was posing a risk to himself and to other properties in the block. P had previously been open to secondary mental health services, and suffered with anxiety and depression meaning that he was largely isolated. Mr P was not engaging with his GP or taking previously prescribed medication. Mr P slept and sat on a small sofa in the living room, with a narrow walkway to access this.

It took several visits before enough trust was built up to allow anyone to enter the home, but it became clear that Mr P was not in a position to address the condition of the property on his own. Mr P allowed joint visits to take place with the housing officer and the Fire Service, and Multi-disciplinary Team Meetings (MDTs) were held including additional relevant agencies. Mr P eventually agreed to accept support from Hoarding Disorders UK, a specialist agency providing support to hoarders. Mr P was supported with an initial assessment visit, and provided reassurance about the type of support proposed, and his priorities were acknowledged and considered. Mr P received support over a period of 20 weeks, and he largely engaged well with this. This was successful at tackling some of the possessions in the property. He was supported to dispose of some items, and to improve his storage systems, Mr P benefited from the approach of this agency, and also accepted a further targeted period of support from this same agency.

Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust:

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

All policies and procedures are reviewed regularly to ensure they reflect national and local learning including National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance.

Promotion of support to staff experiencing domestic abuse and availability of support to them

The Trust has carried out an independent review of policies and procedures conducted by National Health Service England this year as part of appreciative inquiry.

Safeguarding training as per Intercollegiate document.

CUSTOMER STORY

A patient attended Emergency Department with diagnosis of autism and cerebral palsy, the patient appeared frail and was noted to be a frequent attender to Urgent Emergency Care Centre (UECC). There was an escalating picture of UECC attendances, often leaving prior to assessment.

A further concern was raised following the patient's disclosure of domestic abuse, coercion and control and there was a noted decline in mental health and potential self-neglect due to missed health appointments. The patient was supported to report a crime and staff worked with the patient in line with Making Safeguarding Personal to identify their outcomes. The patient consented to a Care Act Assessment. There was a multi-agency approach taken, and the case was discussed at the Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (C-MARAC) and UECC frequent attender meeting.

Best Practice was achieved by a partnership approach, staff evidenced 'Professional Curiosity' by asking the right questions and the use of Humiliation, Afraid, Rape, Kick (HARK) form to assess risk.

South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) Rotherham Safeguarding Team (Formerly NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group - CCG)

How does your organisation ensure the 6 principles of safeguarding are embedded in practice. Making Safeguarding Personal is part of everything we do.

NHS South Yorkshire ICB at Rotherham Place ensures that all ICB staff have accessed or have access to appropriate Safeguarding Training (as per the Intercollegiate training information for health document) which focuses on the key 6 principles of Safeguarding and the practice of Making Safeguarding Personal in any identified Safeguarding concerns by ICB staff, or where we as a commissioning organisation of health care are made aware of Safeguarding concerns.

The ICB Safeguarding Team at Rotherham Place deliver support, advice and Safeguarding supervision where needed to all ICB staff who are operational and patient facing.

As a commissioner of health care within Rotherham Place (and across the whole of South Yorkshire), the ICB also seeks and requests Safeguarding assurances and as part of this process requires commissioned providers of health care to evidence that Making Safeguarding Personal and the six key principles of Safeguarding are embedded within their Safeguarding processes.

CUSTOMER STORY

Patient Aloysius is a gentleman who lived alone and who had input from the District Nursing Team and the Hospice, as well as a package of health care in place that was funded by NHS South Yorkshire ICB.

It was reported that Aloysius was victim of a burglary at his home where an amount of money that was on display was stolen. During the police's visit, they noted concerns regarding his vulnerability, as well as his living conditions, and made a Safeguarding referral to the Local Authority.

The ICB Safeguarding Team performed a joint visit with the Continuing Healthcare Team and were able to speak to Aloysius. An assessment of capacity was completed, and he was deemed to have capacity, information received from his carers noted that he did not lock his

door, and there were issues with lighting leading to the entrance, which was a further safety risk for carers visiting the property.

Aloysius agreed to a light being fitted which meant that his door could be locked and carers could safely access the property at night times. he stayed with a relative whilst his property was cleaned and a new bed delivered. Importantly, Aloysius was happy with the plan and that his wishes had been listened to and he had been able to make choices that were right for him.

The circumstances and support provided by agencies fully considered Aloysius's wishes and this demonstrate how the principles of 'Making Safeguarding Personal' informed the Safeguarding process. This gentleman was able access support whilst still being able to make personal choices and maintain appropriate control over his future and key decisions in his life.

South Yorkshire Police:

How does your organisation ensure the 6 principles of safeguarding are embedded in practice. Making Safeguarding Personal is part of everything we do.

The most vulnerable members of the Rotherham community are identified via a variety of referral mechanisms into the Safer Neighborhood Service (SNS) hub. The less complex cases will generally be addressed and safeguarded across the partnership led by the vulnerability officers within the unit in conjunction with the person in question.

The more complex cases are now, in the main, triaged by a multi-agency triage panel and either signposted to Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CMARAC), Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT), Vulnerable Adults Risk Management Model (VARMM) or in the most serious cases Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR).

All referrals into the SNS hub are captured, held, finalised, and archived on police systems. Decision making is detailed and rationalised and can be re-accessed should risk/vulnerability change, re-emerge or a case need to be reviewed.

CUSTOMER STORY

A "carer" who drained an elderly woman's bank account and altered her will to benefit her has been prosecuted and pleaded guilty to fraud by abuse of position. The carer stole thousands of pounds from her victim and dishonestly gained power of attorney over her affairs. The police were told she visited the victim up to three times a week to provide care, but officers were able to use Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras to prove she had not been making the journeys as often as she claimed to. Police discovered the carer had plundered both the victim's savings and pension and had cancelled the delivery of bank statements to her home to hide what was happening. She had also exaggerated the woman's vulnerability to social services so that she could be granted power of attorney and arranged for a will to be written naming herself as the main beneficiary.

After the victim's nephew challenged the carer over the missing money she wrote to the victim telling her to sell her house and move in with her, saying that as she had power of attorney she could override any decision she made. South Yorkshire Police were contacted when the woman realised her birth and marriage certificates were missing, with the documents later found in the carers home.

"The victim gave a detailed account of what had been going on, at a time when she needed people she could trust around her. The carer abused that trust, hoping nobody would ever find out. However, the hard work of our forensic accountant highlighted the true scale of the carer's actions."

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

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

The Trust continues to be fully committed to working in partnership with other agencies to ensure that our patients and other vulnerable citizens are appropriately safeguarded. We continue to have a strong presence at the Safeguarding Adults Board and all of its respective subgroups.

Service Improvement

As a Trust we have noticed a significant increase in relation to cases of Domestic Abuse. In response we have:

- Enhanced our training offer to staff, we now have a suite of training packages focusing on a variety of themes relating to domestic abuse which are facilitated by the Trusts safeguarding team.
- We have reviewed and updated our Domestic abuse policy to ensure there is robust guidance to inform how we support both victims and perpetrators who are staff members or volunteers.
- We have secured funding to employ a dedicated MARAC/Domestic Abuse lead within the safeguarding team.

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (SYFR):

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

SYFR have appropriate policies and procedures in place to ensure that staff can recognise, respond, report, and refer in safeguarding concerns. There is a system to cover a 24-hour period.

The SYFR Safeguarding Leads work hard to ensure that they support adults at risk with their limited resources and this is usually completed through multi partnership working. Training incorporates everyone's role and responsibilities in safeguarding along with safer recruitment including People in Positions of Trust (PiPoT).

A lot of work has been undertaken with those that deputise for safeguarding out of hours to ensure that SYFR staff safeguard their concerns regardless of other blue light services present such as ambulance service. SYFR often has more access and can observe abuse and neglect that others can miss, this can be very relevant in the event of a fire when SYFR access the while premise.

CUSTOMER STORY

Fire incident attended due to wheelie bin fire spreading to the home, Fire Service raised concerns around unmet care needs, self-neglect, and hoarding. Person had to attend to hospital. Referral made to Safeguarding. Feedback was prompt from Adult Social Care, person was unknown and on discussion was going to have an assessment and receive support. The person said he was struggling and needed help and support. This is good news in terms of working together.

Rotherham Voluntary and Community Sector:

The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS), through the Adult Services Consortium, has continued to show its commitment to Adult Safeguarding across the Borough by contributing to the work of the Adult Safeguarding Board via its nominated representatives.

A representative from Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR) attends the Safeguarding Adults Board as the nominated representative and attends the Policy and Practice subgroup.

The Independent Chair has attending user forums to talk about the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board and to strengthen links between the board and the voluntary sector.

Appendix 2

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 **3,963** concerns were reported through the Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC).

Each concern is looked at and the 3-point test is applied.

The safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

1. Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
2. Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect
3. 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.

3963 Safeguarding Concerns were received in 2023-24

An Initial Enquiry

The purpose of the initial enquiry by information gathering is to establish whether the safeguarding Section 42 criteria are met.

An enquiry should establish whether any action needs to be taken to prevent or stop abuse or neglect, and if so, by whom. The findings from the enquiry are used to decide whether abuse has taken place and if the case needs to progress to a safeguarding enquiry.

1659 Safeguarding Initial Enquiries were received in 2023-24

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, or a crime has been committed.

588 Section 42 enquiries began 2023-24

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.

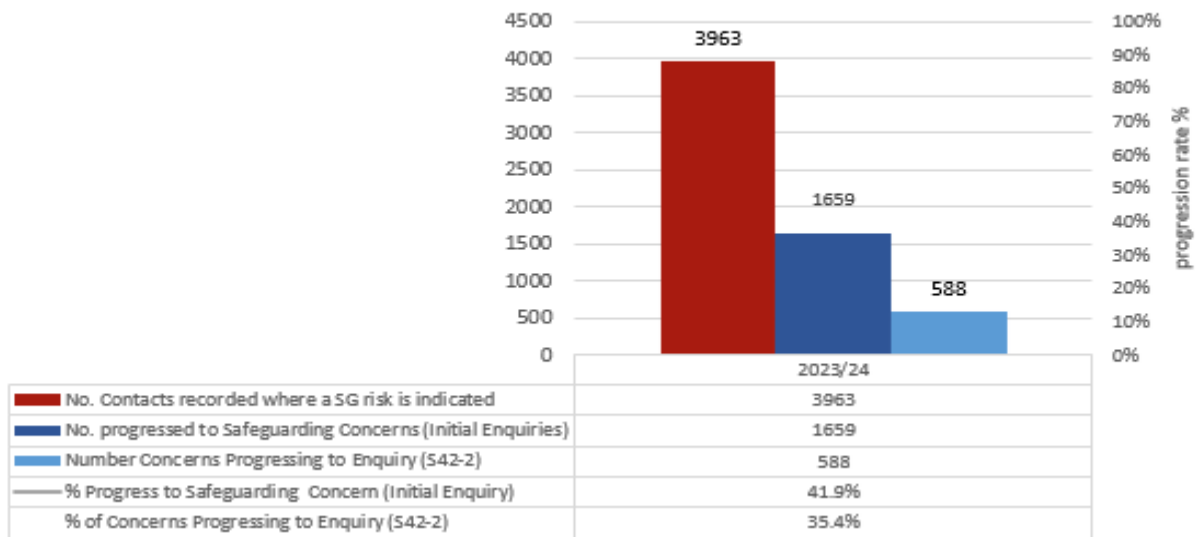
Outcomes Meeting

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.

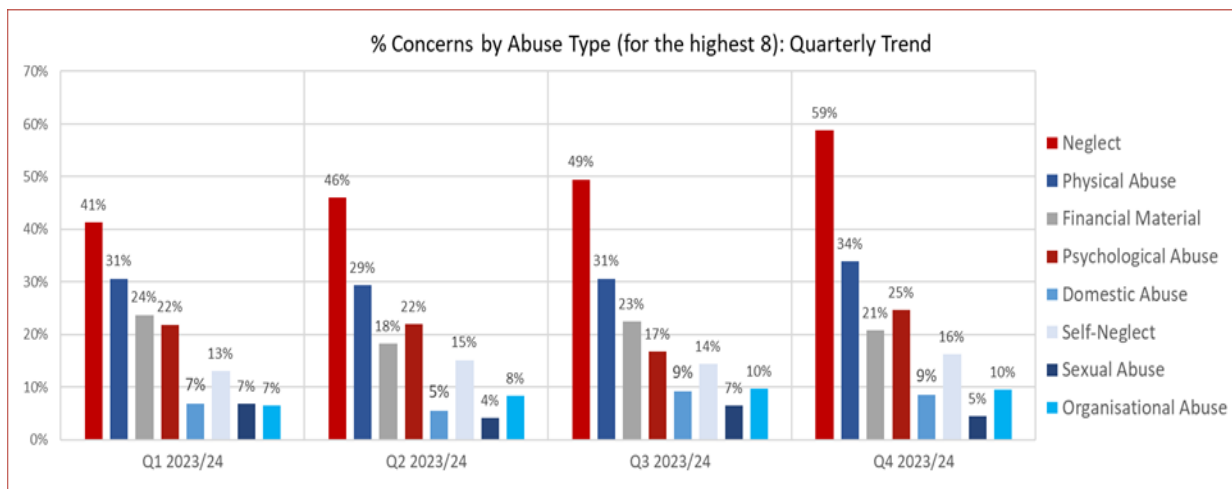
Safeguarding Annual Performance: 2023-24

No. Contacts where a SG risk is indicated and progression rates



There have been 3,963 safeguarding contacts in total in 2023/24, an increase of around 250 on previous years - this is due to a high volume of contacts received in the final quarter, with each of the last 3 months of the reporting year recording a higher volume than any of the previous 9 months (average number of contacts was 374 per month for Q4, versus 315 per month for Qs 1-3).

Although volume of contacts are high, progression from Contact to Initial Enquiry is continuing to rise slightly, currently at a rate of 41.9% (up slightly from 35.7% at end of Q1, 37.4% at end of Q2 & 39.5% at end of Q3). Of those that do progress to Initial Enquiries (1,659), 588 of these then progress to Further Enquiries (35.4% - down from 35% at Q2), with the remaining 1,071 closing following initial investigation by using a case management or other similar non-statutory approach.



Proportion of Enquiries by abuse type*	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	One Year Direction of Travel
Physical Abuse	23.6%	18.8%	28.0%	9.2%
Sexual Abuse	5.1%	6.8%	6.2%	-0.6%
Psychological Abuse	14.5%	16.1%	26.2%	10.1%
Financial Abuse	25.5%	19.9%	25.0%	5.1%
Neglect and acts of omission	40.0%	38.8%	40.2%	1.4%
Discriminatory Abuse	1.0%	0.6%	0.4%	-0.2%
Organisational Abuse	8.6%	7.3%	10.7%	3.4%
Domestic Abuse	4.9%	3.9%	8.6%	4.7%
Sexual Exploitation	1.0%	1.1%	2.1%	1.0%
Modern Slavery	0.0%	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%
Self-Neglect	12.8%	10.9%	17.8%	6.9%
No abuse type recorded	3.2%	10.1%	5.6%	-4.5%

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

Neglect remains the most common abuse type (40.2%), Physical Abuse has remained the second most common (28.0%), Psychological 3rd highest (26.2%) and Financial 4th (25.0%).

Self- Neglect has shown a marked increase from 11.6% last year to 17.8% in the year to date, although the rate has been falling through the year (21.5% at Q2, 19% at Q3)

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 2023-2024
1 SAR were commissioned in 2023/24.
Number of SARs Completed 2023-2024
1 SAR was completed in March 2024

SAR Noelle and George

George and Noelle Recommendations

Learning from this SAR has identified missed opportunities, and has been used to develop the recommendations below to ensure the RSAB has assurance:

1. That each appropriate partner agency reviews their discharge planning policy to ensure that people who do not attend appointments with health or social care agencies are proactively followed up.
2. That each *appropriate partner agency ensures that their workforce access appropriate legislative training, which focuses on the Mental Health Act 1983, the Care Act 2014, and the interface with the Mental Capacity Act 2005.
3. That each appropriate partner agency has training, policy and guidance in place which ensures accurate and contemporaneous recording, trauma informed practice and professional curiosity.
4. That each appropriate partner agency ensures that their s.117 Aftercare Policy is fully implemented; and that each appropriate partner agency understands their own legal responsibilities, including how, and when it is legally appropriate to end a s.117 Aftercare.

The RSAB seek assurance that the appropriate partner agency has considered and actioned the recommendations within this SAR Report within 6 months. The update required for RSAB will need to include how the learning has been disseminated, how practice is different and what has been changed or implemented.

*Appropriate partner- Please note that these recommendations are only relevant to areas of the workforce that require this specific training.

**Improving Lives Select Commission –Summary Work Programme
2024/25**

Chair: Cllr Lyndsay Pitchley

Vice- Chair: Cllr Stuart Knight

Governance Advisor: Natasha Aucott

Link Officer: Kelly White

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
18-Jun-24	Introduction to the Improving Lives Select Commission, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •An introduction to CYPS performance •An introduction to the Early Help Strategy •An introduction to SEND/ SEND Sufficiency
30-Jul-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CYPS Performance Report 2023 - 2024 • The Local Government Association Care Leavers Peer Review Outcomes • The Spotlight Review Recommendations Report on Preparation for Adulthood
17-Sep-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ofsted Focused Visit Outcomes
21st October 24	SEND Strategy Consultation Workshop with ILSC members
29-Oct-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2023 - 2024 •The Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023 - 2024
3-Dec-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absences From Education (Elective home education, children missing education, children missing out on education, education other than at school, persistent and severe absence and exclusions) • SEND Strategy Update (including a summary of the consultation and proposed Strategy with consultation amendments)

28-Jan-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership Update (following changes scheduled to go to Cabinet in November).
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4-Mar-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radicalisation in schools (date TBC)
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22-Apr-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Abuse Strategy Update • Early Help Strategy Update Year 1 Update
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Items for Scheduling	
PAUSE Update	TBC (awaiting date from service)
Youth Justice Service Update	TBC (requires scoping)
CAMHS Update	TBC- Joint with C & V-C of HSC(awaiting date from service)