

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Date and Time:- Tuesday 9 September 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

Venue:- Rotherham Town Hall, The Crofts, Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH

Membership:- Councillors Steele (Chair), Bacon (Vice-Chair), Allen, Baggaley, Blackham, Brent, A. Carter, Keenan, McKiernan, Monk, Tinsley and Yasseen.

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

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

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 July 2025 (Pages 5 - 22)

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 2 July 2025 and to approve them 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. 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.

5. 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.

Items for Pre-Decision Scrutiny

In accordance with the outcome of the Governance Review in 2016, the following items are submitted for pre-scrutiny ahead of the Cabinet meeting on Monday 15 September 2025. Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board are invited to comment and make recommendations on the proposals contained within the report.

6. July 2025-26 Financial Monitoring Report (Pages 23 - 46)

Report from the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £2.4m.
2. Note whilst there is a projected overspend, the Council expects to be able to manage this pressure during the year and return to a balanced position following mitigating actions. Should that not be possible the Council will need to draw on its reserves to balance the 2025/26 financial position.
3. Note the updated position of the Capital Programme.

7. Investing in our Community Facilities (Pages 47 - 70)

Report from the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the works set out in section 1.7 in relation to:
 - (a) The Black Hut;
 - (b) Oaklea Retreat;
 - (c) Clifton Learning Centre;
 - (d) The Meeting Place (Wingfield); and
 - (e) Artworks, Brook Hill
2. Delegate authority to the Assistant Director for Property and Facilities Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety to amend the works as required within budget.

8. Community Safety Strategy 2025-2028 (Pages 71 - 146)

Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Endorses the Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy and recommends it to Council for approval.
2. Notes the requirement for scrutiny of the Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report, which is discharged by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.
3. Approves the ongoing informal consultation to capture service user voices throughout the duration of the plan.

For Discussion/Decision:-

9. Progress update on the implementation of the Pathways to Work Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programme (Pages 147 - 163)

To consider the progress update on the implementation of the Pathways to Work Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programme.

10. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2024-2025 (Pages 165 - 180)

To consider the annual update which is to be presented to Council on 10 September 2025 on activities and outcomes achieved in respect of Overview and Scrutiny during the 2024-2025 municipal year.

For Information/Monitoring:-

11. Work Programme (Pages 181 - 183)

To consider the Board's Work Programme.

12. Work in Progress - Select Commissions

To receive updates from the Chairs of the Select Commission on work undertaken and planned for the future.

13. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

To review and identify items for pre-decision scrutiny from the Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

Link to: [Browse plans - Forward Plan of Key Decisions, 2025 - Rotherham Council](#)

14. South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

As part of their role the Chair and Vice Chair of OSMB are appointed to the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Chair of OSMB is the Vice Chair on this committee.

This committee holds the MCA to account and ensure that all aspects of the decision-making process are transparent, inclusive and fair. The Committee are responsible for checking that the MCA is delivering its objectives and that the decisions made in policies, strategies and plans have been made in the best interests of the residents and workers of South Yorkshire.

The published agenda packs and minutes can be accessed via: [South Yorkshire MCA](#).

Members who have comments and queries regarding any item on any agenda should refer this to the Chair of OSMB and the Governance Manager at the earliest opportunity to ensure they're reflected in debate during the relevant public meeting.

15. Call-in Issues

To consider any issues referred for call-in from recent Cabinet meetings.

16. Urgent Business

To determine any item which the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.

The next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be held on Wednesday 8 October 2025 commencing at 10.00 a.m. in Rotherham Town Hall.



John Edwards,
Chief Executive.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
Wednesday 2 July 2025

Present:- Councillor Steele (in the Chair); Councillors Allen, Blackham, Brent, A. Carter, Keenan, McKiernan, Monk, Tinsley and Yasseen.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bacon and Baggaley.

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

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

13. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 4 JUNE 2025

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 4 June 2025 be approved as a true record.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

15. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

No questions were received.

16. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no reasons to exclude the press or public.

17. COUNCIL PLAN 2022-2025 AND YEAR AHEAD DELIVERY PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE 2024-25

Members welcomed John Edwards, Chief Executive on his appointment to the Council.

At the Chair's invitation the Leader of the Council, Councillor Read introduced the report, indicating that this was an overview of the final year-end report for the 2024–25 delivery plan, whilst noting that the Council had already agreed on the new plan for 2025–26. He described the current moment as a transitional phase, wrapping up the previous plan while the new one was already in motion.

The Leader noted that 77% of the actions committed for 2024–25 had been delivered and 60% of measurable performance indicators were on target. A number of actions were delayed, and one action may be abandoned due to feasibility issues.

The Leader structured his update around the five themes of the Council Plan:

1. Thriving Neighbourhoods:

- PSPO consultation and community safety strategy completed.
- The years Cultural events programme had been delivered.
- Delays in local neighbourhood road safety schemes and CCTV software procurement.
- The Maltby East scheme caused delays in the Towns and Villages Fund.

2. People are Safe, Healthy and Live Well:

- Repairs and maintenance policy approved in November 2024.
- The temporary accommodation offer had expanded by 17 homes.
- Domestic abuse delivery model review had been completed but decisions deferred to align with strategy review.

3. Every Child Able to Fulfil Their Potential:

- The baby packs had been commissioned and distributed.
- Increase in family registrations which was welcomed.
- The SEN hub building work scheduled.
- Independent training delivered to 24 young people.
- Work on the water splash area at Clifton Park had begun.
- Delays in children's care home programme due to staffing and registration.

4. Expanding Economic Opportunity:

- 464 attendees at business workshops for start-ups and new businesses.
- 132 grant offers for financial assistance issued through UKSPF grants.
- Public realm improvements at Riverside Gardens and Co-operation Street were underway.
- Delays in Temple Brook Business Zone due to ownership and stakeholder challenges.
- Local Plan revision delayed due to government target changes.
- Progress had been made on flood alleviation schemes and community energy engagement.

5. Cleaner, Greener Rotherham:

- Delays in works at Thrybergh Country Park and some flood defence schemes.
- Fleet replacement plan behind schedule; 23 of 60 vehicles procured.
- Heat decarbonisation plan agreed, but solar canopy work at Riverside House delayed.
- One project—Low Carbon Energy Regeneration Plan—likely to be abandoned due to site issues and feasibility concerns.

6. One Council:

- 75,000 online transactions recorded in Q1 2025.
- The continued development of self-service forms and website improvements.
- Early Careers Hub launched in December 2024.

The Leader acknowledged the breadth of the report, noting that while much had been achieved, there were areas requiring further attention or re-evaluation.

The Chair invited members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) to raise questions and queries on the points raised earlier.

Councillor A Cater asked about the decision timeline and status for the projects considered as part of the Our Places Fund. The Leader explained Consultation had been completed and two decisions (Maltby East and Swinton Centre Public Realm Scheme) were made earlier in the year. A further report with more detailed proposals is expected by autumn.

Councillor Yasseen noted the decline in satisfaction and safety perception and asked if there was a deeper understanding of the reasons. The Leader noted that these results were based on a 500-person annual survey. Results could fluctuate and may be influenced by external factors like weather or national sentiment but generally it was moving in the right direction. Long-term trends are more reliable.

Councillor Yasseen felt there could be a correlation between satisfaction and the hate crime outcomes. The Leader acknowledged the concern. Hate crime outcomes were police-led but included for visibility. Further analysis was needed to understand the drop.

Councillor Yasseen went on to query the accuracy of the working-age population employment data? The Leader agreed the data had limitations, but it was the national standard. Supplementary data (e.g. benefit claims) was used internally for programme evaluation.

Councillor Tinsley queried if the Maltby High Street targets were realistic and felt there was a lack of ward member engagement. The Leader believed targets were realistic and he encouraged ward members to initiate direct contact for any concerns. The Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment indicated he would arrange a session with ward members to improve engagement.

Councillor Monk noted the home-to-school transport savings had been reasonably successful but asked if there had been any family feedback? The Leader clarified that the overall home-to-school transport budget was rising. The policy was re-visited, and public consultation was undertaken involving parents and families. The team had done well to improve the cost efficiency of each journey.

The Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment highlighted that considerable work had been undertaken to look at the efficiencies in journeys and over a three-year period a 20% cost reduction had been achieved and put Rotherham on par with neighbouring authorities for costs on home-to-school transport. Positive feedback had been received regarding the independent travel training. A graduation ceremony was held each year, and some parents had indicated that it had transformed their children's lives, given them more self-confidence in their day-to-day lives.

The Strategic Director for Finance and Customer Services clarified that once work had been completed regarding routes and making the service as efficient as it could be then additional funding would be allocated to reset that budget. That work had now been completed and they were satisfied that they knew how much budget to reallocate, whilst recognising the number of children and their needs may vary over time. It was confirmed that the budget had been reset based on efficiency work.

Councillor Keenan welcomed the increased availability of temporary accommodation but queried if the additional posts in the Homelessness team had been filled and if the team was running at its increased capacity? The Strategic Director for Adult Care, Housing and Public Health confirmed the Homelessness team had gone through a restructure and was now fully staffed and operating under a new, prevention-focused model.

Councillor Monk sought clarification on the workforce data regarding young people with disabilities. The Assistant Chief Executive clarified that 13% of council workforce were young people with disabilities, slightly below the borough average (14%). A range of initiatives were in place to improve representation, including outreach and supported apprenticeships.

Councillor Yasseen noted climate emergency declared by the Council in 2019 and the missed climate and tree planting targets, querying if the Council was treating it as an emergency. The Councillor suggested that the word 'emergency' should be removed, and the Council should move towards a more sustainable plan to achieve that agenda. The Leader indicated there were two trends, one was the return to the workplace following Covid, which placed more energy pressures on the Council. The second was the national grid decarbonisation had not progressed at the expected pace. There were programmes of work, particularly around fleets, fleet procurement, buildings and assets which had not borne fruit but would deliver results. In terms of tree planting, the numerical targets had been met but not area-based ones. The Leader acknowledged future challenges in meeting net zero.

The Chair asked what interventions were in place to improve phonics screening results and reduce attainment gaps? The Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services explained that the results were not

where they would like them to be, and a development programme had been put in place. English Hubs were available which linked schools together and were meant to provide specialist tuition and support to schools in terms of how phonics sessions were delivered. They hadn't been as successful as hoped. She highlighted that there was a bespoke specialist phonics programme for children with SEND which had been successful but there was still work to be done in this area.

Councillor Allen queried the accessibility of the performance reports such as this, asking if a simplified version was available. The Leader noted that a simplified version did not currently exist. The Communications team tried to translate key messages and consideration would be given to producing the information in a more digestible format.

Councillor Allen asked if a summary of missed targets could be included going forward? The Leader agreed to provide a summary of missed targets in future reports.

The Chair noted the shortfall in meeting the apprenticeships target, asking why? The Assistant Chief Executive felt it was a combination of factors. Managers may not fully understand the flexibility of apprenticeships and the levels at which they could be undertaken. The Assistant Chief Executive explained that work was underway to improve awareness and promotion. In response to Councillor Brent's point, it was noted that work was ongoing with schools and colleges. Cross-directorate efforts were in place to improve employability and promote apprenticeships.

The Chair sought clarification around the road resurfacing delays and what was being done to address them. The Leader explained some works were scheduled for school holidays and weather could cause delays. The Leader indicated that overall, the road condition targets were still being met.

The Chair queried what the implications were of exceeding the target for older adult admissions to long term residential care? The Strategic Director for Adult Care, Housing and Public Health explained the increase reflected higher needs and complexity. Efforts continued to find alternatives, but some admissions were necessary and based on individual choice.

Resolved: That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supported the recommendations that Cabinet:

1. Note the overall position in relation to the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities.
2. Note the Quarter 4 data for the Council Plan performance measures.
3. Note that the Council has been using a new Council Plan from June 2025 with this being the final report for the 2022-25 Council Plan.

Further actions that arose from discussions were that:

- Further consideration was given to the development of an easy-to-read summary version of the Council Plan and the Year Ahead Delivery Plan, with the aim of improving accessibility, transparency, and public engagement.
- That future update reports would contain a summary sheet, clearly detailing:
 - Which targets have not been met,
 - The reasons for non-achievement, and
 - The anticipated timescales for completion or resolution.

18. ETHICAL PROCUREMENT POLICY

At the Chair's invitation the Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety introduced the report noting the following:

- The Council spent approximately £425 million annually with third-party suppliers and contractors across a wide range of goods, works, and services.
- Procurement was seen as a key enabler for the Council to deliver its strategic objectives, using its purchasing power to drive social, economic, and environmental improvements for residents and society at large.
- The Council must comply with the Procurement Act 2023, which provided the legal framework for public procurement.
- The Ethical Procurement Policy consolidated a range of measures, decisions, and commitments the Council had made over the years to promote ethical practices.
- Originally approved in January 2020, the policy was reviewed on a three-year cycle.
- The aim was to create a comprehensive umbrella policy that centralised all ethical procurement-related decisions and practices.
- One notable update was the Council's intention to sign the UK Steel Charter, which replaces the previously signed Sustainable British Steel Charter.

The Strategic Director for Finance and Customer Services made the following points to provide additional context:

- The policy was now reviewed annually, although most changes were typically minor (e.g., updates to dates or legislation titles).
- The UK Steel Charter update was the main reason the policy was brought to members for review this time.
- The policy included a commitment to support the charter through the pre-procurement business case process, ensuring alignment with the Council's ethical and sustainability goals.

The Chair invited members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) to raise questions and queries on the points raised earlier.

Councillor Blackham queried if anyone had assessed how much the Ethical Procurement Policy was costing the Council, considering that

requiring suppliers to meet ethical standards was likely to increase their costs? The Assistant Director Financial Services acknowledged that the ethical requirements likely increased costs, but it was extremely difficult to quantify. Procurement tenders did not break down costs by ethical components, so the Council could not isolate or measure the financial impact of these requirements.

Councillor Blackham followed up by asking if the Council was now centralising procurement? The Strategic Director for Finance and Customer Services explained that the procurement process (rules, regulations, tendering) was centralised, but actual purchasing was done by individual services who knew their needs. Centralisation of procurement professionals had been in place since 2016. The Strategic Director for Finance and Customer Services went on to clarify that while purchasing was decentralised, the Council did aggregate spend where possible (e.g. IT, food contracts) to secure better value.

Councillor Yasseen asked how the Council ethically screened what was included in the policy? Who decided what went in, and was there a framework? The Assistant Director Financial Services explained that major procurements were guided by a business case process, which included ethical considerations. The Council used government lists (e.g. for modern slavery) and internal assessments to guide decisions. The Service Manager explained that before tenders went to market, a horizon scan and market assessment was conducted. Ethical requirements were embedded into tender documents and evaluated through method statement questions.

In her supplementary question Councillor Yasseen raised concerns about a democratic deficit. She referenced the Council's support for a Palestine motion and a large public petition, suggesting that civic mandates should influence procurement policy. The Strategic Director for Finance and Customer Services explained that officers could consider civic mandates, but the policy was ultimately set by Cabinet. Any civic input must be legally actionable within procurement law. The Assistant Director Financial Services indicated the Council could not legally exclude suppliers based on country of origin or political issues due to national procurement legislation.

In a follow-up Councillor Yasseen argued that civic mandates, like the modern slavery motion, had been included before and should be considered again. The Leader noted that all elements in the policy were based on previous Council decisions. There was currently no legally compliant way to exclude suppliers based on geopolitical issues (e.g. Gaza). If a legal route was found, the Council was open to considering it.

Councillor A Carter asked if the Council could ensure it was not using suppliers who funded or supported conflicts (e.g. Israel-Palestine, Ukraine-Russia, fracking, fossil fuels)? The Leader explained the Council used tools like the Social Value Policy to encourage ethical practices but

could not legally exclude suppliers based on such criteria. The Council was open to exploring options if legal mechanisms become available.

In a follow-up question Councillor A Carter asked if the Council would lobby national government to allow more flexibility in procurement decisions? The Leader indicated he had written to the government following the petition, requesting more flexibility for councils in procurement decisions.

The Chair asked how the Ethical Procurement Policy aligned with the Council's Climate Change and Social Value policies? The Leader indicated there was some overlap, especially in encouraging suppliers to reduce carbon emissions, but the policies were separate in terms of decision-making processes.

Councillor McKiernan requested a correction in the document: "Sheffield, Yorkshire, Mayoral Combined Authority" should be "South Yorkshire, Mayoral Combined Authority".

Councillor Allen suggested a minor wording correction: "bed to the Council's partners" should be "embed with".

In conclusion the Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety said the Council was open to feedback from scrutiny and would continue to report back. The updated UK Steel Charter would be signed before September.

Resolved: That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supported the recommendations that Cabinet:

1. Formalise the support of the UK Steel Charter as the successor to the Sustainable British Steel Charter.
2. Approve the updated Ethical Procurement Policy for 2025.

19. FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2024-25

At the Chair's invitation the Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety introduced the report noting the following:

- It presented the Council's final revenue, capital, HR, and school outturn position for the financial year 2024–25.
- It was the final report in a series of financial monitoring updates provided to Cabinet throughout the year.
- The Council had set a revenue budget of £326 million.
- The four-year capital programme was set at £508 million.
- The Council had faced significant demand and market pressures, particularly in: Adult Social Care and Home-to-School Transport
- Those pressures were compounded by inflation and broader economic challenges, which had increased the Council's base costs.
- In December 2024, the Council forecasted an overspend of £3.1 million.

- The final outturn showed a reduced overspend of £0.3 million, representing a £2.8 million improvement.
- This improvement was attributed to:
 - Additional savings delivered by service areas.
 - Maximised grant applications.
 - Increased income.
 - Treasury management savings.
- The £0.3 million overspend was funded through the use of reserves.
- The capital programme experienced slippage, with an underspend of £31 million against the budget.
- This was a significant improvement compared to the £140 million delay in the previous year.
- The Council continued to review its operational and non-operational assets.
- The aim was to rationalise the estate and ensure efficient use of resources.

The Chair invited members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) to raise questions and queries on the points raised earlier.

Councillor McKiernan queried a line in the budget showing a negative £2.8 million under “Unallocated Flood Alleviation” for 2027–28, asking if money was being removed from the budget. The Assistant Director Financial Services said it appeared to be a reallocation issue. The unallocated fund was a central pot for future flood schemes. The negative figure likely reflected partial allocation to specific schemes. He promised to double-check the figures.

Councillor Yasseen raised a recurring concern about the consistent overspend in Children and Young People’s Services (CYPS) over the past decade. Asking when the Council would accept this as the true cost of the service and adjust the budget accordingly. The Assistant Director Financial Services acknowledged the consistent overspend but noted that total CYPS spending had been reducing due to savings. Rotherham had historically been a high-spending authority in this area. The Council was waiting for the full rollout of the residential programme before considering a budget reset. It was clarified that a contingency was in place for 2025–26.

In a follow-up question Councillor Yasseen expressed concern that CYPS savings were backloaded in the financial plan, making them harder to achieve. The Assistant Director Financial Services agreed that backloading savings was risky. The Council had improved its approach to savings planning in recent years, applying more scrutiny and starting earlier. Most new savings had been delivered, but legacy pressures remained.

Councillor Yasseen asked a further question regarding plans to replenish reserves after recent usage. The Assistant Director Financial Services

indicated that the Council had used reserves minimally and strategically. Thanks to good treasury management, reserves were in a better position than in 2023–24. The Council assessed reserve levels based on risk and avoided holding excessive reserves.

The Chair noted that CYPS had always overspent in his experience. He expressed concern that Adult Social Care may follow the same path due to demographic pressures. The Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services said the adult social care budget was increased by £17 million to reflect recent pressures. The Council would monitor whether this was sufficient. For CYPS, a reset would only happen once all possible efficiencies had been implemented.

Councillor Allen praised the report for being clear and narrative driven. And requested that the review of capital programme delivery (mentioned in paragraph 2.60) be brought back to OSMB for scrutiny. The Assistant Director Financial Services welcomed the feedback and confirmed that the review findings would be shared with the Board.

Councillor Yasseen referred to capital programme variations relating to bereavement services, suggesting re-profiling unspent funds (originally from fines imposed on Dignity) to improve cemetery facilities, such as installing accessible toilets. The Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety agreed and would raise the issue with the new Cabinet Member and challenge Dignity to fulfil their obligations along with a commitment to review accessibility across all cemeteries.

Resolved: That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supported the recommendations that Cabinet:

1. Note the revenue outturn position for 2024/25.
2. Note the budgeted transfer to HRA reserves increased by £4.4m following the revenue and capital outturn positions.
3. Note the carry forward of the combined surplus schools balance of £2.3m in accordance with the Department for Education regulations.
4. Note the reserves position set out in paragraphs 2.52 to 2.57.
5. Note the capital outturn, funding position and programme variations as set out in paragraphs 2.58 to 2.91.
6. Approve the capital budget variations as detailed in section 2.79 to 2.82 of the report.
7. Note the position on CRSTS Revenue Grant as set out in paragraphs 2.92 to 2.94 and delegate the decision to allocate and spend the remaining grant to the Assistant Director Planning Regeneration and Transport in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Cabinet Member.

Further actions that arose from discussions were that:

- That the OSMB would receive details of the package of proposed improvements relating to the Capital Programme.

20. TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2024-25

At the Chair's invitation the Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety introduced the report noting the following:

- This was the final strategy report for the financial year.
- It reviewed treasury activity against the strategy agreed at the start of the year.
- It included actual performance against prudential indicators for 2020–2025, as required by the relevant codes of practice.
- The Council's treasury function operated in accordance with, the Local Government Act and associated guidance and professional codes.
- Those frameworks were designed to limit risk in treasury activities.
- The Council had complied with all indicators set out in Section 2 of the report.
- The Council continued its short-term borrowing strategy, based on advice from treasury advisors.
- Borrowing was only undertaken when necessary.
- This approach had led to a significant increase in the net under-borrowed position, meaning the Council had not borrowed up to its full capital financing requirement.
- The strategy helped control interest costs and reduce the need for borrowing.
- Slippage in the capital programme also contributed to reduced borrowing needs.
- Those factors resulted in an £8 million underspend on the treasury management budget.
- The savings were used to support the Council's overall financial position.
- The report met the requirements of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice and the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

The Chair invited members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) to raise questions and queries on the points raised earlier.

Councillor Tinsley queried a short-term loan of £20 million taken out for one month, asking whether this indicated a financial issue? The Assistant Director Financial Services clarified that there was no financial issue. The loan was part of the Council's cash flow management strategy. The Council aimed to minimize cash holdings due to high interest rates, making short-term borrowing a cost-effective solution. This approach was expected to continue over the next few years.

In a follow-up question the Chair asked about the risks associated with short-term borrowing. The Assistant Director Financial Services explained the main risk was interest rate fluctuation. The Council was under-borrowed, meaning it hadn't committed to long-term borrowing for its full

capital financing requirement. Eventually, short-term loans would need to be converted to long-term borrowing, and timing was crucial to secure favourable rates. The Council had previously secured £227 million at 1.6% interest during a market dip, which was highly advantageous.

In a further question the Chair asked how the Council would adapt its borrowing strategy if interest rates continued to fall? The Assistant Director Financial Services explained the strategy would involve timing long-term borrowing to coincide with the lowest point of interest rates. Options included borrowing in smaller tranches or making a large commitment if confident about market conditions. Predicting the bottom of the dip was difficult, but the Council aimed to act when rates were most favourable.

Councillor Yasseen praised the Council's financial prudence and noted its impressive performance in investment benchmarking. Councillor Yasseen suggested the Council consider adopting an Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) investment policy, similar to other councils like Cardiff and Leicester. The Assistant Director Financial Services thanked her for the positive feedback, going on to explain that ESG was not currently a formal part of the Council's treasury policy. Green bonds had been considered but were currently too costly due to high premiums. However, he agreed that ESG principles should be considered in future strategy development, especially in alignment with the Council's climate goals.

Resolved: That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supported the recommendations that Cabinet: note the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators outturn position as set out in Section 2 and Appendix 1.

21. MAY 2025-26 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

At the Chair's invitation the Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety introduced the report noting the following:

- The Council was projecting a small underspend of £0.1 million; this was composed of an overspend of £4.2 million within directorates and offset by a £4.3 million underspend in central services.
- The main financial pressure was within Children's Services, particularly due to the increased demand for placements and rising costs in the children's social care market.
- The Treasury Management Strategy continued to perform well.
- The Council was using a strategy of minimising borrowing levels and relying on short-term borrowing to reduce interest costs.
- This approach had been supported by delays in capital programme delivery, which has pushed back the need to borrow.
- The treasury strategy was expected to generate savings that would help offset wider budget pressures across the Council.
- In the current climate of economic difficulty and financial constraint, it was essential that spending remained aligned with the Council's budget.

- Close monitoring of expenditure and income across all services would remain a top priority.

The Chair invited members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) to raise questions and queries on the points raised earlier.

Councillor Blackham expressed frustration over the continued overspend in Children and Young People's Services (CYPS), stating that it undermined the credibility of the budget process. He emphasised the need for a realistic budget that reflects actual service costs. The Assistant Director Financial Services acknowledged the concern and reiterated that CYPS spending had been reducing year-on-year. The overspend was due to non-delivery of savings plans. The Council had included a contingency for CYPS in the 2025–26 budget and expected to reassess the budget alignment during the year, especially after the residential programme was fully implemented.

The Chair asked how the Council was managing the financial risk associated with the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit, especially with the statutory protection being removed. The Assistant Director Financial Services confirmed that the statutory override had been extended for two more years, reducing immediate risk. The Council was continuing its DSG reduction plans, focusing on increasing local pupil placements to avoid expensive out-of-borough placements. The DSG deficit had been reduced from £23 million to around £1 million, projected to be £3 million at the end of the financial year. However, national SEND reforms were still pending and could impact future funding.

Resolved: That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supported the recommendations that Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast underspend of £0.1m.
2. Note the updated position of the Capital Programme.

22. WORK PROGRAMME

The Board considered its Work Programme.

The Chair explained that an email had been sent to all elected members requesting ideas and contributions for the 2025–26 scrutiny work programme. The deadline for submissions was set for Friday, 4 July 2025. The next step was that a meeting of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the select commissions would be convened to finalise the programme. This could involve using the prioritisation matrix (previously agreed by the Board) to assess which suggestions would be taken forward.

The Governance Manager provided an update on the Gaza petition action tracker. Confirming that all actions had been completed except one: the ongoing requirement for the Cabinet Member to maintain dialogue with the petitioners as needed and this action would remain open for the

foreseeable future.

Councillor Yasseen expressed concern that the Gaza petition update had been circulated via email rather than being included as a formal agenda item. She emphasised the petition's unique public mandate and the importance of transparency, noting that previous updates had been discussed in public meetings with petitioners present. She requested that the Gaza petition update be reinstated as a full agenda item for the September meeting to allow public engagement.

The Chair proposed a compromise: that he would personally speak with the relevant Cabinet Member (both current and former, if necessary) to get an accurate and up-to-date position before deciding whether to include the item on the September agenda. He asked Councillor Yasseen to email her concerns to him and copy in Barbel Gale, the Governance Manager. Councillor Yasseen, agreed to the proposed approach for now but reiterated that the issue was not just her personal view, that it reflected wider public interest and expectations.

Resolved: - That the Work Programme be approved.

23. **WORK IN PROGRESS - SELECT COMMISSIONS**

The Chair invited the Chairs of each of the Select Commissions to provide an update on their work, which has been detailed below.

Health Select Commission

Presented by: Councillor Rose Keenan, Chair

Key Updates:

1. Adult Contact Team Referral Process:

- Members welcomed the information provided.
- The service returned to update on the implementation of AI in the referral process.
- Members expressed interest in seeing how this could be replicated in other areas.

2. Health Hub Development (Pre-Decision Scrutiny):

- A major item scrutinised ahead of Cabinet on 7 July.
- Members raised concerns about:
 - Appropriateness of services to be housed in the hub.
 - Accessibility and public transport infrastructure.
 - Ensuring services reflect areas of greatest need.
- Despite concerns, members supported the recommendations to Cabinet.
- An additional recommendation was submitted that this item be returned to Health Select at appropriate stages during Phase Two to provide reassurance that improved health

outcomes, tackling health inequalities and service delivery gaps remained at the heart of that phase.

3. Future Work:

- Upcoming scrutiny of the ADASS (Association of Directors of Adult Social Services) peer review.
- Review of the Healthwatch Annual Report.
- Equality account responses from TRFT (The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust), RDaSH (Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust), and the Ambulance Service.
- Planning a menopause workshop in September, open to all members and involving partners including Rotherham United.

4. Work Programme:

- A well-rounded outline work programme had been agreed, which maintained flexibility to accommodate emerging issues.
- The Commission's work was recently referenced on BBC News, highlighting its impact.

Improving Places Select Commission

Presented by: Councillor McKiernan, Chair

Key Updates:

1. Muslim Burial Provision Review:

- An independent review was presented.
- The reviewer and bereavement services officers answered questions.
- Several recommendations are expected to follow.

2. Rotherham Employment and Skills Strategy:

- Discussion slightly overlapped with education and skills, which was outside the Commission's core remit.
- Members engaged in strong discussions, particularly around apprenticeships.

3. Housing Strategy 2022–25 Final Report:

- Reviewed the outcomes of the three-year strategy.
- Members raised questions about the updated housing policy, which had now been delayed.
- The Chair expressed frustration at the delay in considering the Housing Strategy 2025-2028.

4. Upcoming Items:

- Tenant scrutiny review on tenancy health checks.
- Ongoing work on the School Road Safety Review, led by

Councillor Tinsley, Vice Chair.

- A meeting with Cabinet members clarified that the Commission's review will proceed independently, with a different scope than Cabinet's.

5. Work Programme:

- Awaiting further submissions via email.
- Anticipates several items being allocated to Places Commission.

Improving Lives Select Commission

Presented by: Councillor Brent, Vice-Chair

Key Updates:

1. Kinship Care Local Offer:

- Reviewed the draft offer ahead of Cabinet consideration.
- Recommendations included:
 - Adding information on trauma and relevant resources.
 - Developing a short, accessible booklet for families.
 - Ensuring the language is inclusive and accessible, especially for young people.

2. Work Programming Session:

- Members met to agree on statutory, annual, and outstanding items from the previous year.

3. Upcoming Items:

- July meeting would scrutinise:
 - Children and Young People's Services Performance Report.
 - Revised Elective Home Education Policy (pre-decision scrutiny).
- A training session on child-specific trauma was being arranged via the Member and Democratic Panel.
 - This would support a potential future review on trauma and children missing education.

24. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

The Board considered the Forward Plan of Key Decisions July 2025 to September 2025.

The Chair introduced the item and invited the Governance Manager to walk members through the forward plan for July to September 2025. The purpose was to identify which key decisions should be scheduled for pre-decision scrutiny at the next OSMB meeting on 9 September 2025.

The Governance Manager outlined the key and non-key decisions scheduled for Cabinet in September, grouped by directorate:

Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

- Draft Housing Strategy 2025–2030
- Housing Allocations Policy
- Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025–2030
- Smoke-Free and Vape-Free Places Policy

Children and Young People's Services

- No Family Left Behind Strategy

Finance and Customer Services

- July 2025–26 Financial Monitoring Report (confirmed to come to OSMB)
- Investing in Our Community Facilities
- Property Transactions

Regeneration and Environment

- Community Safety Strategy 2025–2028
- Bassingthorpe Farm Supplementary Planning Document
- Local Validation List for Planning Applications
- Rotherham Employment and Skills Strategy (noted as a potential item of interest)

Licensing and Regulation

- Selective Licensing Policy (to be scrutinised by Improving Places Select Commission; OSMB members will be invited to attend)
- Licensing Act 2003 – Statement of Licensing Policy

Non-Key Decisions

- Adult Social Care Local Account 2024–25
- All-Age Autism Strategy Update 2024–2027
- New Applications for Business Rates Relief

Resolved: That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:

1. Noted the Forward Plan of Key Decisions - July 2025 to September 2025.
2. Agreed that the following items would be added to the July agenda as part of OSMB's pre-decision scrutiny work:
 - July 2025-26 Financial Monitoring Report.
 - Community Safety Strategy 2025-2028.
 - Rotherham Employment and Skills Strategy.

25. CALL-IN ISSUES

There were no call-in issues.

26. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no urgent items.

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 15 September 2025

Report Title

July 2025/26 Financial Monitoring Report

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Judith Badger, Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services

Report Author(s)

Rob Mahon, Assistant Director – Financial Services
01709 254518 or rob.mahon@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The report sets out the financial position as at the end of July 2025 and forecast for the remainder of the financial year, based on actual costs and income for the first four months of 2025/26. Financial performance is a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance framework and is essential to achievement of the objectives within the Council's policy agenda. To that end, this is the second financial monitoring report of a series of reports for the current financial year which will continue to be brought forward to Cabinet on a regular basis.

As of July 2025, the Council's financial position for 2025/26 remains positive, although there is now a forecast overspend of £2.4m. This position is made up of a Directorate overspend of £7.7m, offset by a projected Central Service underspend of £5.3m. Whilst this is an overspend, the Council expects to be able to manage this pressure during the year and return to a balanced position following mitigating actions.

As of July 2025, the Council currently estimates an overspend against the Directorates of £7.7m for the financial year 2025/26. This is largely due to demand led pressures in relation to Children's residential placements and placement types. Increased costs are also being felt across the wider Children's social care market, this is leading to market prices increasing at above inflation levels, placing further pressures on the Council's Budget. These pressures were anticipated, and a corporate provision was maintained within Central Services as part of the Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26.

The Local Government Pay Award has been agreed at 3.2% at all pay bands up to senior officer. The impact of this is a cost of £2.3m above the budget that was allocated when setting the Council's Budget. The Council has no control over the level of pay award agreed.

Central Services is forecasting an underspend of £5.3m, reflecting use of the £5.4m Social Care Contingency approved within the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26, the impact of the Local Government Pay Award and savings generated within the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

The Council's Treasury Management Strategy continues to perform well, with the Council's approach to borrowing adapted to minimise the level of borrowing and borrow short term to ultimately minimise interest costs. The position has also improved following the outturn for 2024/25 because of re-profiling of the capital programme delivery, which pushes back the need to borrow. It is estimated that this approach should see the Council generate savings to support Council wide pressures. However, it should be noted that the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26 approved a requirement for the Treasury Management Strategy to save at least £3m in 2025/26. This is on track however economic and market conditions are out of the Council's control.

The report also provides an updated position on the Council's Capital Programme.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £2.4m.
2. Note whilst there is a projected overspend, the Council expects to be able to manage this pressure during the year and return to a balanced position following mitigating actions. Should that not be possible the Council will need to draw on its reserves to balance the 2025/26 financial position.
3. Note the updated position of the Capital Programme.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Budget and Council Tax 2025/26 Report to Council on 5th March 2025

Budget Monitoring, May 2025 to Cabinet July 2025

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

July 2025/26 Financial Monitoring Report

1. Background

- 1.1** As part of its performance and control framework the Council is required to produce regular and timely reports for the Strategic Leadership Team and Cabinet to keep them informed of financial performance so that, where necessary, actions can be agreed and implemented to bring expenditure in line with the approved budget for the financial year.
- 1.2** Delivery of the Council's Revenue Budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Capital Programme within the parameters agreed by Council is essential if the Council's objectives are to be achieved. Financial performance is a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance framework.
- 1.3** This report is the second in a series of financial monitoring reports to Cabinet for 2025/26, setting out the projected year end revenue budget financial position in light of actual costs and income for the first four months of the financial year.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1** Table 1 below shows, by directorate, the summary forecast revenue outturn position.

Table 1: Forecast Revenue Outturn 2025/26 as at July 2025

Directorate	Budget 2025/26	Forecast Outturn 2025/26	Forecast Variance over/under (-)
	£m	£m	£m
Children and Young People's Services (CYPS)	72.2	77.8	5.6
Adult Care, Housing & Public Health (ACH&PH)	144.2	146.2	2.0
Regeneration and Environment Services (R&E)	52.9	53.4	0.5
Finance and Customer Services (FCS)	38.3	38.3	0.0
Assistant Chief Executive (ACX)	8.9	8.5	-0.4
Central Services (CS)	42.4	37.1	-5.3
Directorate Forecast Outturn	359.0	361.4	2.4
Dedicated Schools Grant			3.1
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)			-0.2

- 2.2** As at July 2025, the Council's financial position for 2025/26 remains positive, although there is now a forecast overspend of £2.4m. This position is made up of a Directorate overspend of £7.7m, offset by a projected Central Service underspend of £5.3m. Whilst this is an overspend, the Council expects to be able to manage this pressure during the year and return to a balanced position following mitigating actions. However, it is possible that the Council may need to call on reserves to achieve a balanced outturn.
- 2.3** The Council currently estimates a directorate overspend of £7.7m for the financial year 2025/26. The Council's overspend position at this point is largely due to placement pressures within Children and Young People's Services (£5m), and the cost of care packages in Adult Social Care (£2m).
- 2.4** As part of setting the Council's Budget and MTFs for 2025/26 the Council set a Social Care Contingency budget to act as a provision to support anticipated pressures across Social Care placements, principally linked to CYPS placements. Central Services is forecasting an underspend of £5.3m, reflecting use of this £5.4m Social Care Contingency approved within the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26, the impact of the Local Government Pay Award and savings generated within the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.
- 2.5** The budget as approved at Council on 5th March 2025 included provisions, allocations for inflation, pay award and anticipated cost pressures. These budgets are held centrally at the start of the year and allocated to services as costs are confirmed and incurred. The table below sets out the headline reasons for the movement between opening budgets and the latest budget that has been forecast against in this report.

2.6 Table 2: Budget Movements during 2025/26

Directorate	Opening Budget 2025/26	Pay Award / Fees & Charges Income Inflation	Contract Inflation & Central Provision Allocations to Services	Service Transfers between Directorates	Latest Budget 2025/26
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
CYPS	68.8	0.8	2.7	0	72.2
ACH&PH	135.9	0.9	7.4	0	144.2
R&E	48.6	1.0	3.4	-0.1	52.9
FCS	35.1	1.1	1.3	0.9	38.3
ACX	8.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	8.9
CS	62.3	-4.0	-15.0	-0.9	42.4
TOTAL	359.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	359.0

- 2.7** The Council's Budget and Council Tax report 2025/26 included the delivery of £7.720m of previously agreed savings to be delivered across the Directorates. At present, £1.831m of delivery has been secured. The biggest challenges at present on delivery relate to CYPS Placements, which is forecast as a significant cost pressure again in 2025/26. It remains challenging to clearly link the positive outcomes being delivered by CYPS in terms of reduced LAC numbers to the savings targets, principally as the service has seen rising market cost pressures and a number of significantly high cost placements. In reality, the reduction in number of placements has taken place but the rising costs of those placements remaining has outstripped the savings achieved. The table below shows the total amount of all savings to be delivered during 2025/26 and the amount that has been delivered to date.

Table 3: Delivery of Agreed Savings

Directorate	2025/26 Saving to be delivered £'000	Secured as at 31st July 2025 £'000	Still to be delivered £'000
Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	600	150	450
Children's and Young Peoples Services	6,163	1,372	4,791
Regeneration and Environment	731	83	648
Total	7,494	1,605	5,889

- 2.8** The following sections provide further information regarding the Council's forecast outturn of £2.4m, the key reasons for forecast under or overspends within directorates and the progress of savings delivery.

2.9 Children and Young People Services Directorate (£5.6m forecast overspend)

- 2.9.1** Children & Young People Services has a budget pressure of £5.6m at the end of July 2025 (an increase of £1.1m compared to May's reported position) primarily driven by pressures in Children's Social Care placements (£5.0m) and Education / Inclusion budgets (£0.6m).

- 2.9.2** The placements forecast overspend of £5.0m represents a significant increase of £0.7m to the previously reported position and is due to 10 new unanticipated external residential placements during July and August. In addition, the unit costs of some existing placements have risen, reflecting both the increasing complexity of needs among some children in care and persistent challenges within the external residential placement market.

- 2.9.3** The following are some key points to note in the latest placement forecasts:
- The overall number of children in care has remained stable, with 457 children at the end of July, compared to 459 in June.
 - External residential placements continue to be the key driver of the forecast overspend, given their significantly higher cost.
 - Occupancy levels in Council-owned children's homes currently stand at 73%, against a budgeted profile of 85%. However, this is projected to rise to 87% by the end of the current quarter due to planned placements.
 - The number of children placed with foster carers (both in-house and via independent fostering agencies) stands at 303, which is below the budgeted figure of 325. This shortfall reflects ongoing regional challenges in recruitment and retention within the fostering sector, as well as breakdowns of some placements of children with complex needs.
- 2.9.4** Despite these pressures, the Council continues to make year-on-year progress in reducing overall placement costs and demand. However, the mix of placement types, increasing unit cost and complexity of care needs remain significant challenges for the Directorate. It is also important to note that the number of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) continues to impact both demand levels and the availability of suitable placement options.
- 2.9.5** A forecast overspend of £0.6m is currently anticipated against the Education & Inclusion Services. This is mainly attributed to a shortfall in Education Psychology Service trading income from schools as well as the continued use of locum and agency staff to maintain core statutory provision. A review of the service is required to address these impacts.
- 2.9.6** A balanced budget position is currently forecast against the Home to School Transport budgets managed within CYPS (for children in care and post 16 learners with Education, Health and Care Plans).
- 2.9.7** A review of existing budgets and spending commitments across the directorate is currently underway, aimed at identifying options to mitigate rising cost pressures. Where grant conditions permit and agreed outcomes are not affected, opportunities to redirect grant funding will be considered.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) (£3.1m forecast deficit)

- 2.9.8** A net surplus of £1.2m is forecast across all 21 maintained schools for 2025/26. This surplus is ring-fenced for use by individual schools. Within this overall position, four schools are projecting budget deficits totalling £463k. Budget recovery plans will be agreed with each of these schools to return them to a balanced or surplus position within an appropriate timeframe.
- 2.9.9** A cost pressure of £3.1m is currently forecast against the central DSG budgets and mainly relates to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) / High Needs Block. The forecast deficit reflects sustained cost / demand pressures across the SEND system. The DSG reserve is forecast to show

a £3.5m cumulative deficit at year-end, which will be carried forward under the DSG deficits statutory override and protections. Work is underway to extend the DSG Management Plan over a five-year period, in line with DfE requirements. This will be informed by the recent SEND needs and sufficiency analysis, ensuring alignment with local priorities and demand forecasts.

2.10 Adult Care, Housing and Public Health (£2.0m overspend)

2.10.1 The directorate is now forecasting an overspend of £2m. Care packages are projected to overspend by £2m as a result of big increases in residential and nursing care, especially in short-term placements, during the period. The two main areas of pressure continue to be older people and mental health support, due to increased numbers as well as increased complexity, and cost.

2.10.2 Direct payments are underspending in all areas and there has been increased income collection as a result of increased numbers of people in care. Work is on-going to reduce the number and complexity of support packages through more preventative and targeted support including through the increased use of Enablement.

2.10.3 Salary costs are another area of risk as in-house provision spend on agency has led to an overspend which is mostly offset by vacancies and underspends in other social work salaries. This overspend has been caused in part by high levels of sickness. A review of the use of agency and the underlying issues around vacancies will be required.

2.10.4 Neighbourhood Services (Housing) is forecast to come in on budget. The cost of homelessness will be closely monitored over the year. A number of temporary accommodation properties have been acquired to reduce the spend on hotels. At the end of July 2025 there were 13 households in hotels, up from 5 in May 25.

2.10.5 Public Health is also forecast to budget at this stage.

2.11 Regeneration and Environment Directorate (£0.5m forecast overspend)

2.11.1 The Directorate is forecasting an overspend of £0.5m that is principally due to delays in the delivery of the approved route optimisation saving within Waste Management. Within each service there are a number of offsetting over and underspends that are explained below.

2.11.2 The Waste service is forecasting delayed delivery of the £0.5m saving approved as part of the Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26. As work progresses on the route optimisation plan that will increase the efficiency of waste rounds, the position with regards to the delivery of this saving will become clearer. However, the full year impact of the saving will not be realised in 2025/26. The Markets service is forecasting a £0.4m overspend because of income shortfalls which is a similar position to previous years, though is expected to improve as the redevelopment of the markets completes. Within Culture Sport and Tourism,

there is a £0.4m overspend owing to assorted income pressures within Country Parks, works to trees on Highways and additional staffing.

- 2.11.3 These pressures are offset by a £0.3m underspend in Community Safety and Regulation owing to vacancies and delays in implementation of the new Safer Streets team. Licensing is also projecting a £0.2m underspend as a result of vacancies, which is a similar position to last year. The RIDO team is capitalising staff salaries of project managers delivering the capital programme, resulting in a £0.2m underspend.

2.12 Finance and Customer Services (£0.0m balanced position)

- 2.12.1 Overall, the directorate is reporting a balanced position. Whilst there are some financial challenges within the wider directorate, projected savings on Legal disbursements along with robust budget management and additional income generation in Building Cleaning are expected to offset those pressures.

- 2.12.2 Property and Facilities Services (PFS) is forecast to be overspent by £0.1m. There's an underspend of £1.2m within Cleaning as income is above budget. This is largely offset by Facilities Management's £0.6m overspend due to assorted building costs, largely repairs and maintenance being above budget. Across PFS there is £0.1m overspend on staffing as a result of a restructure that is underway. This position has worsened £0.6m since the last report to Cabinet, largely because Catering is now £0.4m overspent following a full review of the forecast position after a number of contract changes and the first half term of trading.

- 2.12.3 Within Customer, Information and Digital Services, increased costs on postage and print are creating a budget pressure. Ongoing recruitment challenges are creating a temporary cost reduction, which is offset by over-recruitment within Customer Services contact centre to help manage the difficulties caused by high staff turnover in this area, that impacts on call waiting times.

- 2.12.4 Legal Services faces ongoing demand for legal support with child protection hearings and court case costs relating to Looked After Children. Ongoing difficulties in recruiting to key posts are currently resulting in the extended use of locum solicitors and external suppliers. However, the number of cases remains volatile and will continue to be monitored closely, along with an internal development programme for trainee solicitors.

2.13 Assistant Chief Executive (£0.4m underspend)

- 2.13.1 The service is currently forecasting an underspend of £370k. Contributing factors include external grant income and a number of vacancies across the Directorate, in addition to overachievement of income from salary sacrifice schemes.

2.14 Central Services (£5.3m underspend)

- 2.14.1** Central Services has a £5.3m forecast underspend, reflecting use of the Social Care Contingency set aside when the Budget was approved and the net impact of the Local Government Pay Award and additional Treasury Management savings.
- 2.14.2** There continues to be significant financial challenges as a result of increased costs and the impact of the 2025/26 Local Government Pay Award. Ongoing uncertainty in the global and UK economy remains a significant budget risk and as such will need to continue to be closely monitored.
- 2.14.3** The Council's Treasury Management functions are expected to continue to perform well for the bulk of 2025/26. The use of short term borrowing only as required, along with slippage on the Capital programme in 2024/25 means that the level of financing costs for 2025/26 will be less than anticipated. The benefits from the Treasury Management function are being used to support wider inflationary and pay award pressures that the Council will face during 2025/26, however it should be noted that as the Capital programme progresses, these short-term opportunities will diminish.
- 2.14.4** The Central Services budgets are made up of a number of corporate budgets for levies and charges such as the Integrated Transport Levy (ITA), PFI Financing, and Treasury Management. A list of the main budget areas within Central Services was provided as part of the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26, approved at Council on 5th March 2025. The costs within this area are largely fixed costs, set out prior to the start of a financial year, not specific to a particular Directorate and are therefore not controllable by the directorates and thus held centrally.

2.15 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (£0.2m underspend)

- 2.15.1** The Housing Revenue Account is a statutory ring-fenced account that the Council has to maintain in respect of the income and expenditure incurred in relation to its council dwellings and associated assets. The HRA is currently forecast to underspend by £200k in the year due to reduced energy costs and higher rental income than forecast.

2.16 Capital Programme Update

- 2.16.1** The Capital Programme 2025/26 has been updated following the 2024/25 outturn and the latest information on project position and delivery plans. The revised Capital Programme is £209.479m split between the General Fund £144.733m and HRA £64.746m. This is a decrease of £1.545m from the position reported to Cabinet on 7th July 2025, the majority of which relates to the reprofiling of schemes. The movement is based on the latest profiles of expenditure against schemes, including slippage re-profiles and corrections of £1.907m and new grant funding added to the programme of £362k.

2.16.2 Table 4: Variations to the Capital Programme 2025/26 to 2028/29

	Total Impact £m	2025/26 Impact £m	Post 2025/26 Impact £m
Revised Grant and Funding Estimates	1.993	0.362	1.631
Slippage / reprofiling	0.000	-1.910	1.910
Budget corrections	0.003	0.003	0.000
Total	1.996	-1.545	3.541

2.16.3 The main items contributing to the reprofiling of the Capital Programme are:

- **Castle View Day Care Centre and Adult Care units**, £2.103m slippage. Delays have arisen due to issues with utilities infrastructure which are currently being progressed with National grid and Yorkshire Water. As a result, some costs are now expected to fall in 2026/27.
- **Brampton Vale Strategic Acquisition (9 units)**, £1.735m saving. The scale of this scheme was reduced from 58 to 9 units. All 9 units are expected to complete in December 2025. The remaining budget will be returned to the future years of the Housing Growth programme to be reallocated.
- **Albert Club, West Melton (9 units)**, new acquisition scheme with a budget of £1.821m brought forward to 2025/26. This project comprises the purchase of nine new affordable homes at the Albert Club development in West Melton (Wath-Upon-Deane) under the Small Sites Homebuilding Initiative.
- **Clement Street, Kimberworth (6 units)**, new acquisition scheme with a budget of £1.214m brought forward into 2025/26. This project comprises the purchase of six new affordable homes at the Clement Street development in Kimberworth under the Small Sites Homebuilder Initiative.
- **Community Safety & Street Scene Customer & Digital Plan**, £675k slippage. IT continue to undertake security and compliance exercises with further meetings scheduled for information gathering and to continue progressing the business case. It is expected that only the pre contract works will now be completed in 2025/26, with contract costs now expected in 2026/27.
- **Rivelin Way, Waverley 3C (13 units)**, £2.180m acceleration. The delivery of the 13 properties has been brought forward from 2026-27 to 2025-26. Two of the units were handed over in July 2025 and the remaining 11 units should be completed by the end of December 2025.

- **A6022 Swinton to Doncaster**, £650k slippage. Scoping works have been undertaken, and the scheme has been confirmed to align with funding required. Final scoping works are taking place prior to Member and Public engagement. Legal Orders will be processed late 2025 with works scheduled to commence on site during 2026/27.

2.16.4 New grant funded schemes are added to the Capital Programme on an ongoing basis in accordance with the Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules. Grant schemes added or reduced since the July Cabinet report are listed below:

Table 5: New Grant/HRA funded Schemes added to the programme

Directorate/Scheme	2025/26 £m	Post 2025/26 £m
Assistant Chief Executive		
Badsley Moor Lane Primary Community Hub - School full contribution not required	-0.016	0.000
Children and Young People Services		
Education Funding Agency – Schools Maintenance grant	0.035	1.631
Regeneration and Environment		
City Region Sustainable Transport Scheme	0.132	0.000
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	0.270	0.000
DLUHC – Regeneration Grant	-0.059	0.000
Total	0.362	1.631

2.17 Capital Programme Variations

2.17.1 There are no variations to the Capital Programme that are either key decision value or a change in use of corporate resources and as such need reporting to Cabinet.

2.18 MCA Approvals

2.18.1 The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) acts as accountable body for a number of different Government funding streams and as the accountable body for Gainshare. New funding has been received through SYMCA of £270k UKSPF funding, to provide a local small grants programme to enable businesses to improve shop units in the town centre and on other local high streets. A further £132k CRSTS funding for operational activity and to fund the identification of new priority crossings has also been approved.

2.19 Capital Programme to 2028/29

2.19.1 The proposed updated Capital Programme to 2028/29 is shown by directorate below.

Table 6: Proposed Updated Capital programme 2025/26 to 2028/29

Directorate	2025/26 Budget £m	2026/27 Budget £m	2027/28 Budget £m	2028/29 Budget £m	Total Budget £m
General Fund Capital					
Children and Young People's Services	14.903	10.037	7.283	17.682	49.904
Regeneration and Environment	103.131	50.060	15.523	10.340	179.055
Adult Care & Housing	11.727	7.098	8.969	6.927	34.721
Assistant Chief Executive	0.424	0.210	0.210	0.210	1.055
Finance and Customer Services	14.547	17.484	7.967	19.443	59.441
Capitalisation Direction					
Total General Fund Capital	144.733	84.890	39.951	54.602	324.176
Total HRA Capital	64.746	74.914	47.190	107.489	294.339
Total RMBC Capital Programme	209.479	159.804	87.141	162.091	618.515

2.19.2 The Capital Programme for 2025/26 remains ambitious even with a significant level of re-profiling of schemes into 2026/27. The Council will therefore need to keep close control of project spend profiles and delivery milestones to keep these projects on track. The Council will also need to review the deliverability of this increased capital programme and potentially, re-profile some schemes into future financial years.

2.20 Funding Position of capital programme 2025/26

Table 7: Funding of the Approved Capital Programme

Funding Stream	2025/26 Budget £m
Grants and Contributions	70.404
Unsupported Borrowing	73.642
Capital Receipts	0.551
HRA Contribution	0.137
Total Funding - General Fund	144.733
Grants and Contributions	4.315
Unsupported Borrowing	17.313
Housing Major Repairs Allowance	36.964
Capital Receipts	2.970
Revenue Contribution	3.183
Total Funding - HRA	64.746
Total	209.479

2.21 Capital Receipts

2.21.1 To date General Fund useable capital receipts of £0.009m have been generated. Although loan repayments will be received during the financial year, these cannot be used to support the revenue budget as only those receipts by the disposal of property, plant and equipment can be used in that way.

Description	Total as at 31st July 2025 £m
Miscellaneous	-0.001
Total Capital Receipts (Excluding loan repayments)	-0.001
Repayment of Loans	-0.008
Total Capital Receipts	-0.009

2.22 Capital Achievements

2.22.1 The following outputs have been achieved during the 2025/26 financial year to date:

- Completion of the phase 1 £4 million Towns and Villages Fund programme. Work at Brinsworth has now completed which concludes the Towns & Villages programme.
- Road Safety - Seven of twelve tranche 1 schemes are complete. Consultants are in commission for seven of twelve tranche 2 scheme.
- Highway and footway improvements - Spend to date £296k which is 17% of the available budget. This funding will deliver the repair of 135 footways - 32 completed plus patching works on other sections of the footway network.
- CCTV - Capital spending within the current financial year has supported the installation of new CCTV systems, as well as the enhancement of existing units, across several parks and green spaces. This includes locations such as Ferham, Coronation, and Clifton. The CCTV Team continues to work in close partnership with RMBC IT Services to meet the commitment of fully retiring BT analogue networks by December 2025.
- Children's Playgrounds – Chestnut Grove Play Area in Dinnington completed in May 2025.
- Water Splash facility at Clifton Park - The water splash facility at Clifton Park opened to the public on the w/c 21 July 2025.
- Town Centre Regeneration – Opening of Vetro Lounge and Sygnature Dish at Forge Island in April and July 2025 respectively.
- Transport – Park and Ride facility at Parkgate became operational in May 2025.
- Waverley Primary School Phase 2 – Practical completion of the extension was achieved in July 2025.
- Children's Residential Homes – Oak House opened in July 2025 and Hazelwood Lodge capital works have completed with Ofsted registration submitted.
- Rother Valley Country Park – Automated number plate recognition pay machines have been installed and are operational.
- Ward budgets – a total of 45 projects have been completed to the end of July 2025.

2.23 Updated 2025/26 Capital Budget vs Original Budget

In order to enable effective monitoring and scrutiny of the movement in the capital budget during the year the below table shows the current 2025/26 capital budget against the original capital budget reported to Cabinet in July.

Directorate	Original Budget £m	Updated Budget £m
General Fund Capital		
Children and Young People's Services	14.879	14.903
Regeneration and Environment	104.493	103.131
Adult Care & Housing	13.902	11.727
Assistant Chief Executive	0.441	0.424
Finance and Customer Services	15.561	14.547
Capitalisation Direction		
Total General Fund Capital	149.275	144.733
Total HRA Capital	61.749	64.746
Total RMBC Capital Programme	211.024	209.479

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 With regard to the current forecast net revenue budget overspend of £2.4m that the Council is forecasting, further management actions continue to be identified with the clear aim of ensuring a balanced budget position can be achieved. It is currently assumed that the current overspend position can be mitigated before the end of the financial year but if mitigation actions cannot be identified then the Council will need to use reserves to balance the outturn position.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The Council consulted on the proposed budget for 2025/26, as part of producing the Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26. Details of the consultation are set out in the Budget and Council Tax 2025/26 report approved by Council on 5th March 2025.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Strategic Directors, Managers and Budget Holders will ensure ongoing tight management and close scrutiny of spend this financial year.
- 5.2 Financial Monitoring reports are taken to Cabinet meetings during the year. The Financial Outturn report for 2025/26 will be taken to Cabinet in July 2026.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1** The Council's overspend position is detailed within the report along with the estimated impact of current financial pressures from inflation and increases in demand. This position continues to be monitored closely. Control over spending remains critical to both maintaining the robust Reserves Strategy and Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 6.2** An update on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy will be provided to Cabinet later in 2025. This will provide a more detailed update on the Council's Medium Term Financial Planning factoring in the impact of the current year financial pressures and the longer term impacts on the MTFS and reserves strategy.
- 6.3** There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report. Project specific implications have been addressed in the Key Issues section.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1** There are no direct legal implications arising from the report

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1** There are no direct Human Resources implications arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1** The report includes reference to the cost pressures on both Children's and Adult Social care budget.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1** This is a finance update report, providing a review of current progress to date on the Council's revenue and capital budgets, any equalities and human rights impacts from service delivery have been or will be detailed as service budgets, capital projects are pulled together for inclusion within the Council's revenue budget or capital programme. The Equality Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

11 Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1** There are no direct implications arising from the report. The Carbon Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1** At a time of economic difficulty and tight financial constraints, managing spend in line with the Council's budget is paramount. Careful scrutiny of expenditure

and income across all services and close budget monitoring therefore remain a top priority if the Council is to deliver both its annual and medium term financial plans while sustaining its overall financial resilience

13.

Accountable Officers

Rob Mahon, Assistant Director – Financial Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	26.8.25
Assistant Director, Financial Services (Deputy S.151 Officer)	Rob Mahon	22.8.25
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	22.8.25

Report Author: Rob Mahon, Assistant Director – Financial Services
This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

This page is intentionally left blank

Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A)

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an equality analysis.

1. Title

Title: July 2025/26 Financial Monitoring Report

Directorate: Finance and Customer Services

Service area: Finance

Lead person: Rob Mahon

Contact number: 01709 254518

Is this a:

☐

Strategy / Policy

☒

Service / Function

☐

Other

If other, please specify

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

The Council has a framework of budgetary monitoring and reporting that ensures budget management is exercised within annual cash limits.

Each month the Budget Manager receives timely information on income and expenditure to enable them to fulfil their budgetary responsibilities. Following the review of the budget information, each budget manager provides a forecast of their projected outturn position on each service. The Strategic Director subsequently provides a consolidated forecast for their directorate to the Chief Finance Officer and relevant Cabinet Member.

A budget monitoring report, which includes an up-to-date outturn forecast, information about significant variances from approved budgets and proposals for dealing with them, is submitted to Cabinet at least 6 times a year, culminating with the Councils Financial Outturn report.

Whilst the framework described above relates to revenue budgets, the capital programme is also similarly monitored and reported alongside the Council's revenue position.

The financial monitoring position report summarises the key variances for each directorate and considers the key financial pressures and risks.

This report is the second financial report in the financial year, it sets out the Council's latest revenue forecast position. The report also covers off any other key items to be noted at this time.

Given that the revenue and capital budgets have been approved by Council in February each year, when equality assessments would have been considered at that time in respect of the budget proposals, there are no further issues in respect of equality and diversity.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, carers, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and any other relevant characteristics (for example socio-economic status, social class, income, unemployment, residential location or family background and education or skills levels).

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?		x
Could the proposal affect service users?		x
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?		x
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		x
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		x
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		x

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason.

Given that the revenue and capital budgets have been approved by Council in February each year, when equality assessments would have been considered at that time in respect of the budget proposals, there are no further issues in respect of equality and diversity.

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6**.

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4**.

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals prior to carrying out an **Equality Analysis**.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below and use the prompts for guidance.

- How have you considered equality and diversity?**

N/A

- Key findings**

N/A

- Actions**

N/A

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	n/a
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	n/a
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	n/a

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Rob Mahon	Assistant Director Financial Services	21/8/25

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of all screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date screening completed	21/8/25
Report title and date	July 2025/26 Financial Monitoring Report To Cabinet 15 th September 2025
If relates to a Key Delegated Decision, Executive Board, Council or a Significant Operational Decision – report date and date sent for publication	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	21 August 2025

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	None				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	None				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				

Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:

None – this report constitutes an update on previous activity.

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change?

There are no specific impacts on resilience identified as part of this assessment. Significant new actions will be or have been subject to their own climate impact assessments.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

As this report is a financial update on previous events, updates on levels of funding moving forwards and doesn't approve anything directly to happen, it does not have any carbon implications.

Supporting information:

Climate Impact Assessment Author

Nikki Kelly
Finance Manager (Corporate Finance)
Financial Services
Finance and Customer Services

Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.

N/A

If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.

N/A

Validation

Tracking Reference: CIA523

Click or tap here to enter text.
Click or tap here to enter text.

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 15 September 2025

Report Title

Investment in Community Facilities

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Judith Badger, Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services

Report Author(s)

Kevin Fisher, Assistant Director Property and Facilities Services

kevin.fisher@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The report sets out the Council's commitment to invest in several community buildings, initially over the next two years, through the investment of £600,000, already approved as part of the Budget and Council Tax report at Council in March 2025.

The £600,000 investment will be targeted at buildings with the greatest need, with a focus on health, safety, compliance, and structural integrity. Officers from Property and Facilities Services, in collaboration with the Council's Neighbourhood Teams and community groups, will define the scope of works and ensure that any investment is aligned with sustainable occupancy and governance arrangements.

Where possible, other forms of funding, whether internal or external, will be sought to complement the already allocated £600,000.

Officers request delegated authority to progress the programme, including procurement, contract award, and lease negotiations. Community engagement will be embedded throughout the process to ensure that improvements reflect local needs and priorities.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the works set out in section 1.7 in relation to:
 - (a) The Black Hut;
 - (b) Oaklea Retreat;
 - (c) Clifton Learning Centre;
 - (d) The Meeting Place (Wingfield); and
 - (e) Artworks, Brook Hill
2. Delegate authority to the Assistant Director for Property and Facilities Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety to amend the works as required within budget.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Budget and Council Tax 2025/26 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy - Extract from Appendix 3B Capital Investment Proposals (Investment in Community Facilities)

Appendix 2 Equality Initial Equality Screening Assessment

Appendix 3 Climate Impact Assessment – Investing in our Community Facilities

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Investing in Community Facilities

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council currently owns several community facilities across the Borough that are either operated by Council teams or operated by the Third Sector. These facilities support a range of community activities which include, but are not limited to, youth clubs, healthy eating clubs, community meetings, sports and recreation activities for various groups, centres for adults with learning disabilities and Autism, Friends Groups and Local History Groups.
- 1.2 Through working with the Council's Neighbourhood Teams, it has been advised that demand in the use of these facilities has grown over the last few years, specifically after the Covid-19 pandemic, and this is having an impact on the general wear and tear of the buildings beyond that of their anticipated lifespan.
- 1.3 Where a community group are leasing and running the facilities, they are often working to identify 3rd party funding to continue to keep the buildings in a manageable state so that they continue to support a wide range of activities in support of the communities in which they are based.
- 1.4 Funding has been more challenging to come by, and the growing demand has now left some of these facilities in need of investment to ensure they continue to support the delivery of those activities listed in 1.1.
- 1.5 As part of the Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26 approval was given to provide capital funding of up to £600,000 to invest in community facilities across the Borough to ensure that they remain open, safe and sustainable for the future. Future investment beyond this will be identified through the Council's future condition surveys and as part of the Council's move to be more planned and less reactive in lifecycle planning with its assets.
- 1.6 Although some current work has been carried out in assessing one of the community facilities, The Black Hut, further work is required to survey a further four buildings, as a priority, that are already in use but have been indicated to require investment. Next stages will be to carry out detailed surveys on these to determine scope and then priority.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 There are several community facilities across the Borough, that are heavily used but are in need investment to bring them up to a good standard, in terms of compliance, sustainability and ability to support a range of community activities and events.
- 2.2 Some community groups who manage the facilities have diminished over the years, and whilst there are a large number of volunteers, the understanding of roles and responsibilities in managing some buildings has lessened. There is now a need to address this, strengthening governance and the understanding of roles and responsibilities. This will be further

supported with regards to embedding new leases and management agreements as part of the Council investment.

2.3 The investment of £600,000 is based on a programme spanning two years. Although several buildings have been identified, more in depth due diligence and scoping of works will be required. Where there is a significant compliance or structural risk, this will always be prioritised and could lead to no additional buildings being invested in over the period.

2.4 The following are the community facilities that have been identified jointly by Property & Facilities Services and the Neighbourhood Teams:

2.4.1 **The Black Hut** – The Black Hut was closed in May 2024 following a series of health and safety inspections that identified significant compliance failures. These included structural concerns, accessibility issues, and the absence of a formal lease or maintenance records. The closure was executed swiftly to protect users, with alternative venues arranged for displaced groups. The building had been a well-used community asset, hosting a range of activities including youth clubs, martial arts, Slimming World, and local meetings. Its closure prompted media interest and local concerns but was closed in the short term to protect the users. Alternative spaces were found for the activities on a temporary basis, but there is a need to replace these back at The Black Hut.

Initial survey assessments indicated that £160,000 would be required, subject to invasive surveys being undertaken. Those surveys are now completed with more definite costs of £200,000 estimated from the approved £600,000, noting that some roof spaces were not accessible due to structure issues.

Works identified include:

- Structural repairs and compliance upgrades, including work to floors, roof and rafter repairs, electrical rewire, and work to external walls that have failed and are impacting on the roof structure and are allowing vermin and water ingress.
- Accessibility improvements (DDA compliance).
- Energy efficiency measures (e.g., LED lighting, insulation).

Surveys are now complete, and final scope has been provided, work is being assessed for the best route to market with a view of starting prior to the end of Autumn 2025 with a completion date of March 2026.

The aim is to reopen the facility under a sustainable management model, ensuring it continues to serve the Kimberworth Park community safely and effectively.

2.4.2 **Oaklea Retreat** – Oaklea Retreat was previously earmarked for closure in 2018/19, but in 2020 underwent a £10,000 transformation due to a partnership between the Council's Housing Service and local businesses.

At that time, many of the upgrades were in relation to heating and associated equipment, floor coverings, chairs and furniture. The initiative

was supported by local councillors, who saw the building as a valuable community asset. Oaklea Retreat has a history of hosting a diverse range of activities, welcoming people from across the community to participate in everything from parent and toddler gatherings to creative workshops and social events.

The building has had a high-level survey and will be formally surveyed and then scoped over the summer period. Costs identified for the works will be determined once surveys are completed and within the window of the funding allocated for the overall project. Initially the works that have been identified are:

- Structural repairs to roof area, including guttering and drainage systems.
- Accessibility improvements (DDA compliance).
- Energy efficiency measures (e.g., LED lighting, insulation).
- Establishing a formal lease and governance structure.

As the works are not as significant as the Black Hut, it is envisaged that work will be procured and commissioned over the winter months and completed through spring, no later than the end of March 2026.

2.4.3 Clifton Learning Partnership – Work will be undertaken to provide replacement windows, signage and decorations, repairs paths and carparking areas, and carry out improvements to access to ensure DDA (Equality Act) compliance.

Clifton Learning Partnership is a well-established community-based charity that supports several established communities in Eastwood and across Rotherham. In addition, its reach extends to Roma communities, EU citizens, asylum seekers, and refugees throughout the Borough.

The Partnership runs a vibrant Universal Youth Work Programme, offering open access youth sessions four times per week, activities for age groups 8–10, 10–13, and 14+, outdoor play and gym equipment and enrichment sessions with external providers (e.g. art, music, boxing)

In addition, they facilitate and support activities such as advice and support for families and individuals, Eastwood Pantry – a community food initiative and are currently supporting community engagement projects linked to Rotherham's Children's Capital of Culture.

The works to Clifton are currently programmed for the next phase from March 2026 onwards. Detailed surveys will be carried out over Winter and into early Spring. Once completed this will determine a more accurate timescale to carry out the works identified. Again, costs of the works will be determined once surveys are complete and will fall within the budget allocation for the overall project.

Works identified for the Partnership are:

- Structural repairs to the roof area, including guttering and drainage systems.
- Windows (replacement) and work to lintels and surrounds.

- Accessibility improvements (DDA compliance) to pathways around the site, increasing access and inclusivity for a wider range of participants.
- Energy efficiency measures (e.g., LED lighting, insulation).
- Establishing a formal lease and governance structure.

2.4.4 The Meeting Place – The Meeting Place is a community run drop-in facility that provides a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment for adults with learning disabilities and difficulties. It serves as a vital social hub for individuals who may otherwise be isolated or lack access to structured support.

They offer regular drop-in sessions to provide advice and support on several financial, health and welfare matters, provide affordable meals and drinks to vulnerable persons, and organise several social events such as supported holidays, discos and day trips.

They play a key role in being a first point of contact for individuals with limited social networks, building long term relationships with families and users and provide continuity of care and emotional support during life challenges. The Meeting Place operate as a social enterprise, reinvesting profits back into the service and community.

Aligned with the Clifton Learning Partnership, the buildings and surrounding assets will need a full survey to determine costs and timescales. Works will align with the surveys being carried out beyond March 2026 and works completed no later than March 2027.

Works will include, as a minimum:

- Painting and decoration.
- Signage upgrades.
- Energy efficiency measures (e.g. LED lighting, insulation).
- Establishing a formal lease and governance structure.

2.4.5 Artworks, Brook Hill – Artworks is a not-for-profit creative arts organisation that operates across Rotherham and Sheffield. The Brook Hill site is one of its key locations, offering a vibrant and inclusive space for adults with learning disabilities and autism to explore their creativity, build life skills, and engage with the wider community.

They offer a wide range of creative and life-enriching activities including workshops in screen printing, sculpture, photography, textiles, animation, drama, and dance. In addition to creative arts, the centre supports life skills development through cooking, fitness sessions, and social outings. Participants also benefit from volunteer placements with organisations such as Sheffield DocFest and Wentworth Woodhouse and regularly showcase their work through exhibitions and collaborations with local cultural venues including Clifton Park Museum, Site Gallery and The Millennium Gallery.

The proposed investment at the Brook Hill site will include essential external improvements, including rainwater goods, soundproofing, and energy efficiency upgrades such as insulation and lighting.

- External structural Improvements to the building.
- Soundproofing to support activities and compliance with planning requirements.
- Energy efficiency measures (e.g., LED lighting, insulation).
- Establishing a formal lease and governance structure.

These enhancements will ensure the building remains safe, accessible, and welcoming for its users. Strategically, the investment aligns with Rotherham Council's priorities around inclusion, wellbeing, and sustainability. It reinforces the Borough's commitment to supporting vulnerable adults through creative engagement, while also contributing to Net Zero goals and strengthening the local voluntary and community sector.

A more detailed survey will take place in Spring 2026, developing the scope and a final list of works required. All works will then be completed no later than the end of March 2027.

- 2.5 All schemes will include energy improvements that will support the Council's Carbon Net Zero targets, through the provision of LED lighting and roof and wall insulation amongst broader provision, such as Solar or Air Source Heat Pumps. Where required, the Councils current Decarbonation Capital Budget will be used, or external funding will be identified and applied for through other Net Zero/Climate/Energy related schemes, such as Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS).
- 2.6 As part of the work and investment the Council will look to ensure formal lease arrangements are in place, alongside good governance and management of the building. This will ensure that once the investment is completed, the building will continue to be managed effectively for all users.
- 2.7 The project will deliver against several outcomes including specific ward priorities, advised through the work undertaken by the Councils Neighbourhood Teams in supporting and setting Ward Priorities with Elected Members:
- *Improvements to community facilities and expansion of activities for local residents.*
 - *Addressing Environmental Issues and Making Good Use of Green Spaces/Community Assets for Everyone.*
 - *Support Opportunities for Bringing People Together.*
 - *Enhancing Community Spirit and Support the Communities and its Groups to Thrive.*
 - *Supporting your community.*
 - *Improve facilities for young people and their quality of life.*
 - *Improving the environment and enhancing community facilities.*
 -

- 2.8 By improving the community facilities, it will ensure that the buildings are fit for purpose and compliant as well as delivering key services to residents across the Borough. The planned work will also include a series of Net Zero improvements which will assist the Council in meeting its Net Zero targets.
- 2.9 Whilst work is focused on the initial buildings, condition surveys will be carried out on the wider estate, which will include other community facilities. The aim will be to plan future investment in a range of buildings. A more formal “Lifecycle” plan will be produced over 2026/27, and consideration will be given to further investment in community facilities.
- 2.10 Energy or NetZero surveys will be carried on all the community facilities and, where possible, buildings will be put forward for a range of energy or NetZero improvements. This will aid the Council in meeting its commitment to achieve NetZero by 2030/2040. Energy and Climate Officers will also look to meet and support community groups and provide advice on Energy Management and identify any funding which they may be eligible to apply directly for.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Consideration was given not to invest in community facilities, but the impact of this would be significant. The impact would be across all users but would also impact on some of the Borough's most vulnerable people in local communities, as well as reducing the ability for individuals and groups to meet and engage with a range of support services.
- 3.2 The Council has a duty to ensure that its buildings are safe and compliant, whether this is directly, such as Operational Buildings, or those leased, even where the responsibility lies with the tenants. With the latter the Council should audit and inspect and ensure that there are adequate regimes in place to ensure safety and compliance. In all cases the structure of the building, would always fall to the Council to maintain and manage, ensuring the asset is fit for purpose and at a lettable state.
- 3.3
1. Approve the works set out in section 1.7 in relation to:
 - (a) The Black Hut;
 - (b) Oaklea Retreat;
 - (c) Clifton Learning Centre;
 - (d) The Meeting Place (Wingfield); and
 - (e) Artworks, Brook Hill
 2. Delegate authority to the AD Property and Facilities Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Community Safety to amend the works as required within budget.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Consultation has taken place with the Council's Neighbourhood Teams as well as some community groups. Consultation will be ongoing throughout the programme of works and will assist in defining final scope of works.

- 4.2 Consultation has taken place with some Elected Members, but this will now extend to all Elected Members where a community facility is located.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The timetable for investing in the Council's community facilities is currently being finalised, and will be better advised once all due diligence, scoping and any procurements are carried out. At this stage the estimated timetable is as follows:

- **The Black Hut and Oaklea Retreat** – scoping of works through the Autumn of 2025, works to be completed no later than the end of March 2026.
- **Clifton Learning Centre, The Meeting Place and Artworks** – Detailed surveys and scoping of works to be completed from March 2026 and works to be completed no later than the end of March 2027.

- 5.2 Through the commissioning of surveys across the Council estate, other buildings may be identified and prioritised, if a significant compliance or structural matter comes to light.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 As part of the 2025/26 Budget, a capital investment for £600,000 was approved for investment in community facilities. This investment will fund schemes at the properties detailed in this report and further properties should the budget allow it, once additional reviews have been completed. For any buildings that are leased, once works are complete, tenants will manage the buildings at their own cost, on a formal full insuring and repairing lease. For Council operated buildings, costs are likely to decrease as a result of net zero measures, for example, through decreased utility costs.
- 6.2 The buildings identified (community buildings) are either owned and operated by the Council or leased out to charity or community groups. In both cases there is no rental income generated.
- 6.3 Once completed, the buildings that are leased will require the tenants to continue to maintain and manage those buildings at their own cost. Where those buildings are operated by the Council, the operating costs will not increase but are likely to reduce where Net Zero Measures are completed.
- 6.4 Where there is a requirement to engage third party Contractors to deliver the works required, these must be procured in accordance with relevant legislation; either the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023 (dependent on the route to market selected) as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 As referred to within the body of the report, new leases and management agreements need to be put in place in respect of the community facilities referred to, which will strengthen governance and set out clearly the obligations and responsibilities of the relevant community groups and the Council.
- 7.2 The project as set out within the body of the report and recommendations is consistent with previously stated Council policies, priorities and budget setting, therefore is considered reasonable in terms of public law principles.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no Human Resources Implications arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The community facilities are often used by a wide range of young persons and vulnerable adults. The investment in these buildings will allow for activities to continue and will form part of our wider support to those groups.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 The proposed investment in community facilities is underpinned by the Council's commitment to advancing equality of opportunity, fostering good community relations, and eliminating discrimination. The programme targets buildings that serve diverse communities, including vulnerable groups such as adults with learning disabilities, young people, and minority ethnic communities. Improvements to accessibility (e.g. DDA-compliant entrances, pathways, and internal layouts) are embedded throughout the programme to ensure that all residents can access services and participate fully in community life.
- 10.2 An initial Equalities Screening has been completed and is appended to this report. Where required, full Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken for individual schemes as they progress. These assessments will ensure that the design and delivery of works consider the needs of protected characteristic groups under the Equality Act 2010. The Council will continue to engage with community groups and service users to identify and mitigate any potential adverse impacts, and to promote inclusive use of the facilities.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 The Community Facilities form part of the Council Portfolio of Buildings and therefore play a key role in reducing our carbon emissions to Net Zero. Work will be carried out to support the programme in identifying Energy Conservation (insulation, LED lighting, etc) to reduce energy usage and, in turn, reducing carbon.

- 11.2 In addition, funding streams will be identified, such as Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS), that will enhance the already approved funding. Where possible where more substantial measures, such as solar, can be provided, this will also be reviewed as part of the programme, and again funding.
- 11.3 Consultation and engagement will be undertaken with Community Groups, as part of the Council Behavioural Change programme, working with groups to enhance and support their knowledge of better energy management and carbon reduction. In addition, as part of this, any funding opportunities where the groups can apply directly will be advised and supported.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 There are no known implications for partners as they are not users of the buildings concerned.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 As part of the development of the project a full risk matrix will be prepared for individual scheme/project.
- 13.2 The main risk, at this stage, is that there will be insufficient funds to carry out all work across all buildings, once due diligence and surveying work is complete. An open dialogue will be maintained with all stakeholders and internal services as the programme proceeds, which will look to ensure that all parties are aware of the works and that it is prioritised effectively.

14. Accountable Officers

Kevin Fisher, Assistant Director Property and Facilities Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	26/08/25
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	14/08/25
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	18/08/25

Report Author:

*Kevin Fisher, Assistant Director Property and Facilities Services
kevin.fisher@roterham.gov.uk*

This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

This page is intentionally left blank

New Capital Budget Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29

Project	Capital Budget (£m)	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	Total
Investment in Community Facilities	Capital Expenditure	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.000	0.600
Directorate	Capital Funding (other than corporate resources)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Finance and Customer Services	Net (Corporate Resources)	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.000	0.600
Project Description						
<p>The Council currently owns a number of Community Facilities across the Borough that are either directly operated by Council Services or are operated by the Third Sector. These facilities support a range of community activities which include, but are not limited to: youth clubs, healthy eating clubs, community meetings, sports and recreation activities for various groups, centres for adults with learning disabilities and Autism, Friends Groups and Local History Groups.</p> <p>The project will be to identify Community Facilities that are already in use but would benefit from investment to sustain and increase the participation, community activities and engagement within those facilities. Through working with the Property and the Neighbourhoods teams a number of facilities have already been identified that would benefit from investment. However additional buildings are being reviewed across the Borough to determine a broader and more planned approach to investment in the Council's Community Facilities.</p> <p>Those already identified include:</p> <p>The Black Hut – improvements to the building to bring it up to full compliance and including repair to dance/meeting room floor, roof work, external windows and general decorations. Improvements to access to ensure DDA (Equality Act) compliance.</p> <p>Oaklea Retreat – internal and external works to include signage, decoration and rainwater goods, refurbishment of rooms within the building, opening up better usage and greater space. Improvements to access to ensure DDA (Equality Act) compliance.</p> <p>Clifton Learning Centre – Replacement windows, signage and decorations, Repairs to paths and carparking areas, improvements to access to ensure DDA (Equality Act) compliance.</p> <p>The Meeting Place (at Wingfield) - General improvements across the building, including painting signage and Net Zero works.</p> <p>Artworks, Brook Hill – Investment in the external appearance of the building, rainwater goods, sound proofing and Net Zero improvements</p>						

All schemes will include improvements that will support the Council's Carbon Net Zero targets, through the provision of LED lighting and roof and wall insulation.

As mentioned further facilities are currently being reviewed and this will filter into the project plan of works, subject to funding. A further review of buildings will also be carried out over the next 12 months, and a more detailed long term investment plan will be produced from 2027/28 onwards

Outputs and Outcomes

The project will deliver against a number of outcomes include ward priorities:

- *Improvements to community facilities and expansion of activities for local residents*
- *Addressing Environmental Issues and Making Good Use of Green Spaces/Community Assets for Everyone*
- *Support Opportunities for Bringing People Together,*
- *Enhancing Community Spirit and Support the Communities and its Groups to Thrive*
- *Supporting your community*
- *Improve facilities for young people and their quality of life*
- *Improving the environment and enhancing community facilities*

By improving the Council's Community Facilities it will ensure that the buildings are fit for purpose and compliant and continue to deliver key services to our residents across the Borough. The planned work will also include a series of Net Zero improvements which will assist the Council in meeting its Net Zero 2030 and 2040 targets

Financial Implications

The buildings identified (community buildings) are either owned and operated by the Council or leased out to charity or community groups. In both cases there is no rental income generated.

Once completed, the buildings that are leased, will require the tenants to continue to maintain and manage those buildings at their own cost. Where those buildings are operated by the Council, the operating cost will not increase but are likely to reduce where net Zero Measures are completed.

Risks

Through review and survey of buildings it could be identified that some buildings require more investment than required. Where this is the case, priority will be given to structural or/and compliance work.

The budget is finite and not all buildings will be able to benefit from the investment being made, a wider programme of investment will be identified through the following years, subject to funds.

This page is intentionally left blank

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title

Title: Investing in our Community Facilities

Directorate: Finance and Customer Service

Service area: Property and Facilities Services

Lead person: Kevin Miller, Head of Compliance and Facilities

Contact: kevin.fisher@rotherham.gov.uk

Is this a:

☐

Strategy / Policy

☐

Service / Function

☒

Other

If other, please specify

Cabinet report, indicating a range of works being undertaken in Community Facilities across the Borough.

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

This equalities screening assessment accompanies a cabinet report that sets out the Councils commitment to invest in a number of community buildings, initially over the next two years, through the investment of £600,000, already approved at Budget Council in March 2025. A part of the project will include engagement with Neighbourhood Teams and Community Groups to ensure that any impact is kept to a minimum, and options will be considered to workaroud any events that are a high priority, again decreasing impact.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>	Yes	
Could the proposal affect service users? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>	Yes (short term)	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? <i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i>		No
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? <i>(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)</i>	Yes (positive)	
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>		No
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i>		No
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		

If you have answered **no** to **all** the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6**.

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4**.

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

Engagement and consultation will take place throughout the projects and individual "Part B" assessments will take place as part of the design phases of the projects.

Any impact will be identified through this process, and where possible, adjustments will be made to accommodate any identified need or requirements.

The work also includes a number of activities that will positively impact through the provision of Equality Act, via DDA assessments, ensuring buildings are inclusive for all users.

- **Key findings**

Each scheme will benefit from Equality Act 2010 (formally Disability Discrimination Act assessment) ensuring that works will include accessibility works, making buildings more inclusive.

Engagement and consultation will take place with community groups and Neighbourhood Teams at each site, prior to works commencing, understanding impact and need.

Additionally, equality impact assessments will be carried out at each project site prior to works commencing

- **Actions**

As above

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	Between 2025 and 2027, relevant to each project being undertaken
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	As above
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Kevin Miller

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Kevin Fisher	Assistant Director Property and facilities Services	30/07/2025
Kevin Miller	Head of Compliance and Facilities	30/07/2025

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	30/07/2025
Report title and date	Investing in our Community Facilities
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Kevin Fisher
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	30/07/2025

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Decrease	Although the scope of works for each building is still to be confirmed, the inclusion of measures to reduce energy use, switch to low carbon heating sources and increase renewable energy generation should reduce greenhouse gases from the identified buildings.	N/A	N/A	The council monitors greenhouse gas emissions from its estate and publishes updates on its Net Zero by 2030 target annually.
Emissions from transport?	Increase	A minor increase is expected during the course of the works due to council officers and contractors travelling between sites.	N/A – although the provision of improved community facilities is likely to increase the use of these facilities, the majority of identified buildings are expected to be used by residents in the local neighbourhood, so increased use is not expected to significantly increase traffic.	Council officers to minimise travel by private vehicles or car share where appropriate. Consider measures to minimise transport including: inviting local contractors to bid for the works; opting for locally produced materials and asking contractors to consider car sharing and minimise deliveries.	Officer travel is included within the council's greenhouse gas emissions reporting and is included within the council's Net Zero by 2030 target.
Emissions from waste, or the	Increase	It is likely there will be an increase in waste from stripping out (where	N/A	Contractors to manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy.	Consider monitoring waste management as part of the contract.

quantity of waste itself?		required) and packaging of new materials.			
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Increase	An increase in emissions from construction is expected during the course of the works from the materials and equipment used; energy use, transport and waste.	N/A	<p>Considering the steps outlined above to reduce waste and transport emissions will help reduce emissions associated with the construction phase.</p> <p>It is likely to be less carbon-intensive to complete decarbonisation works at the same time as other required works.</p>	Measuring and reporting on the council's scope 3 emissions is an ongoing area of work and it is complicated to calculate these types of emissions accurately. Monitoring the embodied carbon impacts of retrofits on a project specific basis is an emerging field which is still the subject of research. Therefore, it is not considered feasible to monitor the embodied carbon of this project due to the relatively small scale project involved relative to the cost and effort of obtaining this information.
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<p>Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:</p> <p>None.</p>					

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change?

While the proposed scope of works is not yet confirmed, the provision of good quality community spaces should increase community resilience more generally, which by extension should increase community resilience to climate impacts. Installing measures to reduce energy use and increase renewable energy generation should also reduce utility costs, improving financial resilience.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

Subject to the full scope of works being confirmed, the overall greenhouse gas emissions impact of the proposed projects should be positive: the Community Facilities form part of the Council Portfolio of Buildings and therefore play a key role in reducing our carbon emissions to Net Zero. Work will be carried out to support the programme in identifying Energy Conservation (insulation, LED lighting, etc) to reduce energy usage and, in turn, reducing carbon.

In addition, funding streams will be identified, such as Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS), that will enhance the already approved funding. Where possible where more substantial measures, such as solar, can be provided, this will also be reviewed as part of the programme, and again funding.

Consultation and engagement will be undertaken with Community Groups, as part of the Council Behavioural Change programme, working with groups to enhance and support their knowledge of better energy management and carbon reduction. In addition, as part of this, any funding opportunities where the groups can apply directly will be advised and supported.

There will be a short-term emissions impact associated with the construction phase. These include emissions increases as a result of increased travel, waste, energy use and materials. While it is difficult to monitor some of these emissions, there are multiple mitigations that we can consider. These could include: reducing travel where possible; managing waste according to the waste hierarchy and inviting local contractors to bid for the work. It is noted that it is likely to be less carbon-intensive to complete decarbonisation works at the same time as other required works.

Supporting information:

Climate Impact Assessment Author

Katie Rockett
Climate Change Officer
Property and Facilities
Finance and Customer Services

Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	None.
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	None.
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 478 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 15 September 2025

Report Title

Community Safety Strategy 2025-2028

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Andrew Bramidge, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Helen Banerjee, Community Safety Officer

Sam Barstow, Assistant Director, Community Safety and Street Scene

Emma Ellis, Head of Service, Community Safety and Regulatory Services

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP), of which the Council is a key statutory partner, has agreed a new Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy, setting out priorities and commitments for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2028. This is the Council's Community Safety Strategy.

The previous Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy 2022-25 guided the Partnership in delivering significant work to protect vulnerable children and adults, build safer, stronger communities and tackle domestic abuse, serious violence and organised crime.

The Safer Rotherham Partnership has used an evidence-based approach to agree the new priorities, drawing on analysis of partnership crime and community safety data and the outcomes of a comprehensive programme of consultation to capture the views of key stakeholders, including people who live, visit or work in Rotherham. This process identified three main priorities that shape the new plan:

- Safer Neighbourhoods
- Tackling violence, abuse and exploitation
- Preventing offending and building resilience

Recommendations

That Cabinet:-

1. Endorses the Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy and recommends it to Council for approval.
2. Notes the requirement for scrutiny of the Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report, which is discharged by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.
3. Approves the ongoing informal consultation to capture service user voices throughout the duration of the plan.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy 2025-28
Appendix 2 Consultation Outcomes
Appendix 3 Equality Impact Assessment part A
Appendix 4 Equality Impact Assessment part B
Appendix 5 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

[Previous Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2022-25](#)
[Crime and Disorder Act 1998 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)
[Rotherham Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2027](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Community Safety Strategy 2025-2028

1. Background

- 1.1 Community Safety Partnerships have a statutory responsibility to develop a partnership plan and co-ordinate activities to address community safety priorities in the local area. There is also a requirement to consult and engage with communities, ensuring that their views are considered when identifying local priorities.
- 1.2 In 2021/22, an enhanced assessment and consultation process was undertaken to develop the 3-year priorities from 2022-2025. Annual “light touch” reviews have taken place since, focussing on high-risk threats and areas presenting an emerging, increasing or changing risk level.
- 1.3 An enhanced Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment and consultation process was undertaken from September 2024 to December 2024 to review the Safer Rotherham Partnership priorities and develop a new 3-year SRP Strategy 2025-2028.
- 1.4 A Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment (JSIA) was undertaken to provide the Safer Rotherham Partnership with the quantitative evidence base and detailed information about current and emerging trends of crime and disorder affecting communities within the Borough. The partnership analyst gathered data and information from South Yorkshire Police systems and Council/partner data leads to produce the JSIA. The majority of information contained within the JSIA is a summary of data from the most recent complete financial year (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024) at the time the data was collated.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy and priorities for 2025-28 were agreed by the SRP Board on 26 February 2025 in accordance with the outcomes of the JSIA assessments described above and taking into account the outcomes of the consultation.
- 2.2 The SRP priorities and supporting structures have been streamlined to ensure the Board focuses on the statutory requirements of the Community Safety Partnership under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (and other relevant legislation) and areas of partnership duties not governed by other Boards. Priorities which already sit under the governance of other Boards are included to facilitate assurance and scrutiny by the SRP Board for the areas within its remit. This will require lead officers to make direct progress reports to the SRP Board at least annually.
- 2.3 Objective areas under each priority respond to the key risks and commitments identified under each objective area, where the SRP can provide additional activities by partnership working and sharing resources, over and above the priorities and responses in place within mainstream

services and individual agencies. The commitments consider wider partner and community priorities for action identified through consultation.

2.4 The priorities, objective areas and commitments agreed for 2025 – 2028 are:

1. Safer Neighbourhoods

Problem solving in neighbourhoods

(Objective owner: Safer Rotherham Partnership Board)

- Monitor and evaluate the partnership approach to problem solving in local neighbourhoods and share good practice and/or learning.
- Explore innovative ways in which partners and the public can be educated around online safety and digital technologies and develop engagement with young people, families and older people.

Anti-Social Behaviour

- *(Objective owner: Safer Rotherham Partnership Board)* Monitor and evaluate perceptions of ASB, feelings of safety and seek to understand what influences change.
- Seek appropriate external funding opportunities and support and participate in partnership bids to secure additional funding for activity in the Borough.

Hate Crime

(Objective owner: Safer Rotherham Partnership Board)

- Focus on the use of education and engagement to prevent hate crime by tackling the drivers of hate.

Combatting alcohol and substance misuse

(Objective owner: Chair of Combatting Drugs Partnership)

- Ensure there is an effective strategy for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area, as required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Part 1 Section 6, by scrutinising the plans, action and performance outcomes of the Combating Drugs Partnership.

2. Tackling violence, abuse and exploitation

Domestic abuse (including Domestic Homicide Reviews)

(Objective owner: Safer Rotherham Partnership Board)

- Complete a refresh of the DA strategy, capturing any analysis from the DA needs assessment and survivor and children's voice to improve outcomes for victims and their children.
- Ensure all those fleeing domestic abuse are able to access safe accommodation and appropriate support.
- Support South Yorkshire Police with the 'Rapid' review of Domestic Abuse particularly how they tackle perpetrator behaviours.

Sexual Offences

(Objective owner: Safer Rotherham Partnership Board)

- Improve reporting of sexual offences through awareness raising, projects and training and focus on victim engagement.
- Work with partners to understand work with perpetrators of sexual offences to reduce reoffending and identify any gaps.

Violence Against Women and Girls

(Objective owner: Safer Rotherham Partnership Board)

- Reduce male violence against women and girls by focussing on hot spot locations and repeat perpetrators and use of digital tools to identify online risks and hot spot locations for non-crime incidents.
- Deliver awareness raising events, projects and promotions aimed at improving women and girls' safety and feelings of safety.

Modern Slavery

(Objective owner: Safer Rotherham Partnership Board)

- Improve knowledge and awareness around identifying the signs of Modern Slavery and the mechanisms for reporting.

Serious Violence (Serious Violence Duty) and Organised Crime

(Objective owner: Safer Rotherham Partnership Board)

- To foster a collaborative environment among enforcement agencies, intelligence services, and community organisations by establishing robust information-sharing protocols and partnership problem solving.
- Focus on individuals and groups causing the highest harm to communities through targeted interventions and disruptions.
- Implement measures to reduce the availability and use of firearms and other lethal weapons in violent crimes.
- Provide effective rehabilitation programs for individuals entrenched in violence and prevent new individuals from becoming involved in organised crime.
- Increase community awareness and engagement to prevent organised and violent crime through education and outreach.

Child Exploitation (Criminal and Sexual exploitation)

(Objective owner: Chair of Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership Child Exploitation Delivery Group)

- Ensure that action to tackle and disrupt crimes relating to child criminal and sexual exploitation is effective by working in close partnership with the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership Child Exploitation Delivery Group.

3. Preventing Offending – Building resilience

Preventing radicalisation (Prevent and Channel duties)

Martyn's Law (Protect Duty)

(Objective owner: Safer Rotherham Partnership Board)

- Reduce the risk of terrorism by taking a partnership approach to the Prevent, Protect and Prepare workstreams of the UK Contest Counter Terrorism Strategy.
- Achieve compliance with the Channel, Prevent and Protect duties (including Martyn's law and Hostile Vehicle Mitigation) under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, demonstrated through self-assessment using Home Office toolkits.

Preventing offending and reoffending (adults)

(Objective owner: Head of Barnsley and Rotherham Probation Delivery Unit)

- Ensure there is an effective strategy for the reduction of reoffending in the area, as required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Part 1 Section 6, by scrutinising the plans, action and performance outcomes of the Probation Service in relation to adult reoffending.

Preventing offending and reoffending (young people)

(Objective owner: Chair of Youth Justice Board and the Assistant Director, Early Help, RMBC)

- Ensure there is an effective strategy for the reduction of reoffending in the area, as required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Part 1 Section 6, by scrutinising the plans, action and performance outcomes of the Youth Justice Service in relation to young people's reoffending.

Vulnerable Adult Risk Management Pathway

(Objective owner: Head of Service, Safeguarding and Mental Health, RMBC / Safeguarding Adults Board Prevention and Early Intervention Sub Group)

- Ensure that effective multi-agency interventions are in place for adults with complex needs, to reduce the risks of them becoming involved with the criminal justice system as victims or offenders, through scrutiny of the relevant aspects of the Vulnerable Adult Risk Management Pathway led by the RMBC Head of Service, Safeguarding and Mental Health and Safeguarding Adults Board Prevention and Early Intervention Sub Group.

2.5 **Cross Cutting Themes**

Alongside the identified priorities, cross cutting themes which impact all community safety priorities will also be considered:

- **Online Crime**
Plans and actions for each priority area will take into account how online crime impacts on each crime/priority.
- **Service User Voice**
The voice of service users, including protected characteristic groups, will inform priority setting, action planning and performance management.
- **Equality**
Access and the impact of actions and services on communities including protected characteristic groups will be monitored.

2.6 SRP Board level strategic leads are in place to lead and oversee the development and implementation of delivery plans and performance management reports for each priority. Quarterly performance reports will be monitored by the SRP Board. Annual reports will provide updates on progress to wider stakeholders.

2.7 The commitments and objectives within each strategic priority and the associated actions plans and performance measures will be reviewed annually by the SRP Board. The review will be based on an annual crime audit and consist of a broad evidential review of Police and partner data, robust risk assessment process and consultation with stakeholders. The annual review process will ensure the SRP Strategy 2025-28 remains fit for purpose with meaningful objectives and performance indicators in place to deliver and measure progress and improvements and Reports to the Council through OSMB.

3. **Options considered and recommended proposal**

3.1 The production of a strategy for reducing crime and disorder (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances; reducing reoffending; preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence and reducing instances of serious violence is a statutory requirement of responsible authorities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. As a result, no alternative options were considered. In relation to the focus and priority areas, these have been developed as a result of extensive engagement and learning from both service users and professionals, and subject to partner and public consultation.

3.2 The recommendation is that the Cabinet endorses the Strategy and recommends that Council approve it. The Strategy notes that annual delivery plans and quarterly performance reports will be produced by strategic theme leads and delivery groups and monitored by the SRP Board.

- 3.3 In addition to the role of the SRP Board in delivering, monitoring and oversight, The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, creates the requirement for at least annual scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership. In Rotherham this is discharged annually by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board which reviews the annual report of the Partnership.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Wide and inclusive consultation has taken place with a diverse range of groups including geographic communities, communities of interest, voluntary and community sector representatives and local businesses to take into account the views, needs and expectations of stakeholders.
- 4.2 SRP partner agency consultation and data gathering took place from September 2024 and continued until the final draft strategy was circulated to SRP Board members prior to their meeting on 15 April 2025 and the Strategy was finalised. The wider stakeholder, elected member and public consultation on the proposed priorities ran from September 2024 to December 2024.
- 4.3 Strategic leaders from across the partnership were consulted via interactive sessions and meetings from September 2024 to December 2024. These partners included Cabinet Members, Elected Members and members of the following boards/groups:
- Rotherham Together Partnership
 - Strategic Housing Forum
 - Safeguarding Adults Board
 - Health and Wellbeing Board
 - Cultural Partnership Board
 - Safeguarding Children Partnership
 - Business Growth Board
 - Safer Rotherham Partnership priority groups
- 4.4 A focus group event was held for voluntary and community sector groups on 5 November 2024. Attendees included representatives from YWCA, JADE Youth Group, Clifton Learning Partnership, the Rainbow Project, Shiloh, REMA and Rush House. Crime and community safety concerns were spread across a wide range of issues, including drug misuse and drug related crime, online safety, child exploitation and county lines, anti-social behaviour, town centre safety, community cohesion and hate crime, domestic abuse, normalisation of violence in relationships, mental health, neglect driven by poverty, dangers of vaping in young people, fly tipping, and scam work visas affecting migrants.
- 4.5 Other methodologies included an online consultation survey, attendance at partner meetings, community groups and events including Rotherham Show, Council Tenants Engagement Event, Crossroads Dementia Conference, GP Protected Learning Time Event, Parish Council Network Meeting, Youth Cabinet and IC (In Care) Youth Group. A wide range of issues were raised by Partners and members of the public including: anti-social behaviour,

burglary, community cohesion and concerns about the recent violent protests, domestic abuse and older people, drug dealing/county lines, fly tipping, hate crime, knife crime, modern slavery, online safety, organised crime, road safety, scams/exploitation of vulnerable adults, town centre safety, risks of vaping to young people, vehicle crime and youth offending.

- 4.6 The results of other consultations taking place during the same period were also taken into account including consultation for the Council Plan, Ward Plans, Housing Strategy consultation and rural crime engagement carried out by the South Yorkshire Police Motorcycle and Rural Crime Team.
- 4.7 The purpose of the consultation was to:
- Confirm the proposed overarching priorities for 2025-28.
 - Identify the types of partnership responses that are most important to stakeholders under each priority.
 - Identify any important community safety issues not addressed by the proposed priorities.
- 4.8 The outcome of the consultation was broadly supportive of the priority areas identified. In relation to the areas of focus, there was some variance but generally people thought the partnership should focus on raising awareness and delivering prevention and early intervention activities. The full outcome of the consultation has been provided to each SRP priority lead to inform development of their action plans.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Delivery will be monitored through a quarterly dashboard showing key performance indicators and an annually refreshed delivery plan and annual report. This will be overseen by the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board. The annual report of the Safer Rotherham Partnership will be subject to scrutiny as described in section 3.3.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct procurement implications as a result of the recommendations detailed in this report. However, any identified need for the Council to procure goods, services or works in relation to achieving the Strategy must be procured in compliance with the Council's Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules as well as relevant procurement legislation; namely the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023, which will be determined by the route to market selected.
- 6.2 The Safer Rotherham Partnership has received revenue grant funding of £113,062.98 in 2025/26 from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), to contribute to the delivery of the priorities set out in the Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy and in the SYMCA Police and Crime Plan. Any costs associated with the delivery of these should be managed within the grant funding or they will have to be managed within approved revenue budgets.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 Community Safety Partnerships were set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Under section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the responsible authorities that are party to a Community Safety Partnership are required to formulate and implement:
- (a) a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment);
 - (b) a strategy for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area;
 - (c) a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area;
 - (d) a strategy for—
 - (i) preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence in the area, and
 - (ii) reducing instances of serious violence in the area.
- 7.2 The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 set out the way in which the responsible authorities should carry out their functions as a Community Safety Partnership and require that a strategy group is convened consisting of representatives from each responsible authority, one of whom holds a senior position in that authority, whose functions are to: -
- prepare strategic assessments;
 - prepare and implement a partnership plan for the area on behalf of the responsible authorities.
 - have in place arrangements for the sharing of information between responsible authorities
 - make arrangements for obtaining the views of persons and bodies who live or work in the area.
- 7.3 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires the local policing bodies and the responsible authorities to have regard for each other's priorities and objectives and requires cooperation with each other in exercising their respective functions.
- 7.4 Further Regulations introduced in 2012 (The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) (Amendment) Regulations 2012) require information sharing and provide power to the Police and Crime Commissioners (or Mayors where the Police and Crime Commissioner functions are delivered by the Mayor) to require the attendance of the responsible authorities at a meeting to assist in the formulation and implementation of strategies relating to the local government area.
- 7.5 The Community Safety Partnership is required to produce and implement a plan setting out its priorities. Failing to do so would be a breach of its statutory duty under the above-mentioned legislation. The implementation of the plan should ensure that all other statutory duties are met, where they exist.

- 7.6 Under section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006, the Local Authority is required to ensure that it has a committee with power to review and scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions and to make reports or recommendation to the Local Authority with respect to the discharge of those functions. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, require this committee to meet annually. This a statutory requirement and to satisfy the duty, this is currently undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.
- 7.7 Consultation is not a statutory requirement, however appropriate consultation and community engagement is crucial when preparing the Plan. A substantial consultation exercise has taken place in advance of finalising and agreeing the Plan.
- 7.8 The Policy is a part of the Council's Policy Framework and therefore requires Council approval following a recommendation from Cabinet.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this Report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 Priorities relating to vulnerable children, young people and adults which already sit under the governance of other Boards are included to ensure assurance and scrutiny by the SRP Board. These are:
- **Combatting alcohol and substance misuse**
Objective owner: Chair of Combatting Drugs Partnership
 - **Child Exploitation (Criminal and Sexual exploitation)**
Objective owner: Chair of Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership Child Exploitation Delivery Group
 - **Preventing offending and reoffending (adults)**
Objective owner: Head of Barnsley and Rotherham Probation Delivery Unit
 - **Preventing offending and reoffending (young people)**
Objective owner: Chair of Youth Justice Board / Assistant Director, Early Help, RMBC
 - **Vulnerable Adult Risk Management Pathway**
Objective owner: Head of Service, Safeguarding and Mental Health, RMBC / Safeguarding Adults Board Prevention and Early Intervention Subgroup

Lead officers will be required to make direct progress reports to the SRP Board at least annually.

- 9.2 The Safer Rotherham Partnership works closely with the relevant strategic partnerships in Rotherham, including the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership, the Adult Safeguarding Board and the Health and Well-Being Board. The relationship between the partnerships is supported by the Safeguarding Joint Protocol, which is an agreement across the Strategic Partnerships.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 A full Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken to support the development of the SRP Strategy 2025-28 and is included at Appendix 3 and Appendix 4. The Report shows how crime and community safety risks were assessed through data analysis, taking into account victim and offender demographic information. It also describes the consultation process that took place with multiple stakeholders including Equality Act 2010 protected characteristic groups. The Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy meets the needs of different communities and groups by driving action to achieve its key priorities which are fully inclusive of protected characteristic groups. It identifies and puts in place actions to protect the most vulnerable people and communities within the Borough. By addressing the crime and community safety issues impacting Rotherham's diverse communities, the policy is designed to promote equality and good community relations.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment has been undertaken which is included at Appendix 5. The SRP coordinates existing partner activity and resources, therefore no specific impacts have been identified related to the SRP Strategy 2025-28.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1. There are wide-ranging implications for partners, who have been involved throughout the process of developing the SRP Strategy 2025-28. The Strategy sets out how the Safer Rotherham Partnership (which is the borough's Community Safety Partnership, set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998) will achieve the duties of the responsible authorities to work together to protect local communities and help people feel safer. There are five responsible authorities that make up the Safer Rotherham Partnership:
- Probation Service
 - NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)
 - Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
 - South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
 - South Yorkshire Police
- 12.2 The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust, Victim Support and Voluntary Action

Rotherham are additional and valued members of the Safer Rotherham Partnership. The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority is also represented at meetings, helping to join up work on local priorities with the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan.

- 12.3 All the above partners are involved in the SRP Strategy delivery and governance structures.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Risks primarily relate to capacity to deliver strategic intentions and uncertainty about the availability of external funding for specific initiatives, for example, Government funding for Domestic Abuse and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority community safety grant funding, which are notified year on year. The Safer Rotherham Partnership is able to facilitate the involvement of mainstream services, across a variety of partners, in work to achieve Safer Rotherham Partnership priorities and outcomes. Opportunities are therefore sought through partnership meetings and structures to seek opportunities for better collaborative working and pooling of resources.

14. Accountable Officers

Sam Barstow, Assistant Director, Community Safety and Street Scene.

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	26/08/25
Assistant Director, Financial Services (Deputy S.151 Officer)	Rob Mahon	20/08/25
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	18/08/25

Report Author: *Helen Banerjee, Community Safety Officer*
helen.banerjee@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

This page is intentionally left blank

SAFER ROTHERHAM PARTNERSHIP

STRATEGY 2025-2028



CONTENTS



Foreword - Councillor Alam	Page 1
Introduction	Page 3
Rotherham Overview	Page 5
Safer Rotherham Partnership Priorities 2022-25	Page 6
Our Progress 2022-25 - Protecting Vulnerable Children	Page 7
Our Progress 2022-25 - Protecting Vulnerable Adults	Page 8
Our Progress 2022-25 - Safer Stronger Communities	Page 9
Our Progress 2022-25 - Protecting People from Violence and Organised Crime	Page 10
Our Progress 2022-25 - Comms and Engagement	Page 13
Our Progress 2022-25 - Project: Community Payback	Page 14
Safer Rotherham Partnership Priorities 2025-28	Page 15
Safer Rotherham Partnership Priorities 2025-28 One Page Plan	Page 17
How we decided our priorities for 2025-28	Page 18
Governance	Page 19
Delivery Plans, Performance Management and Review	Page 20
Local and National Information and Support	Page 21

FOREWORD

COUNCILLOR SAGHIR ALAM OBE

CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY

As we embark on a new three-year strategy, it is essential to reflect on the significant strides we have made in safeguarding our community and addressing critical issues such as child exploitation, neglect, modern slavery, substance misuse, mental health, hate crime, online crime, and domestic abuse. This strategy highlights our key achievements and outlines our ongoing commitment to creating a safer and more supportive environment for all residents of Rotherham.

We have continued our efforts to combat child exploitation through the "Spot the Signs" campaign and comprehensive training programs. We have raised awareness about the indicators of child exploitation and delivered training across our partnership, ensuring staff can identify signs of exploitation. Additionally, training for taxi drivers and public awareness sessions on YouTube have further strengthened our community's vigilance.

The Violence Reduction Unit supported the Street Doctor's initiative which educates young people on first aid for knife injuries and the consequences of street violence. Additionally, during Operation Sceptre, interactive sessions were provided to education providers to assist with lockdown protocols and mitigate risks.

We have consolidated working arrangements between the Probation Service and Drug and Alcohol Service, resulting in improved offender management and client engagement. Enhanced joint working within the criminal justice system has led to a steady increase in Drug Rehabilitation Requirement Orders and Alcohol Treatment Requirement Orders and the integration of a Dual Diagnosis nurse and key worker into the Rotherham Drug & Alcohol Service has strengthened collaboration with community mental health teams and outreach prevention teams.



FOREWORD

COUNCILLOR SAGHIR ALAM OBE

CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY

We have continued to raise awareness of hate crime and the adoption of Rotherham Youth Cabinet's Hate Charter by schools has increased significantly. Our professional development package for schools and the quarterly e-newsletter, "Hate Bullying," share good practices, news, training offers and resources.

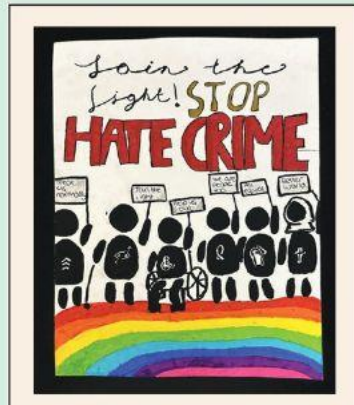
We delivered training and awareness on online risks including keeping young people safe online, image sharing, online radicalisation and cyberbullying to professionals and the public and collaborating with the Digital Inclusion Team to improve online safety in the community.

Our Domestic Abuse Assertive Outreach Service supports individuals with complex needs and programs like Cranstoun Inspire to Change and Level Up have reduced reoffending rates and addressed abusive behaviours. Initiatives like the WalkSafe app and the annual Reclaim the Night march have promoted safety and awareness for women and girls in our community.

These are just some of the key achievements which reflect our unwavering commitment to safeguarding our community and effective partnership working. This collective effort ensures that our initiatives are more comprehensive, impactful and sustainable, ultimately leading to a safer and more resilient community.

I would like to thank all board members for their hard work and participation over the last three years. I look forward to working with you in future years, where we will continue to build on these successes, ensuring that Rotherham remains a safe and supportive place for all its residents.

Councillor Saghir Alam OBE
Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe and Clean Communities



Bullying and hateful behaviour have no place in school.

If you see or experience hate-related bullying or harassment, tell a teacher or member of staff.

If you see or experience a hate incident outside of school, it is just as important to tell someone.

Don't let hate go unchallenged.

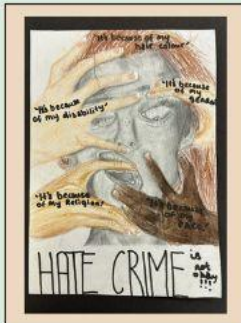
To report a hate crime to the police in an emergency, or when someone is in immediate danger, call 999.

For non-emergencies call 101, or report online at: www.southyorkshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/at/how-to-report-a-crime/

Designs by Maddy Jones and Abi Jones, Winterhill Academy, and Zara Iftikhar, Brinsworth Academy, on behalf of Rotherham Council's Community Safety Team.

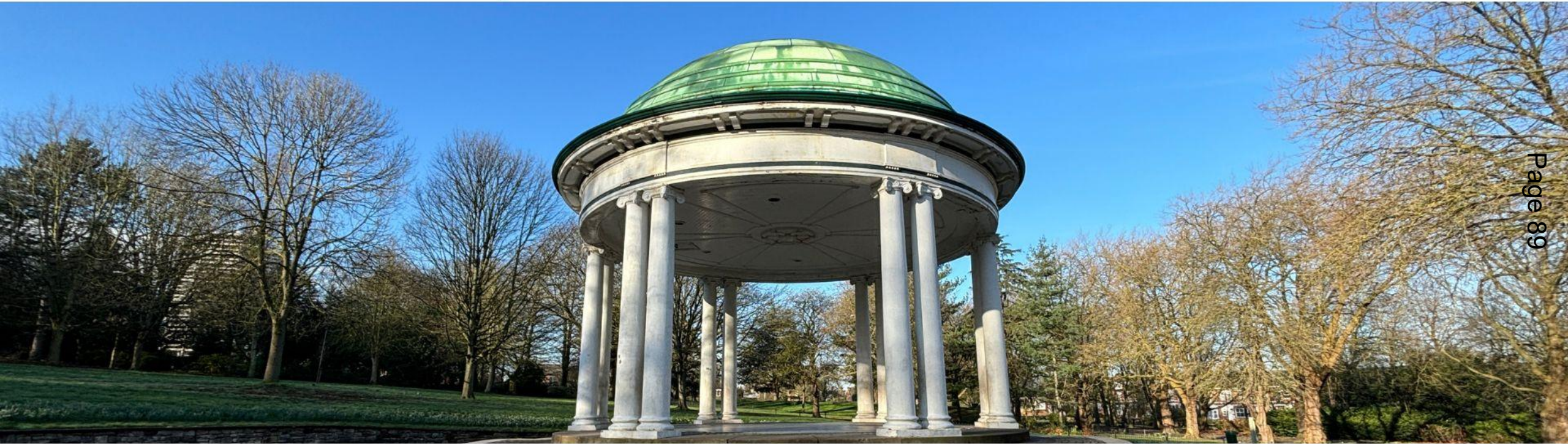


Left unchecked, hateful speech and actions towards people from specific groups, or towards individuals with certain characteristics, can lead towards harmful extremism.



WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE ROTHERHAM SAFE, TO KEEP ROTHERHAM SAFE AND TO ENSURE THE COMMUNITIES OF ROTHERHAM FEEL SAFE

**The Safer Rotherham Partnership is the borough's Community Safety Partnership,
set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.**



Responsible authorities have a duty to work together to protect their local communities and help people feel safer. They work out how to deal with crime and local issues like anti-social behaviour, drug or alcohol misuse and reoffending. They assess local crime priorities annually, consulting with partners and the local community about their priorities and monitor progress in achieving them.

THERE ARE FIVE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES THAT MAKE UP THE SAFER ROTHERHAM PARTNERSHIP:

Probation Service

NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue

South Yorkshire Police

The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust, Victim Support and Voluntary Action Rotherham are additional and valued members of the Safer Rotherham Partnership. Voluntary Action Rotherham represents and promotes the role of the voluntary and community sector in tackling local crime and community safety issues.

The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority is also represented at meetings, helping to join up work on local priorities with the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan.



ROTHERHAM OVERVIEW

Rotherham is one of four metropolitan boroughs in South Yorkshire

There are 25 electoral wards covering a wide range of urban, suburban, and rural areas

70% of Rotherham is open countryside



Estimated Population
271,195



49% Male
51% Female



18.9%
aged 0-15

61.5%
aged 16-64

19.6%
aged 65+

Population is ageing, with 1 in 5 residents 65 and over



11.7% minority ethnic groups

88.3% of residents are White British

Rotherham has an increasingly diverse community

75%
satisfied with their local area as a place to live

66%
satisfied with the wider borough as a place to live



67.1%
are in Employment



10.6%
of the working age population have no qualifications



23%
of neighbourhoods in Rotherham are within the bottom 10% in England for Education



22%
of residents in Rotherham are living within the 10% most deprived in England



Rotherham has an overall Health Index score of 95.6, within the Average in England as of 2021

4 million
visits to Rotherham's attractions last year



including Wentworth Woodhouse, Gulliver's and Magna amongst South Yorkshire's most popular tourist destinations



COMMUNITY SAFETY IN ROTHERHAM 2022-2025

The Safer Rotherham Partnership agreed 4 priority areas from 2022-2025. Annual reviews of objectives and performance measures ensured proactive responses were made to new and emerging challenges and opportunities.

Protecting Vulnerable Children

Protecting Vulnerable Adults

Safer Stronger Communities

Protecting People from Violence and Organised Crime



OUR PROGRESS IN 2022-2025 PROTECTING VULNERABLE CHILDREN

WE HAVE RAISED AWARENESS OF THE SIGNS OF CHILD EXPLOITATION THROUGH THE SPOT THE SIGNS CAMPAIGN AND TRAINING

Awareness session for the
public on YouTube



Spotting the signs of
exploitation -
embedded into the
training provided to all
new and existing taxi
drivers

Girls and
Gangs training
across the
partnership

Information cards shared
widely including local
businesses, libraries,
partner organisations,
schools, Parish Councils
and Elected Members.

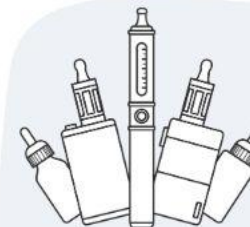
Training on
Minimising
Unconscious Bias in
Child Criminal
Exploitation

The Neglect Delivery Group has
been established and the Neglect
Strategy has been developed to
support training and development
for practitioners.

Child Matters training has been delivered
to South Yorkshire Police which has
improved the accuracy of identification
and recording of cases under Neglect.

Supported South
Yorkshire Police in
offering specialist
training to hotels

Training has been
provided to over
1,000
professionals on how
to submit intelligence
to the Police about
child exploitation.



We have supported the delivery
of Vapes Awareness sessions in
schools to over

4000
students



OUR PROGRESS IN 2022-2025 PROTECTING VULNERABLE ADULTS



Consolidation of working arrangements between the Probation Service and Drug and Alcohol Service has improved offender management and client engagement with services, resulting in more positive overall outcomes for service users.

A Dual Diagnosis nurse has been embedded into the Rotherham Drug & Alcohol Service together with a key worker to develop work with community mental health teams and outreach prevention teams.

The Mental Health Specialist within the Safer Neighbourhood Service has made over **3,300 interventions** with individuals, that have included over **1,100 repeat referrals** resulting in reduced demand on services and increasing opportunities for long term, sustainable solutions.

Improved joint working arrangements and liaison within the criminal justice system has resulted in a steady increase in the number of Drug Rehabilitation Requirement Orders and Alcohol Treatment Requirement Orders.

We have introduced the Council Modern Slavery Steering Group which has further improved co-ordination across the council.

Modern Slavery awareness raising training delivered to over **550 professionals** across the partnership including Registered Social Landlords and Landlords within the designated Selective Licensing Scheme areas.

Since 2022/23 a total of **157** of the most complex cases have been subject to Community Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CMARAC) referral and intervention to address complex needs and reduce risks and vulnerabilities.

OUR PROGRESS IN 2022-2025 SAFER STRONGER COMMUNITIES

WE HAVE CONTINUED TO RAISE AWARENESS ON HATE CRIME

Local media coverage of
our hate crime projects
reached more than

46,000
local people

We have seen a
significant rise
in the number of
schools
adopting
Rotherham
Youth Cabinet's
Hate Charter.

The number of hate crime reporting centres
in the borough more than doubled in
2023, allowing quicker, easier reporting.

We have had contact with
each primary and
secondary school and
college at least once every
quarter throughout 2024



We have
developed a
professional
development
package for
schools on hate
crime.

We have launched a
quarterly e-newsletter,
Hate Bullying, to share
good practice, news,
training offers and
resources.

We have delivered a hate
crime awareness project in
4 secondary schools in
Summer 2024.

Annual Harms of Hate
events for Y6s delivered to
550
primary school pupils

Radicalisation
Bystander
Interventions
Holding
Difficult
Conversations
**TRAINING AND
INTERVENTIONS**
Extremism Right
Wing Awareness

In response to
the violent
disorder seen
in summer
2024,
awareness
raising and
resilience
building
sessions were
delivered to
over
3000
students in
Rotherham.

We have established the
Digital Champions
Network, to increase
awareness of online and
digital developments.



Over 3 years
1918
young people have attended
sessions to build
understanding of the impact
hate crime has through our
restorative hate crime
service.

One to one
interventions have
also been delivered to
33 adults
129 young people
(Apr22-Dec24)



We have worked alongside the
Digital Inclusion Team to develop
an Online Safety booklet and
deliver awareness sessions to the
community

Keeping young
people safe
online
Image
Sharing

Online safety awareness
sessions delivered to
professionals and the public

Cyberbullying
Online
Radicalisation

OUR PROGRESS IN 2022-2025

PROTECTING PEOPLE FROM VIOLENCE AND ORGANISED CRIME

DOMESTIC ABUSE

The Council's Domestic Abuse Assertive Outreach Service provides support for individuals with the most complex needs

Average victim engagement rate
78%

Support offered includes 1:1 sessions, webchats, therapeutic group work and counselling

We have commissioned Cranstoun Inspire to Change, a programme for men and women who have been abusive, controlling or violent towards their partner

73%

Reduction in reoffending rates of perpetrators who completed the programme

We have commissioned Cranstoun Level Up programme, designed specifically for young people between the ages of 11 and 18 who are presenting abusive and challenging behaviours

Clare's Law, also known as the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS), allows people to ask the police about a person's history of domestic abuse

We shared the Clares Law fact sheet with partners to encourage right to ask applications – the number of applications have increased by 30% since 2022

Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) applications are monitored and effectively utilised to give breathing space for victims

The transformation of domestic abuse services was completed in October 2022 with Hopian (formerly Rotherham Rise) becoming the "one front door" pathway for all domestic abuse referrals

The Homelessness Prevention Fund has supported victims and families at risk of being made homeless due to domestic abuse with essential financial support and target hardening

Over 500 awards have been made over the last 3 years

The Domestic Abuse Homelessness Officers are providing 1:1 support for domestic abuse victims/survivors presenting as homeless

All the 13-specialist local authority domestic abuse properties are consistently occupied

We launched the Domestic Abuse older people's campaign 'Abuse has no age limit' with involvement from Rotherham Older People's Forum.



**ABUSE
HAS
NO AGE
LIMIT**

**Just because you've
not reported it in the
past, doesn't mean
you can't report it
now.**



OUR PROGRESS IN 2022-2025

PROTECTING PEOPLE FROM VIOLENCE AND ORGANISED CRIME

SEXUAL ABUSE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



WalkSafe

We have launched the WalkSafe app in Rotherham alongside South Yorkshire Police – a free personal safety app including journey planning and a map of local safe places

221

safe spaces
identified
within the
WalkSafe
safety map

3,648

app
downloads
from the local
QR code

45,662

app
interactions
within the
geo-tagged
area

Since the launch of the WalkSafe app in South Yorkshire to Feb 25



Promotion of the WalkSafe app has included colleges, partners, Elected Members and with the public via events such as Reclaim the Night

We have supported the delivery of the annual Reclaim the Night march in Rotherham, celebrating Rotherham's women and campaigning to make our streets safer for all. In 2024 we held our 10th anniversary walk and were joined by over 100 people parading through the Town Centre.



We have supported the Safe Space evenings delivered through the Violence Reduction Unit over the Christmas period. This included Rotherham Councils CCTV van deployed with a Police Officer, Medics providing outreach first aid and medical cover in the designated area and Outreach and Engagement within the Town Centre focused on key safety awareness messages.

We have delivered a number of events aimed at improving safety in the Night Time Economy including training for staff, managers and door security staff covering safeguarding children, responding to serious violence and domestic abuse.

We have supported the delivery of sessions to college students around the dangers of drink spiking

A South Yorkshire sex work steering group has been established to improve understanding of sex work in South Yorkshire and increase awareness of support services.

We have established a sexual abuse pathway for Rotherham to identify clear routes to support for victims of sexual abuse.

We have installed innovative lighting and CCTV along a popular route in Clifton Park to help improve feelings of safety, funded by the Government's Safer Streets Fund.



OUR PROGRESS IN 2022-2025

PROTECTING PEOPLE FROM VIOLENCE AND ORGANISED CRIME

VIOLENCE AND ORGANISED CRIME

Action on counterfeit vapes, vape liquids and cartridges and illegal cigarettes Joint Police and Council Trading Standards Officers operations



over £887,428

worth of illegal tobacco and vape products removed from sale (22-25)

350 vapes and liquids

collected in schools from 2023

15 vapes

sent for testing due to students having to seek medical attention after use - results showed Class A, Class B and Class C drugs, ketamine and other unknown cocktails.

There has been an increase in targeted commissioning of initiatives for young people in areas impacted by Organised Crime Groups.

A drone was purchased to tackle organised crime groups by aiding with intelligence gathering and assisting with fleeing offenders

70 warrants

executed across the borough as part of

Op Grow

leading to seizure of

17,846 cannabis plants

Multi agency links have been strengthened in relation to child exploitation and organised crime.

Warning notices have been issued to organised crime members around gun crime and child exploitation.

The Violence Reduction Unit have funded the Plan B Custody Navigator scheme, delivered by Causeway, it aims to engage people aged 16+ to help them step away from crime.

As part of the Reducing Violence programme, Rotherham funded a Street Doctor's initiative for young people focused on the first aid intervention required due to a knife or sharp instrument injury or head injury.

The sessions also support young people to understand the medical consequences of street violence, how to keep themselves safe and the mental health/ emotional impact of street violence.

During Operation Sceptre, the Violence Reduction Unit supported interactive sessions for education providers to assist lockdown protocols and mitigate risks

A refreshed, agreed Action Plan is continuing to drive activity and progress against the identified objectives and our preparedness for the forthcoming introduction of the Terrorism (Protecting of Premises) Legislation – Martyn's Law.

The multi-agency Protect and Prepare Group have completed a full review and self-assessment of progress against responsibilities in respect of the Protect Duty.



OUR PROGRESS IN 2022-2025 COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

Community Safety supports the annual Safeguarding Awareness Week



We have supported the delivery of training including:

- Modern Slavery
- Domestic Abuse
- Online Safety
- Extremism
- Sharing Images Online
- Online Radicalisation
- The misuse of Social Media

43,500
people reached through
our social media channels

80%
of our followers from
Rotherham

We have developed targeted campaigns to help tackle Domestic Abuse and support annual campaigns including Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Week and 16 Days of Action Against Gender Based Violence



We have supported the No More campaign in South Yorkshire focussing on the microaggressions and acts of violence women face every day and every night. We have also promoted the additional phases of the campaign focusing on bystander intervention in Do More and Online abuse in Know More



We have held a number of Rotherham Safer Venues Together Events in partnership with Violence Reduction Unit and South Yorkshire Police.



Providing information and support to licensed premises on safeguarding in their venues including:

- Ask for Angela
- Drink Spike awareness
- Safeguarding children
- Safe search techniques
- Responding to violent incidents
- Domestic Abuse



We are members of the National Safe Place scheme and have 22 venues registered who have received specific safeguarding training

We continue to support licensed premises in implementing Ask for Angela through Pub Watch meetings, social media promotion and training including venue staff and taxi drivers and support checks on licensed premises to ensure the scheme is working.



OUR PROGRESS IN 2022-2025

PROJECT EXAMPLE: COMMUNITY PAYBACK



Community Payback is a community sentence for people convicted of a crime and is an alternative to custody. In Rotherham we have funded a bespoke Community Payback contract via The Probation Service. Through this bespoke contract, Rotherham have a dedicated Community Payback Team working within the borough focussing on key projects and activities 4 days a week as a result of requests made by the community via Officers and Elected members. This is in addition to the South Yorkshire wide team completing projects sent directly to The Probation Service via their normal request system.

From April 2022
to January 2025:

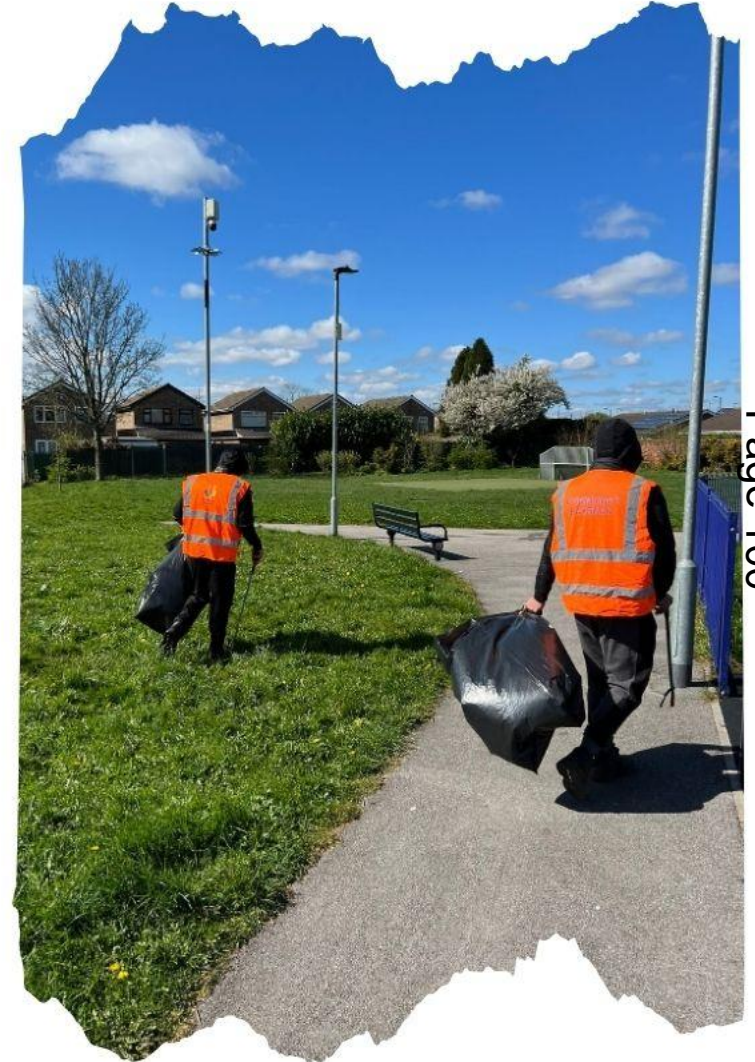
over

27,000

hours of work have
been completed

with an equivalent real
living wage value of

£294,000



SAFER ROTHERHAM PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES 2025-28



Safer Neighbourhoods

Problem solving in neighbourhoods

ASB

Hate crime

Combating alcohol and substance misuse



Tackling Violence, Abuse and Exploitation

Domestic Abuse
(including Domestic Homicide Reviews)

Sexual Offences

Violence Against Women and Girls

Modern slavery

Serious Violence (Serious Violence Duty)

Organised Crime

Child exploitation (criminal and sexual exploitation)

Page 101



Preventing offending – Building resilience

Preventing radicalisation
(Prevent and Channel duties)

Martyn's Law (Protect Duty)

Preventing offending and reoffending (adults)

Preventing offending and reoffending (young people)

Vulnerable Adult Risk Management Pathway



SAFER ROTHERHAM PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES 2025-28



Cross Cutting Themes

Alongside our identified priorities we will also consider cross cutting themes which impact all community safety priorities.



Online Crime

Plans and actions for each priority area will take into account how online crime impacts on each crime/priority.



Service User Voice

We will ensure the voice of service users, including protected characteristic groups, inform priority setting, action planning and performance management.



Equality

We will monitor access and the impact of our actions and services on communities including protected characteristic groups.



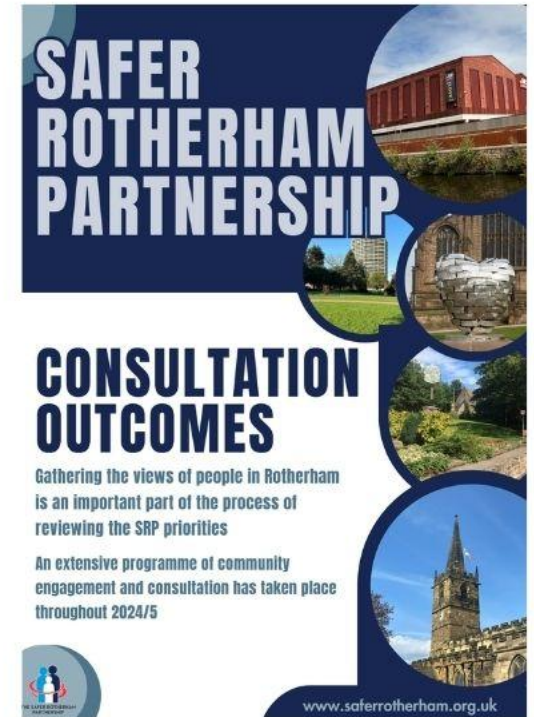
	Problem solving in neighbourhoods	Director Of Services, Voluntary Action Rotherham	Monitor and evaluate the partnership approach to problem solving in local neighbourhoods and share good practice and/or learning.
	Anti-Social Behaviour	Chief Inspector (Neighbourhoods), South Yorkshire Police	Explore innovative ways in which partners and the public can be educated around online safety and digital technologies and develop engagement with young people, families and older people.
	Hate crime		Monitor and evaluate perceptions of ASB, feelings of safety and seek to understand what influences change.
	Combating alcohol and substance misuse	Chair of Combatting Drugs Partnership	Seek appropriate external funding opportunities and support and participate in partnership bids to secure additional funding for activity in the borough
	Domestic Abuse (including Domestic Homicide Reviews)	Head of Adults Safeguarding Head Of Service, RMBC Community Safety and Regulatory Services	Complete a refresh of the DA strategy, capturing any analysis from the DA needs assessment and survivor voice to improve outcomes for victims and their children
	Sexual Offences	Detective Chief Inspector, South Yorkshire Police	Ensure all those fleeing domestic abuse are able to access safe accommodation and appropriate support.
	Violence Against Women and Girls	Detective Chief Inspector, South Yorkshire Police	Support South Yorkshire Police with the ‘Rapid’ review of Domestic Abuse particularly how they tackle perpetrator behaviours.
	Modern slavery	Superintendent, South Yorkshire Police	Improve reporting of sexual offences through awareness raising, projects and training and focus on victim engagement
	Serious Violence (Serious Violence Duty)	Superintendent, South Yorkshire Police	Work with partners to understand work with perpetrators of sexual abuse to reduce reoffending and identify any gaps.
	Organised Crime	Head Of Service, RMBC Community Safety and Regulatory Services	Reduce male violence against women and girls by focussing on hot spot locations and repeat perpetrators and use of digital tools to identify online risks and hot spot locations for non-crime incidents.
	Child exploitation (criminal and sexual exploitation)	Chair of Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership Child Exploitation Delivery Group	Deliver awareness raising events, projects and promotions aimed at improving women and girls’ safety and feelings of safety.
	Preventing radicalisation (Prevent and Channel duties) Martyn’s Law (Protect Duty)	Assistant Director, Community Safety and Street Scene, Rotherham Council	Improve knowledge and awareness around identifying the signs of Modern Slavery and the mechanisms for reporting
	Preventing offending and reoffending (adults)	Head of Barnsley and Rotherham Probation Delivery Unit	To foster a collaborative environment among enforcement agencies, intelligence services, and community organisations by establishing robust information-sharing protocols and partnership problem solving.
	Preventing offending and reoffending (young people)	Chair of Youth Justice Board / Assistant Director, Early Help, RMBC	Focus on individuals and groups causing the highest harm to communities through targeted interventions and disruptions.
	Vulnerable Adult Risk Management Pathway	Safeguarding Adults Board	Implement measures to reduce the availability and use of firearms and other lethal weapons in violent crimes.

HOW WE DECIDED OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2025-28

Alongside our statutory duties, the Safer Rotherham Partnership has used an evidence based approach to decide priorities, by drawing on the best available data and information. This included local and national crime and community safety data; the expertise and judgement of professionals and practitioners working in local partner organisations; and the views of people who live, visit or work in Rotherham. We also considered current legislation and other relevant local and national strategies and plans.

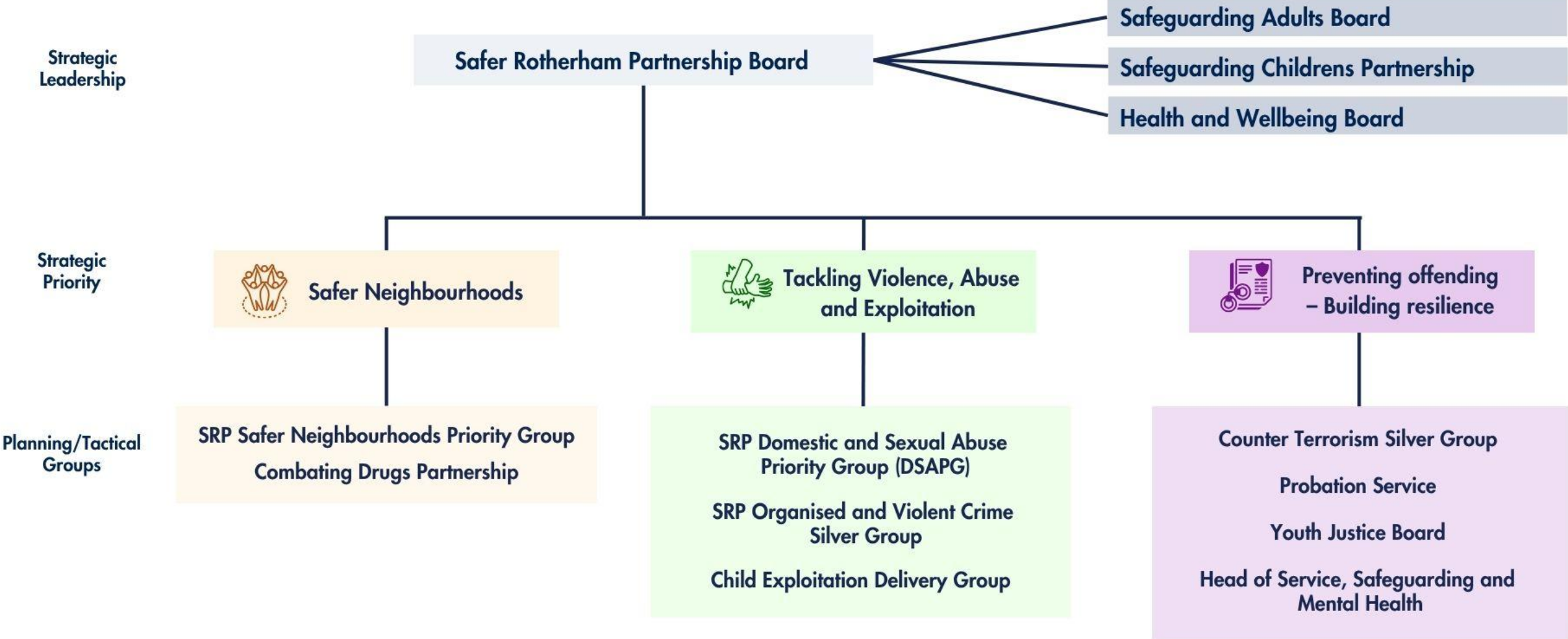
Some of the key issues raised during our consultation included:

 Anti-social behaviour	 Drug use
 Child Criminal Exploitation	 Community Cohesion
 Burglary	 Fly tipping
 Quads/Off road bikes	 Domestic Abuse
 Online safety	 Drug dealing and County Lines
 Organised Crime	 Road Safety



Full outcomes for the consultation can be found at www.saferrotherham.org.uk

GOVERNANCE



DELIVERY PLANS, PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND REVIEW



Action Plans will be developed for each strategic priority

Quarterly performance reports will be produced and reported to the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board.

The Safer Rotherham Partnership Board will monitor and oversee progress, provide strategic level decision making and constructive challenge.

The commitments and objectives within each strategic priority area and the associated actions plans and performance measures will be reviewed annually and agreed with the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board.

LOCAL AND NATIONAL INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

If you have concerns for a child or young person

If you consider a child or young person to be in immediate danger and requiring an urgent response, call 999

Otherwise, please call the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01709 336080

If you have concerns for an adult or older person

If you consider an adult or older person to be in immediate danger and requiring an urgent response, call 999

In other cases, you can contact Adult Social Care on 01709 822330

South Yorkshire Police

Phone 999 (If you are in immediate danger)

Phone 101 (non-emergency)

[Report online here](#)

Domestic Abuse

If an incident of domestic abuse is happening now or someone has been injured or is in danger, call 999

Call South Yorkshire Police on 101 (non-emergency)

Victim Support

Website: www.victimsupport.org.uk

Free support line: 0808 168 9291 (8am-8pm, Mon-Sun)

Out of hours: 0808 168 9111

Adult Sexual Assault Referral Centre Service

Phone: 0330 2230099

Website: <https://hackenthorpelodge.org/>

South Yorkshire Independent Sexual Violence Service

Website: www.syisva.org.uk



LOCAL AND NATIONAL INFORMATION AND SUPPORT



Anti-Social Behaviour Reporting

[Report ASB to Rotherham Council](#)

Out of Hours Anti-Social Behaviour and Noise Nuisance

Phone 01709 823140

This service operates between 18:00pm and Midnight, 7 Days a Week (excluding Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve and New Years Day)

Drug and Alcohol Services

Phone 0808 1753981
[We Are With You](#)

[Rotherham Council Drug, Alcohol and Smoking Support](#)

Online Safety Support

Click on the links below for information and support with online safety issues

[Child Exploitation Online Protection \(CEOP\)](#)

[NSPCC - Keeping children safe online](#)

[Online Safety Booklet](#)

Hate Crime Reporting

[South Yorkshire Police - reporting hate crime](#)

[Rotherham Council - reporting hate crime](#)

Mental Health Support

[NHS talking Therapies](#)

[Rotherham Council Wellbeing help and mental health support](#)



For further information visit the Safer Rotherham Partnership website
www.saferrotherham.org.uk



Follow us on social media for our latest news and updates at:
www.facebook.com/Rotherhamcommunitysafety
www.instagram.com/rmbccommunitysafety



Contact us via email at: community.safety@rotherham.gov.uk



If you would like this information in another language or format, please ask us. You can contact us through our website or by emailing community.safety@rotherham.gov.uk



This page is intentionally left blank

SAFER ROTHERHAM PARTNERSHIP



CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

Gathering the views of people in Rotherham is an important part of the process of reviewing the SRP priorities

An extensive programme of community engagement and consultation has taken place throughout 2024/5



Community Safety Partnerships work on the principle that no single agency can address all drivers of crime and antisocial behaviour, and that effective partnership working is vital to ensuring safer communities.

Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Community Safety Partnerships have a statutory responsibility to formulate and implement a strategy for:

- Reducing crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment)
- Combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances
- Reducing re-offending
- Preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence
- Reducing instances of serious violence

The development of the strategy is informed by a strategic assessment which includes an analysis of the levels and patterns of crime and substance misuse in the area and the reason for any changes, alongside the priorities of people living and working in the area.

This document provides an overview of the outcomes of consultation carried out with partners and the public which will help to inform the priorities and actions for the Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2025-28.

Contents

Online consultation survey analysis	Page 1
Online Survey – Equality Analysis	Page 3
Voluntary and community sector focus groups and events	Page 4
Public consultation	Page 5
Consultation with strategic partnership groups	Page 6
Organised Crime Survey	Page 8
Links to other Consultations	Page 9
Lifestyle Survey final report for 2024	Page 11

Online consultation took place between 4th September to 14th December 2024. 60 responses were received via the online survey. There were a number of other consultations taking place during the same time period which may have had an impact on the number of responses received.

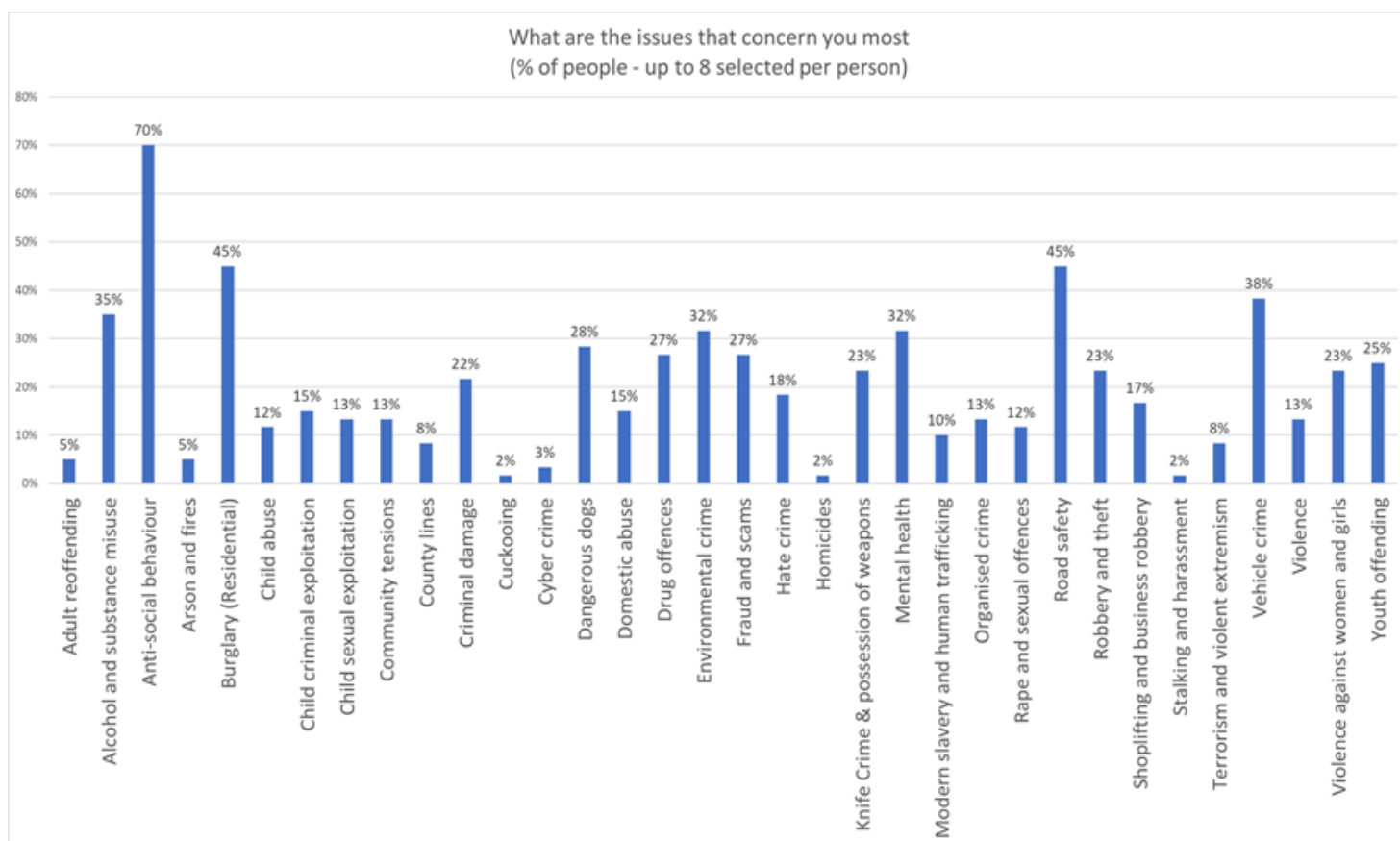
Respondents were asked to select issues that concern them the most

The top three most commonly selected issues were:

Anti-social behaviour

Burglary (Residential)

Road Safety



Respondents were asked how partners can make the most difference by working together to address these concerns

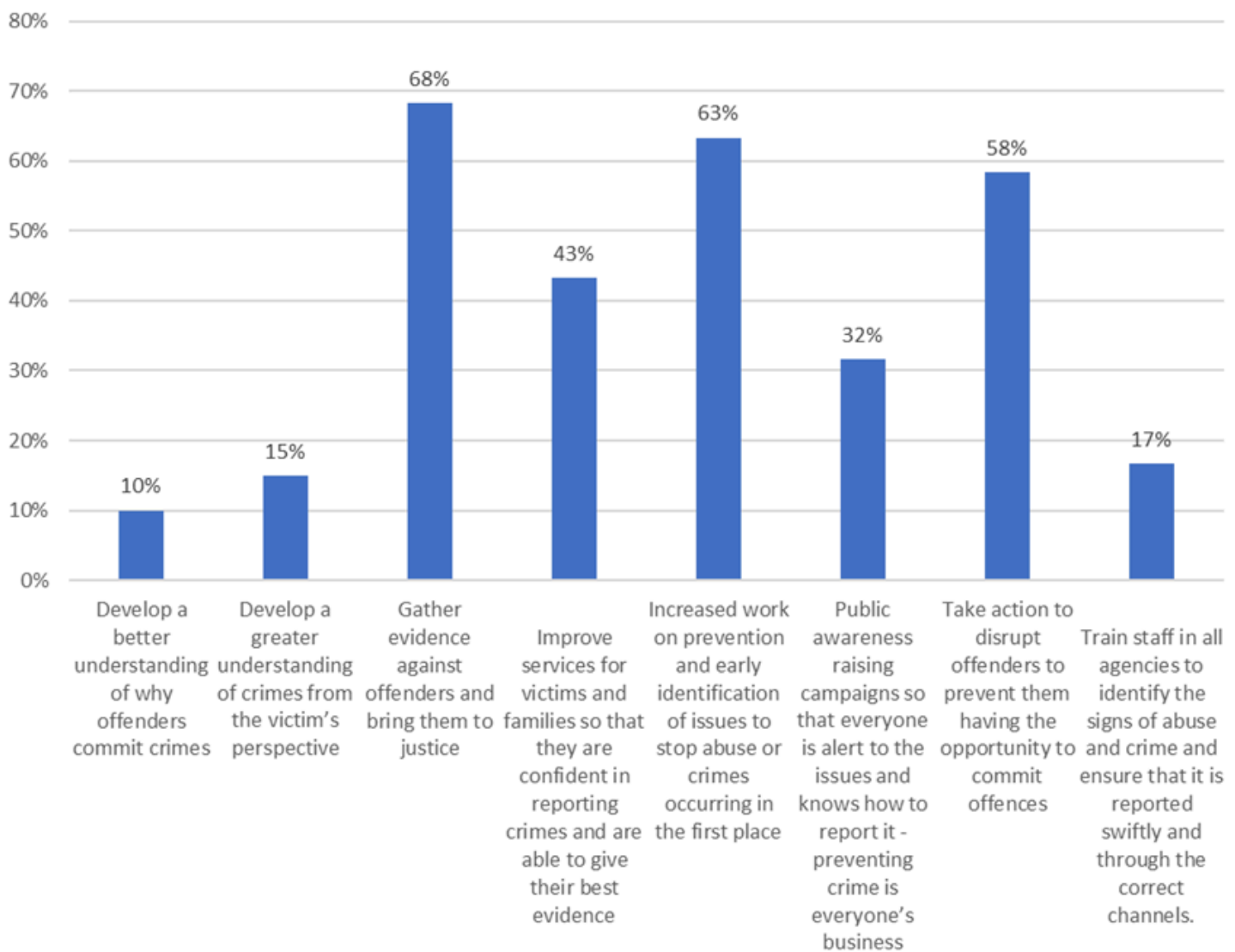
The top three most commonly selected responses were:

Gather evidence against offenders and bring them to justice.

Increased work on prevention and early identification of issues to stop abuse or crimes occurring in the first place.

Take action to disrupt offenders to prevent them having the opportunity to commit offences

How do you think partners can make the most difference by working together to address these concerns?
(% of people - up to 8 selected per person)

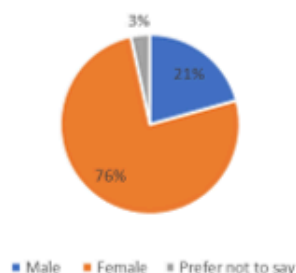


Gender analysis

29 respondents agreed to provide additional information.

- 76% of respondents were female
- 21% of respondents were male
- 3% of respondents selected prefer not to say

Gender - Online Survey
(% of 29 people)

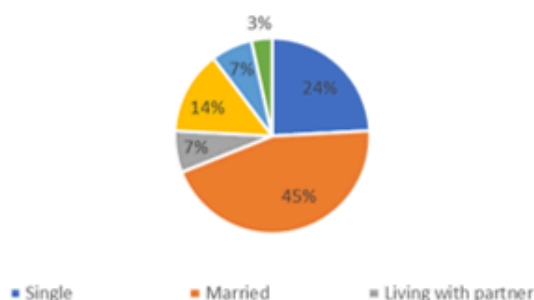


Current marital status analysis

29 respondents agreed to provide additional information.

- 45% of respondents married
- 24% of respondents widowed
- 14% of respondents divorced/separated

Current marital status
(% of 29 people)

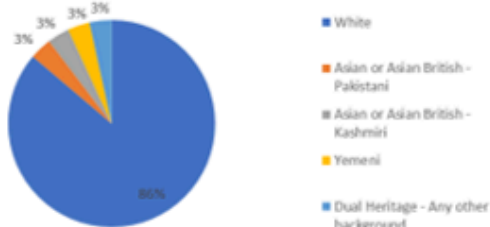


Ethnic background analysis

29 respondents agreed to provide additional information.

- 86% of respondents selected White
- 3% of respondents selected Asian or Asian British – Pakistani
- 3% of respondents selected Asian or Asian British – Kashmiri
- 3% of respondents selected Yemeni
- 3% of respondents selected Dual Heritage

Ethnic background
(% of 29 people)

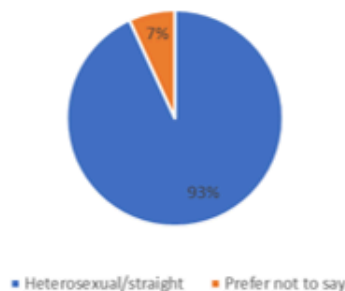


Sexual orientation analysis

29 respondents agreed to provide additional information.

- 93% of respondents were heterosexual/straight
- 7% of respondents selected prefer not to say

Sexual Orientation
(% of 29 people)

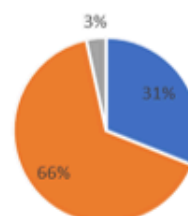


Disability or condition analysis

29 respondents agreed to provide additional information.

- 66% of respondents selected no
- 31% of respondents selected yes
- 3% of respondents selected prefer not to say

Disability or a condition which has lasted or expected to last for at least 12 months
(% of 29 people)

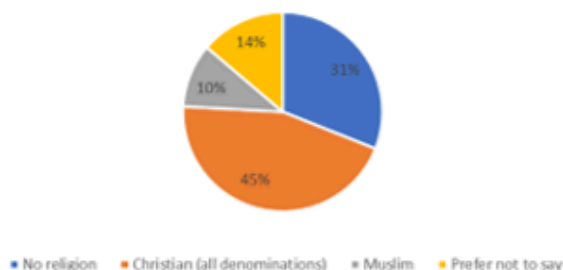


Religion analysis

29 respondents agreed to provide additional information.

- 45% of respondents selected Christian
- 31% of respondents selected No Religion
- 14% of respondents selected prefer not to say
- 10% of respondents selected Muslim

Religion
(% of 29 people)



Focus groups were held with representatives and members of voluntary and community sector groups and organisations, including “by and for” protected characteristic groups.

Crime and community safety concerns were spread across a wide range of issues, including drug misuse and drug related crime, online safety, child exploitation and county lines, anti-social behaviour, town centre safety, community cohesion and hate crime, domestic abuse, normalisation of violence in relationships, mental health, neglect driven by poverty, dangers of vaping in young people, fly tipping, and scam work visas affecting migrants.

The top three key issues raised were:

Drug use



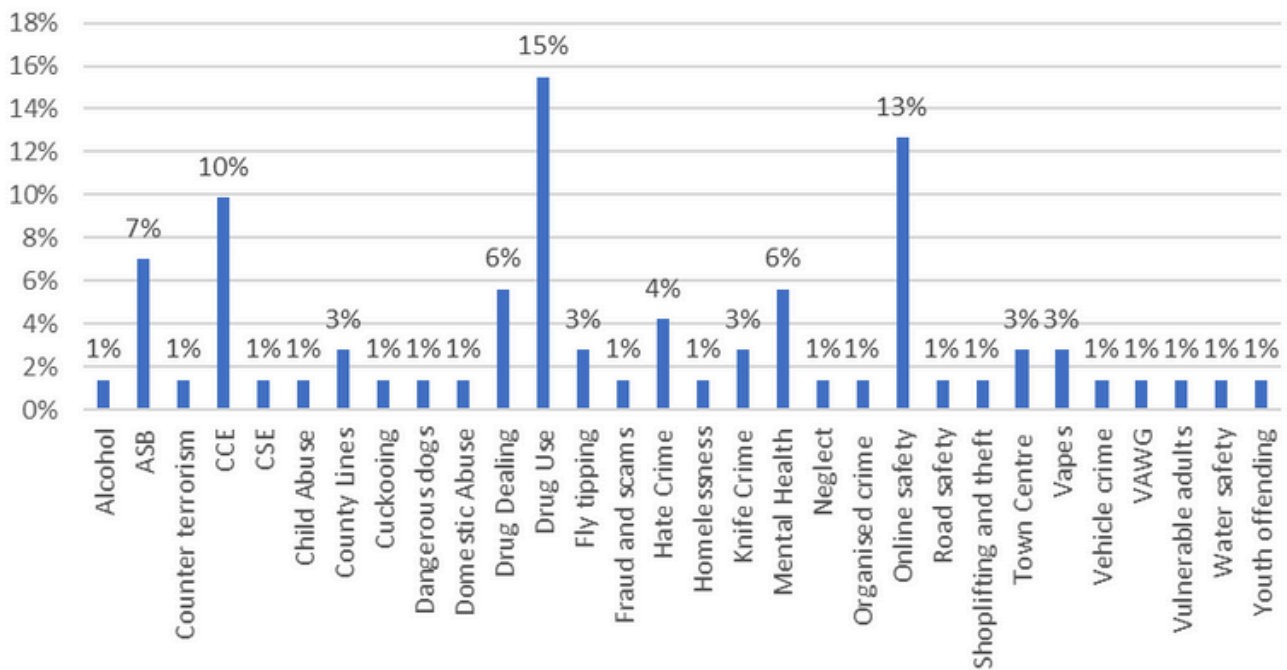
Online safety



Child Criminal Exploitation



Voluntary and community sector focus groups and events





Engagement at events was carried out through conversations at stalls whilst giving out community safety related information. These included Rotherham Show, Council Tenants Engagement Event, Crossroads Dementia Conference, GP Protected Learning Time Event, Youth Cabinet and IC Youth Group.

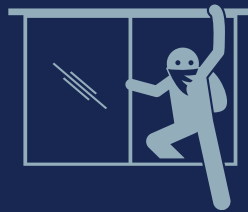
Again a wide range of issues were raised by members of the public including: anti-social behaviour, burglary, community cohesion and concerns about the recent violent protests, domestic abuse and older people, drug dealing/county lines, fly tipping, hate crime, knife crime, modern slavery, online safety, organised crime, road safety, scams/exploitation of vulnerable adults, town centre safety, risks of vaping to young people, vehicle crime and youth offending.

Some of the issues raised were:

Anti Social Behaviour



Burglary



Community Cohesion



Domestic Abuse



Drug dealing and County Lines



Fly tipping



Online safety



Road safety



Organised Crime



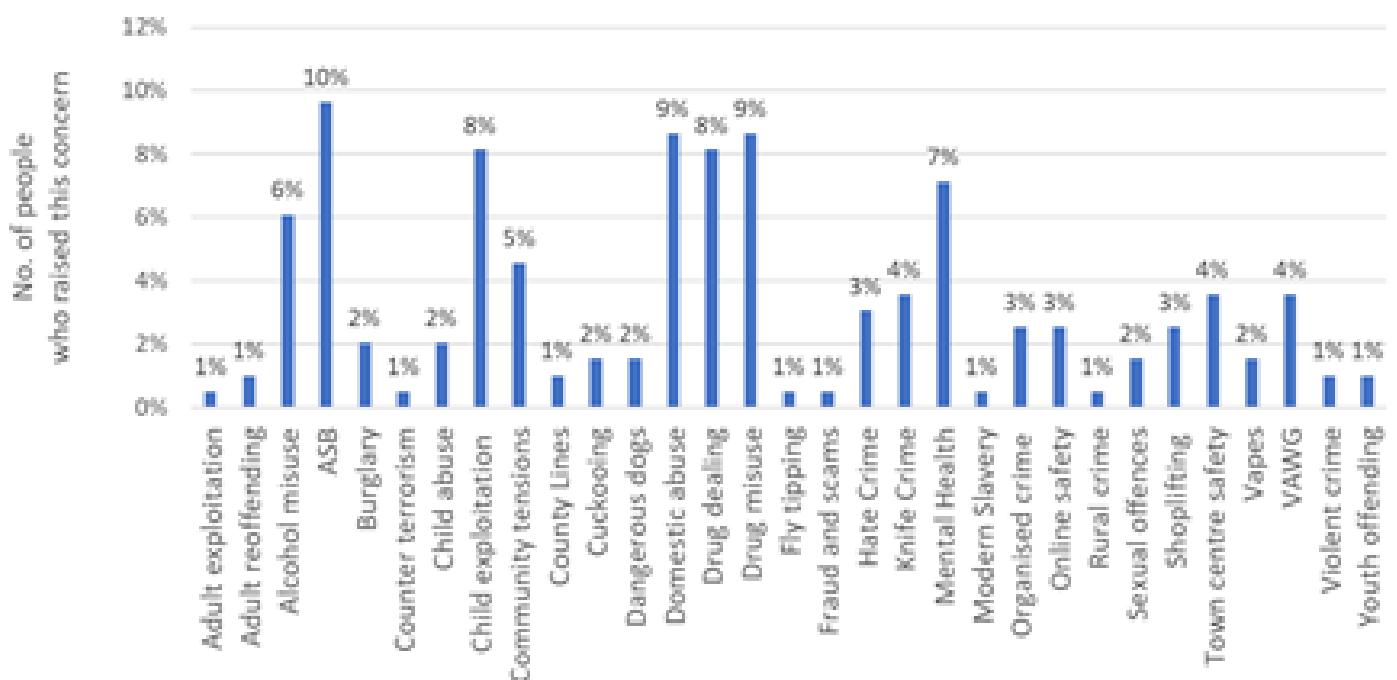
Consultation was carried out as part of interactive sessions during meetings, where meeting members were asked the question "What, in your view, are the top crime and community safety risks and threats for Rotherham?"

Written and verbal comments were collected and the number of participants who identified a specific issue was collated. The results showed that a wide a range of crime/community safety related issues were identified (illustrated in the chart below), however the most frequent issues identified were anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, substance misuse (drugs and alcohol), drug dealing, child exploitation, and mental health.

The most frequent issues raised were:



Outcomes of Strategic Partnership Board Consultations



Recommendations about key actions required included training and awareness raising across a range of issues, more resources and supporting police interventions, clear pathways into services, early intervention, improved links with the voluntary and community sector, partnership work including youths and funding.

The top three most commonly selected responses were:

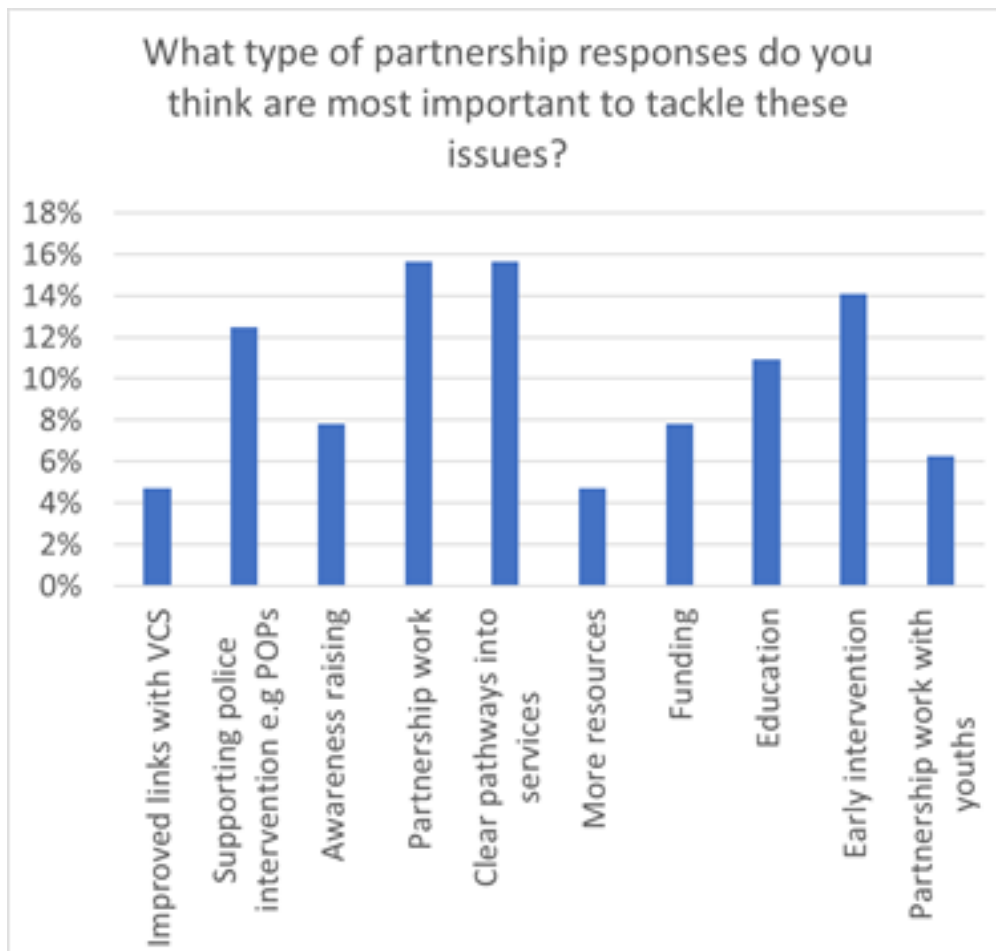
Partnership Work



Clear pathways into services



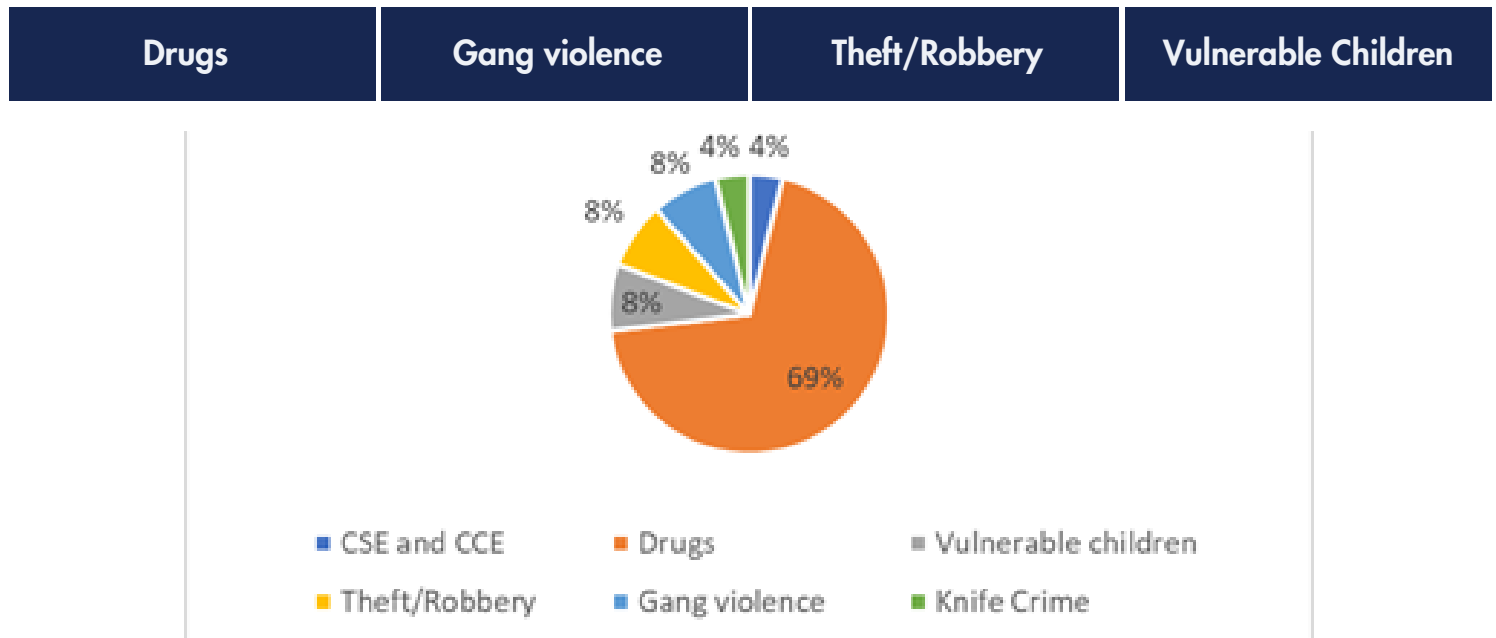
Early intervention



A survey was carried out with members of the public at various events by the Organised Crime Partnership Co-ordinator.

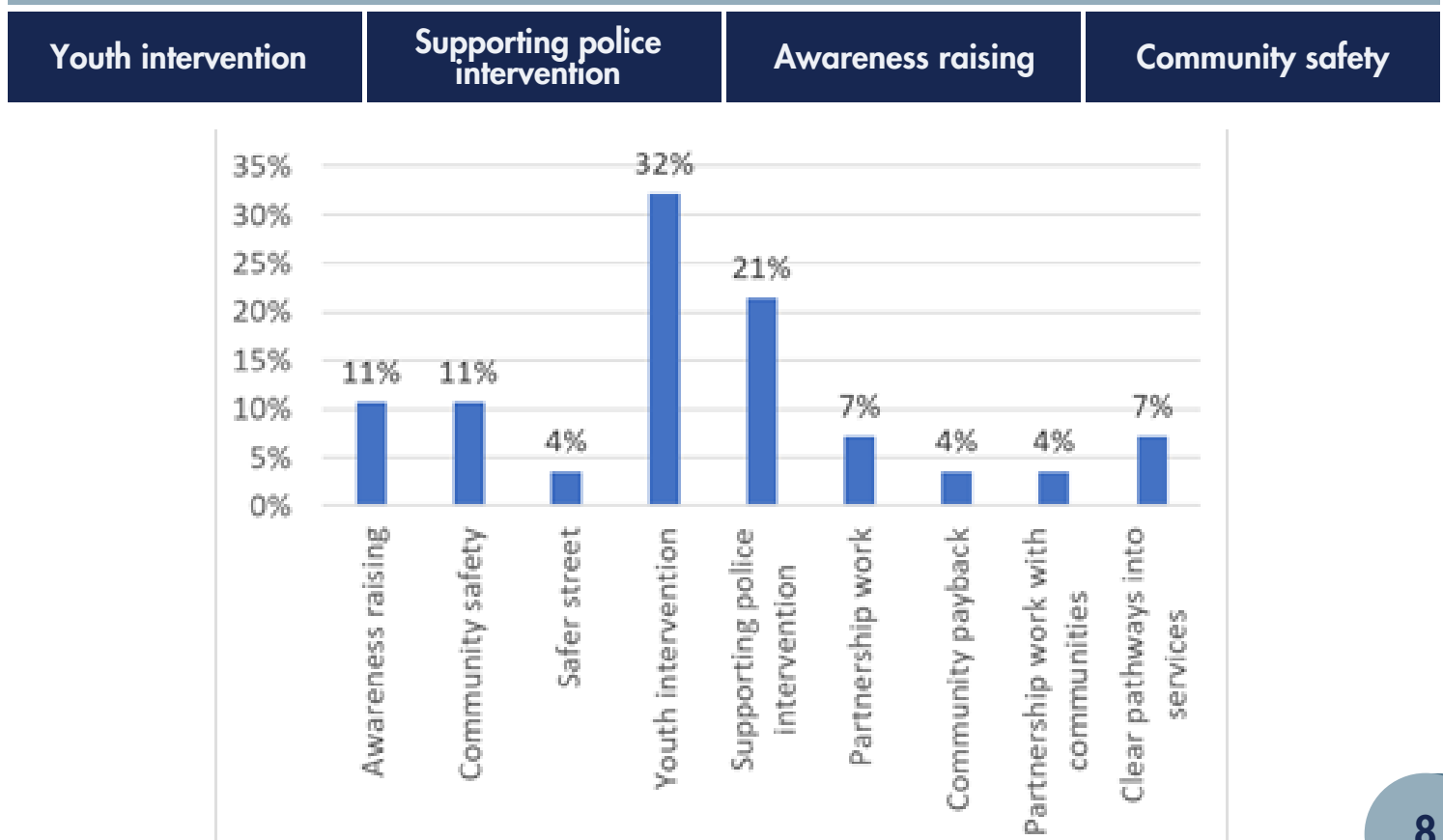
Respondents were asked 'What type of Organised Crime impacts you or your community?'

The most commonly selected responses were:



Respondents were asked 'How do you feel the Safer Rotherham Partnership could tackle organised crime together?'

The most commonly selected responses were:



The Council were developing several new plans and strategies during the same time period and extensive consultation and community engagement with a diverse range of community of place and community of interest groups has taken place.

Consultation for the SRP priorities has been linked with these consultations to gather general community safety related views from people in Rotherham.

Council Plan consultation - headlines identified two community safety priorities:

Anti Social Behaviour



Feeling Safer



Ward Plan priorities - the following community concerns featured in nearly all Ward plans and were overwhelmingly the main community safety issues identified:

Anti Social Behaviour



Road safety



Housing Strategy consultation – the consultation survey analysis identified anti-social behaviour as an issue for residents.

Anti Social Behaviour



Rural crime engagement carried out by the SYP Motorcycle and Rural Crime Team - the key concerns were fly tipping on farmland, along with Quads and bikes damaging fences and hedges to get onto land to ride, hunt for wild animals with dogs, or steal from isolated buildings and locations. Rotherham South was highlighted as the most affected area out from Maltby to Harthill.

Fly tipping



Quads/Off road bikes



South Yorkshire Community Foundation - Outcomes of Vital Signs research and consultation 2024

South Yorkshire Community Foundation have reported on the outcome of their "Vital signs" consultation conducted in 2024. Community Safety came out as the top concern of South Yorkshire residents (27.1% identified it as their top concern for action).

57.5% - Believe that too little is done to address the causes of crime in their local area.

35.9% - Have experienced harassment, discrimination, or other forms of antisocial behaviour.

31.6% - Don't feel safe in their local area, both in public and in their home.

45.7% - Think that the situation is OK, but could be improved.

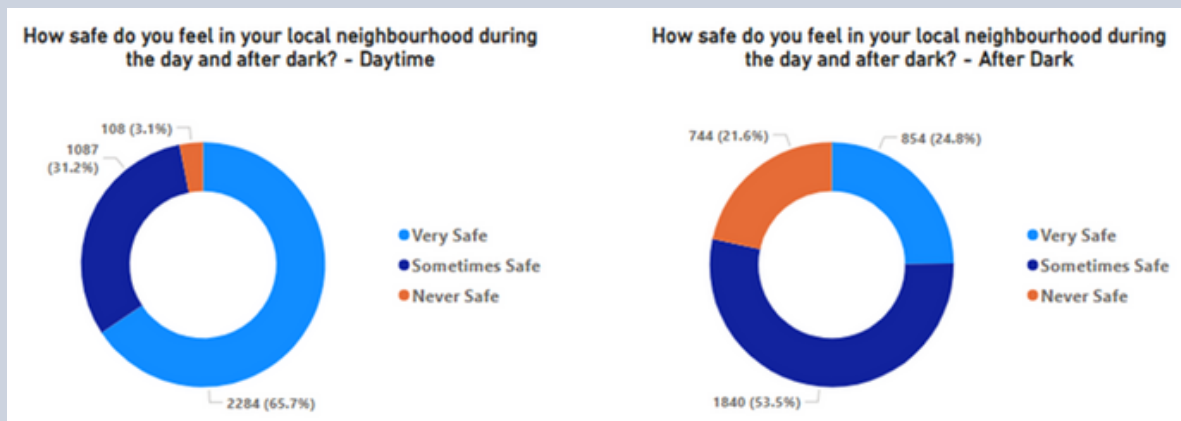
40.4% - Think that action should be taken immediately or as soon as possible.

Perceptions of safety in the community

- 2,284 students (65.7%) feel very safe during the daytime
- 1,087 (31.2%) feel safe sometimes
- 108 (3.1%) never feel safe during the daytime.
- 1,840 (53.5%) feel safe sometimes after dark
- 854 (24.8%) feel very safe after dark
- 744 (21.6%) never feel safe after dark

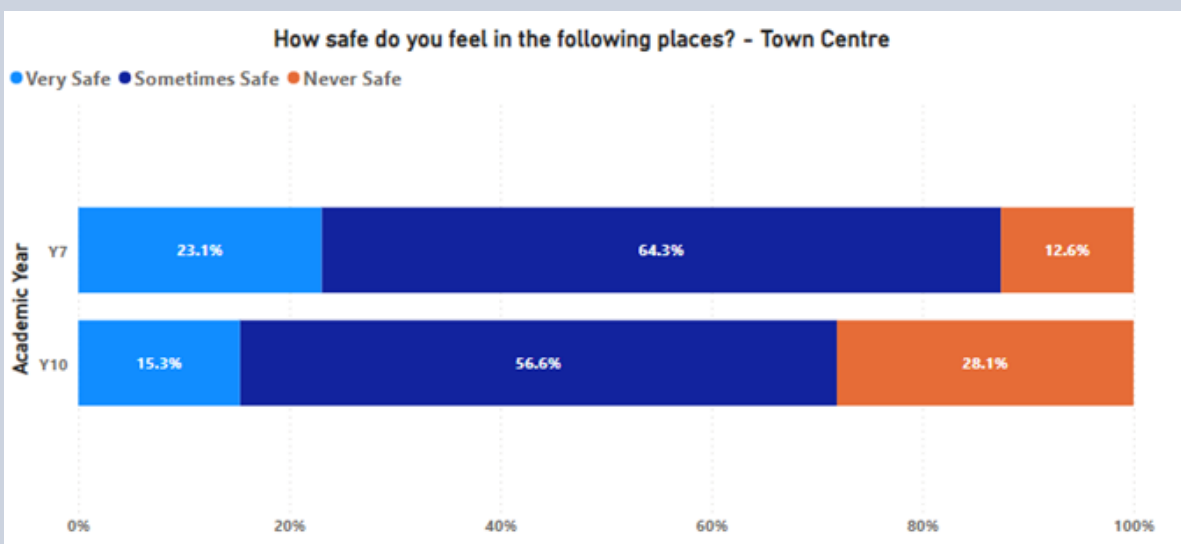
Year 7 students were more likely to report feeling very safe during the daytime (69%) and after dark (26.6%) than year 10 students (61.5% and 22.8% respectively).

There have been no significant changes in how safe students feel during the daytime or after dark since the current question was introduced in 2022.



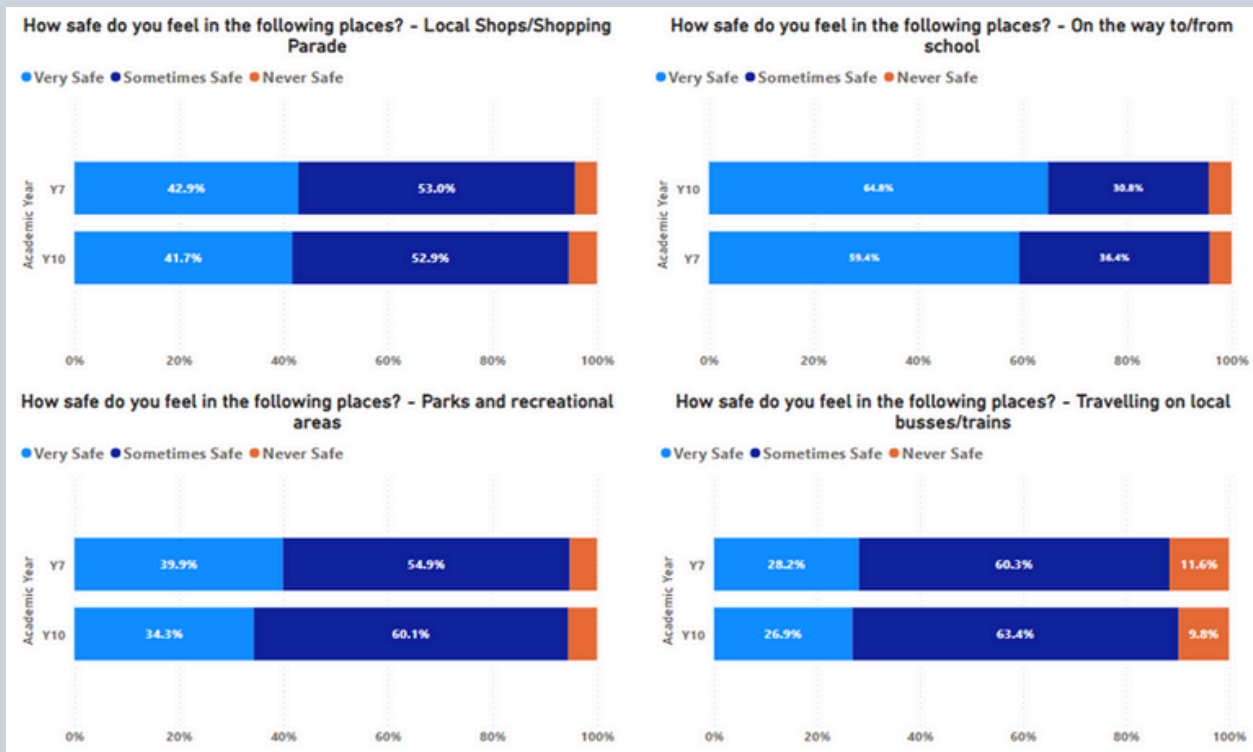
Students were asked how safe they feel in the town centre, local shops, parks and recreational areas, travelling on local buses/trains, and on the way to/from school.

- 52.3% of year 7 respondents, and 53.5% of year 10 respondents feel safe sometimes
- 20.9% of year 7 respondents and 14.5% of year 10 respondents feel very safe
- 11.4% of year 7 respondents and 26.6% of year 10 students never feel safe.

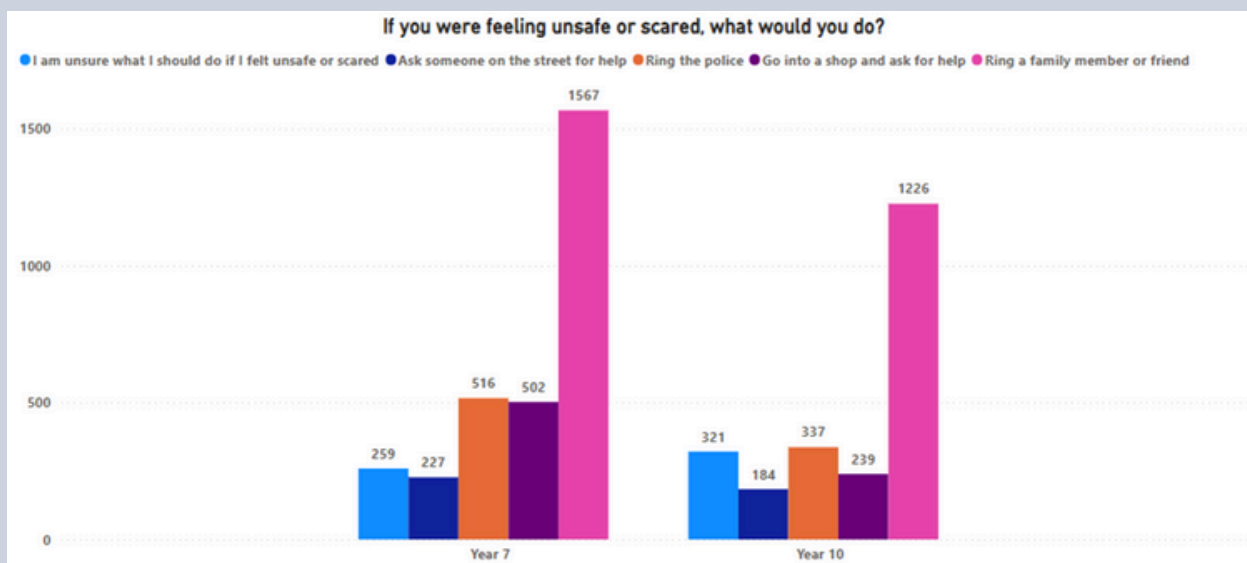


Perceptions of safety in the community

Students generally feel sometimes safe or very safe in all areas across town, however, they were more likely to experience feeling unsafe on local buses and trains. Please note, students should have been asked whether they 'worry about being hurt by someone with a knife', however, due to a system error the question was not provided to students and no data is available for this year.



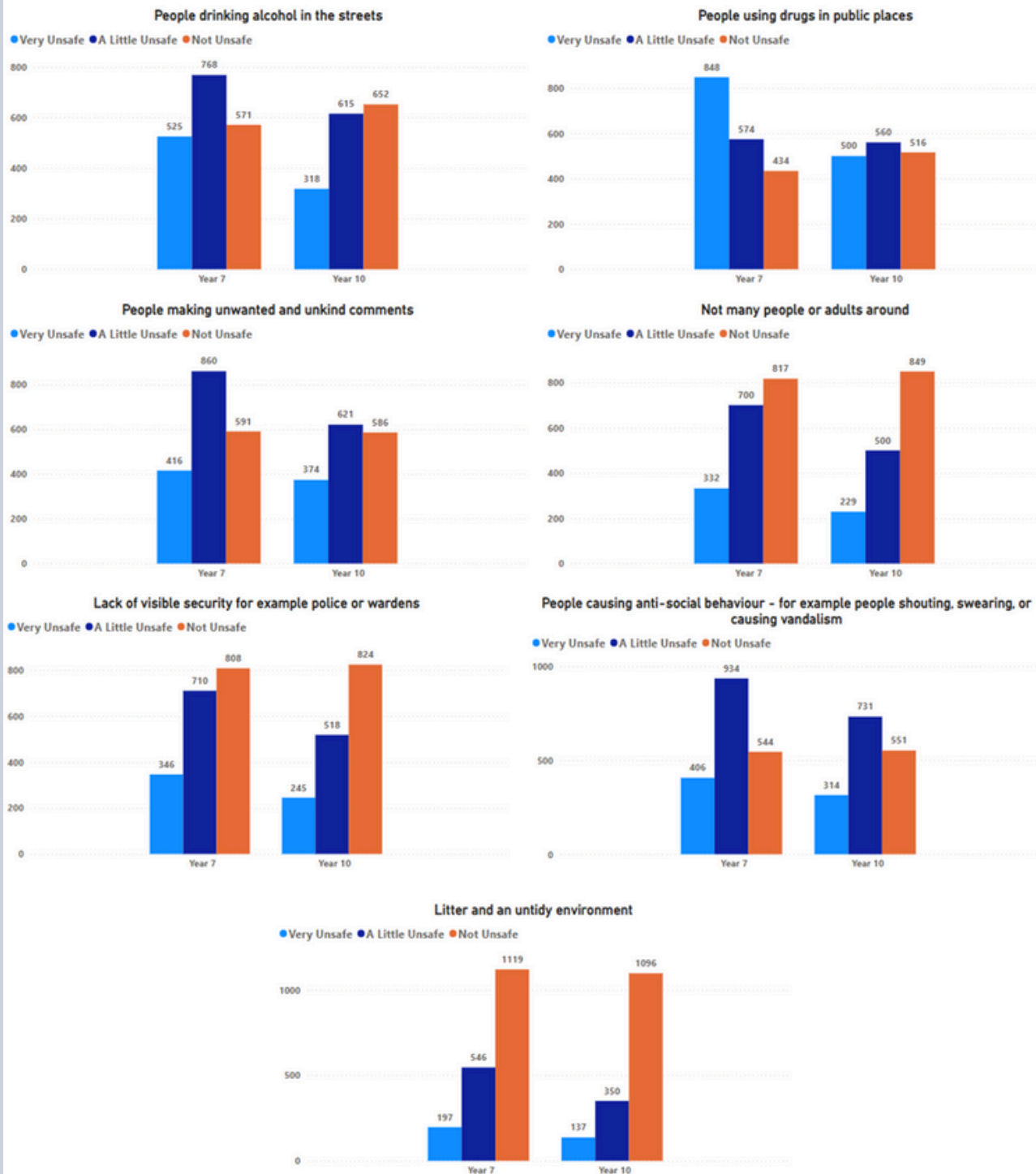
When students were asked what they would do if they felt unsafe, a large proportion would ring a family member or friend (45% year 7 students and 35% year 10 students).



Perceptions of safety in the community

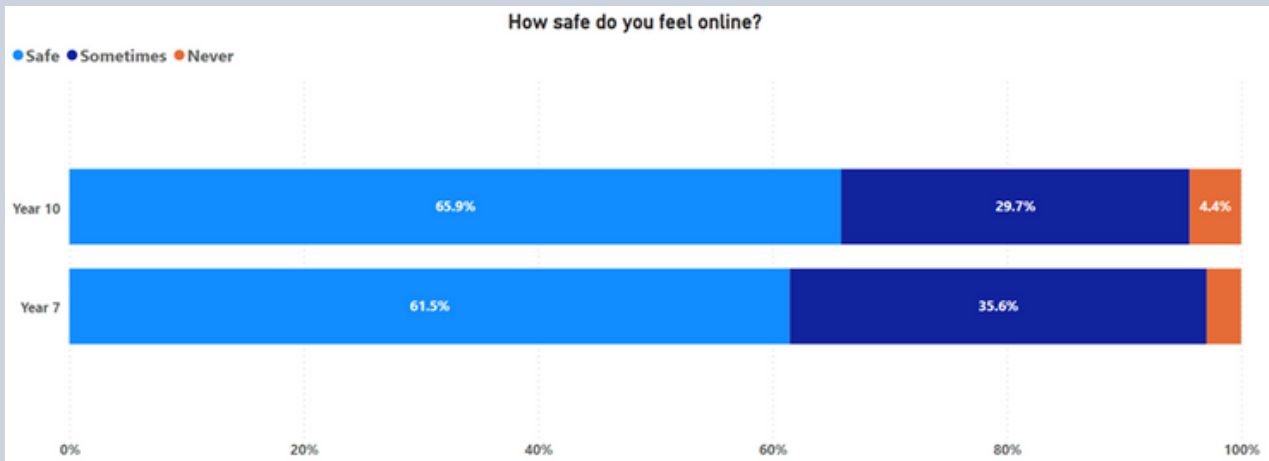
Students were asked what things made them feel unsafe when out and about and most reported feeling unsafe when people were using drugs in public places, drinking alcohol on the streets, or making unwanted and unkind comments.

Have any of the things below made you feel unsafe when you and about?

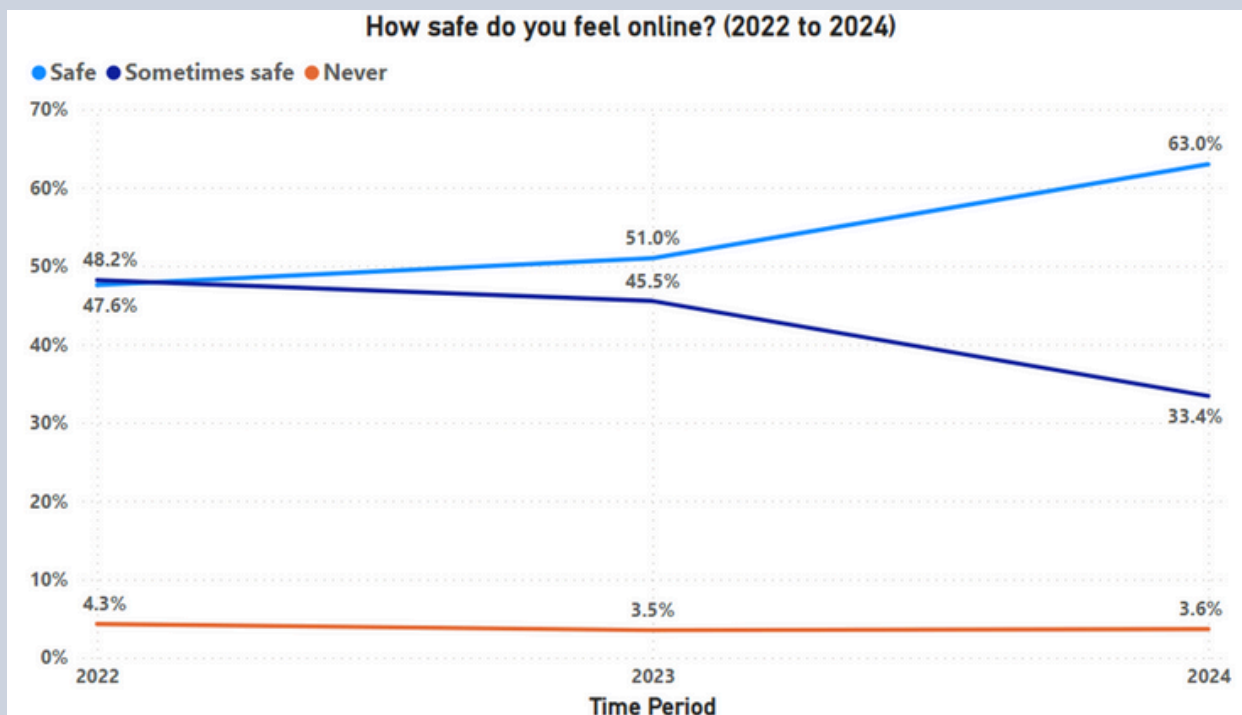


Perceptions of safety online

Students were asked how safe they feel online. Overall, 66.7% of respondents feel safe online, 35.4% feel 'sometimes safe', and 3.9% feel 'never safe'.

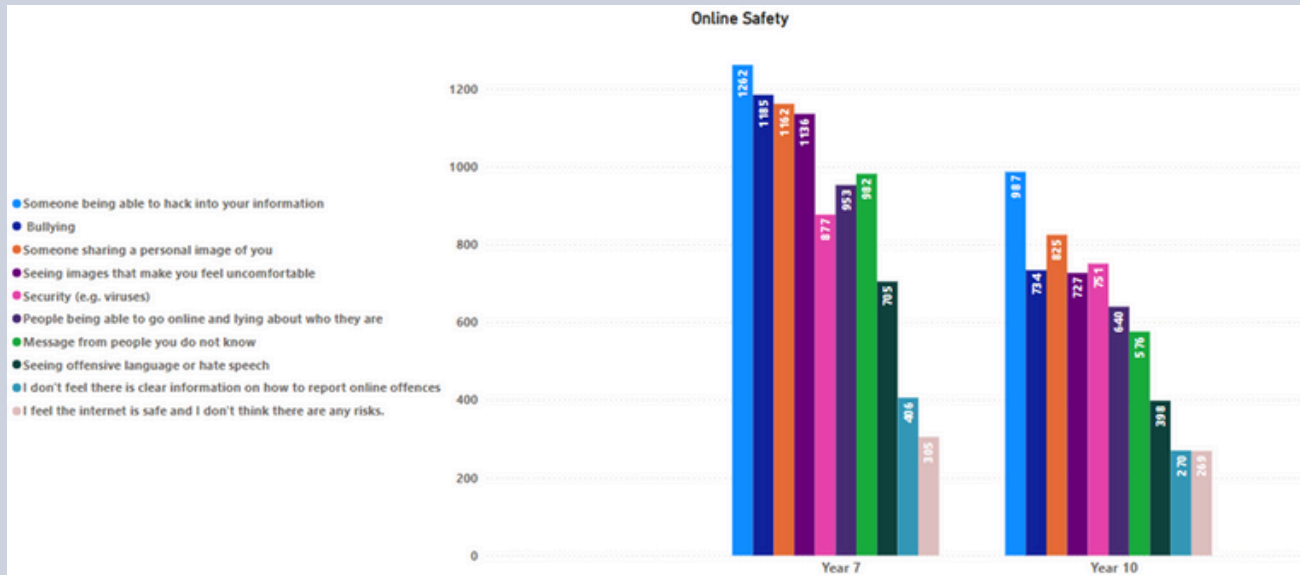


There has been a significant increase in the proportion of students reporting they feel safe online, from 47.6% in 2022 to 63% in 2024.



Perceptions of safety online

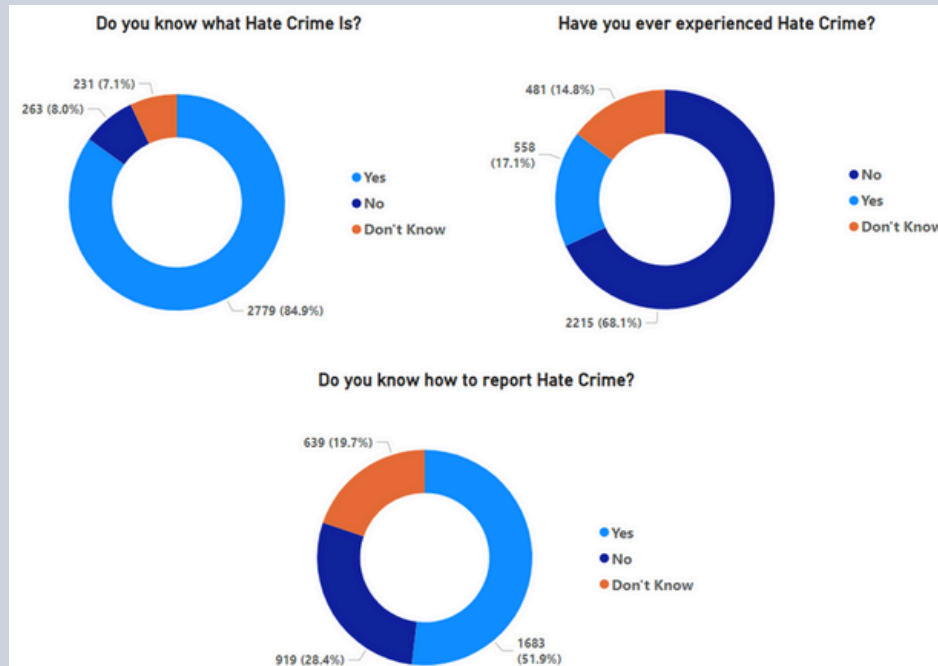
The main reason students reported feeling unsafe online was due to someone being able to hack information, followed by risk of someone sharing a personal image and cyber bullying. This was the same for both year 7 and year 10 respondents, and risk of hacking and cyber bullying remains the highest proportion as was in 2023, 2022 and 2019.



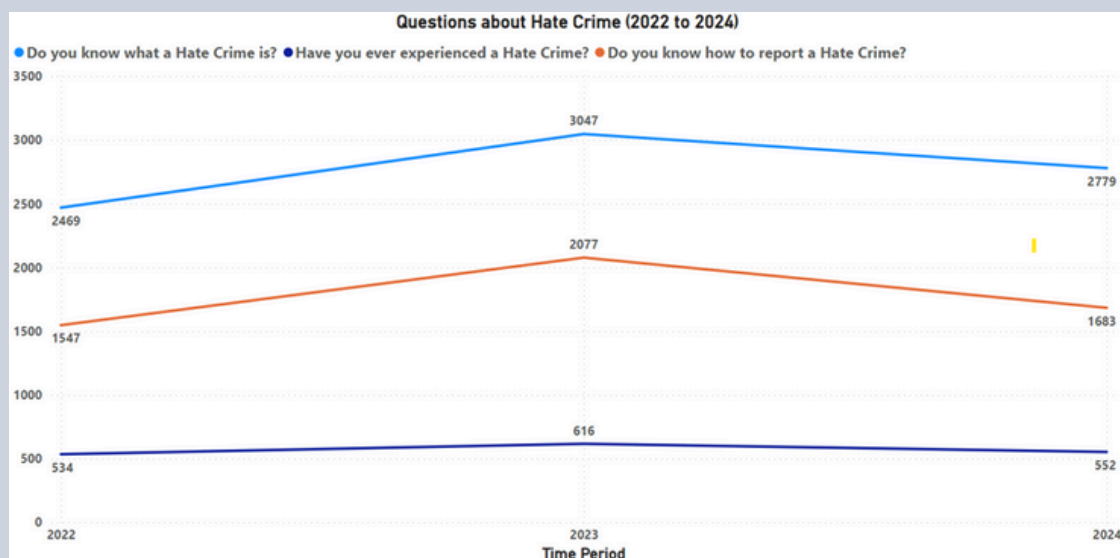
Hate crime

Students were asked about their knowledge of hate crime:

- 2,779 respondents (84.9%) know what hate crime is
- 494 (15.1%) do not know what hate crime is
- 552 respondents (17.7%) have experienced hate crime, compared with 16.6% in 2023.
- ,683 respondents (51.9%) know how to report hate crime, down from 56.3% in 2023.



Over the previous 3 years there was an 23.4% increase in the number of students aware of what a hate crime is in 2023, however, there was a 10.6% decrease to 2024. A similar trend has been seen with students experiencing hate crime (a 15.4% increase to 2023, and 11.6% decrease to 2024) and the number of students knowing how to report a hate crime (a 34.3% increase to 2023, and a 23.4% decrease to 2024).



Overall, the number of students who know what a hate crime is has increased by 12.4%, while students experiencing hate crime has increased by 0.2% and students knowing how to report a hate crime has increased by 8.8%

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title

Title: Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy 2025-28

Directorate:
Regeneration and Environment

Service area:
Community Safety

Lead person:
Carol Adamson/Helen Banerjee

Contact:
Helen Banerjee

Is this a:

☒ **Strategy / Policy**
☐ **Service / Function**
☐ **Other**

If other, please specify

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

The Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy sets out the vision and priorities of the partnership and shows how partners will work together to achieve the priorities.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

Appendix 3 - Community Safety Strategy 2025-2028

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>	x	
Could the proposal affect service users? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>	x	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? <i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i>	x	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? <i>(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)</i>		x
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>		x
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i>		x
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		

If you have answered **no** to **all** the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6**.

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4**.

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

Feeling safe is essential to wellbeing. Crime and the fear of crime can have a significant impact on individuals and whole communities. Crime affects physical and mental health in many ways and experiencing crime can have far reaching psychological consequences. The fear of crime can not only have psychological effects but can reduce health and wellbeing promoting behaviours such as social contact, getting out and about in the community for work or leisure and access to services.

The Safer Rotherham Partnership acknowledges that diverse communities may experience the impact of crime differently and their needs and expectations may also be different. Across England, both offenders and victims of crime are more likely to live in the most deprived areas.

- **Key findings**

When developing and agreeing the final priorities for 2025-28, the Safer Rotherham Partnership will consult widely to take into account the views, needs and expectations of stakeholders, including protected characteristic groups and representative organisations.

- **Actions**

A consultation plan has been developed.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	July 2024 – January 2025
--	--------------------------

Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	February 2025
--	---------------

Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Helen Banerjee Community Safety Officer
---	--

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Carol Adamson	Community Safety Service Manager	19/07/2024

Emma Ellis	Head of Service Community Safety and Regulatory Services	26/07/2024

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	19 July 2024
Report title and date	Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan 2025-28
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	16 May 2025

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

This form:

- Can be used to prompt discussions, ensure that due regard has been given and remove or minimise disadvantage for an individual or group with a protected characteristic
- Involves looking at what steps can be taken to advance and maximise equality as well as eliminate discrimination and negative consequences
- Should be completed before decisions are made, this will remove the need for remedial actions.

Note – An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) should be completed prior to this form.

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc. – see page 11 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy 2025-28	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 03/02/25	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	Service area: Community Safety
Lead Manager: Carol Adamson Emma Ellis	Contact number: 07919 302448 07823 641348
Is this a:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance		
Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Carol Adamson	RMBC	Community Safety Service Manager
Emma Ellis	RMBC	Head of Service, Community Safety and Regulatory Services
Helen Banerjee	RMBC	Community Safety Officer
Also reported to the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board		

3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance
<p>Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known) This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, others groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)</p> <p>The strategy sets out how the Safer Rotherham Partnership (which is the borough's Community Safety Partnership, set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998) will achieve the duties of the responsible authorities to work together to protect local communities and help people feel safer.</p> <p>The strategy impacts on every individual/community in the borough along with businesses, voluntary and community sector organisations, public bodies and partner agencies.</p> <p>The strategy demonstrates how strong strategic leadership, planning, performance management and problem solving will result in action plans which aim to deliver long term, sustainable solutions and improved outcomes for the people of Rotherham.</p>
<p>What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)</p> <p>The partnership analyst gathered data and information held on South Yorkshire Police systems against identified crime themes and Council/partner data leads also contributed data and information from relevant partner services. This information informed the production of the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment documents for the identified crime themes (JSIA).</p> <p>The Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment (JSIA) aims to provide the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) with a quantitative evidence base for current and emerging trends of crime and disorder within the Rotherham borough. The JSIA 2023/2024 will inform decisions of the SRP through strategic planning and identifies the medium to long-term threat, harm and risk issues, both apparent and emerging and considers current policing</p>

and partnership activities, but also provides a forecast of likely future developments and the capacity and capability to respond.

Consultation has taken place with communities of interest covering Equality Act protected characteristic groups and geographic communities of interest as well as with the general public and partner stakeholders. This has included stalls at Rotherham Show, Council Tenants Engagement Event, Crossroads Dementia Conference, GP Protected Learning Time Event and within colleges and holding separate focus groups with groups including Youth Cabinet and In Care Youth Group.

Equality information was also gathered as part of the online survey and the outcomes of consultation have been used to confirm the priorities and will inform subsequent action planning and performance measures.

Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?

No – in addition to the above, outcomes from other consultations taking place at the same time have been considered including the Council Plan, Ward Plans, Housing Strategy Consultation and Rural Crime Engagement.

There are also cross cutting themes for all priorities for Service User Voice and Equality and Inclusion which will include ongoing engagement and discussion with partners and communities to allow for emerging issues to be identified and information to be kept up to date.

What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?

Each priority within the SRP Strategy has a set of performance indicators that are monitored by strategic theme leads and partnership priority groups – where appropriate this data is disaggregated by protected characteristic.

Action Plans will be developed for each strategic priority and quarterly performance reports will be produced and reported to the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board. The Safer Rotherham Partnership Board will monitor and oversee progress, provide strategic level decision making and constructive challenge.

The commitments and objectives within each strategic priority area and the associated actions plans and performance measures will be reviewed annually and agreed with the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)

The public online survey was open from 4th September 2024 to 14th December 2024. The purpose of the survey was to:

- Confirm the proposed overarching priorities for 2025-28

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the types of partnership responses that are most important to stakeholders under each priority to inform action planning • Identify any important community safety issues not addressed by the proposed priorities <p>The survey was available on social media and was also circulated to partners and voluntary and community sector groups. Community Safety attended a number of events and completed the survey with people in person to engage to community and remove barriers. Alongside the online survey there was an invitation for groups or individuals to feed their views in other ways including focus groups and via e-mail. Detailed outcomes are available.</p> <p>A summary is below:</p> <p>The online survey identified that the most important issues were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-social behaviour • Burglary (residential) • Road safety • Violent crime • Alcohol and substance misuse <p>The most important actions the public wanted to see were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather evidence against offenders and bring them to justice. • Increased work on prevention and early identification of issues to stop abuse or crimes occurring in the first place. • Take action to disrupt offenders to prevent them having the opportunity to commit offences <p>Alongside online surveys for the general public and consultation with partner strategic leadership boards and employees, we also held a focus group event for Voluntary and Community Sector Groups on 5th November 2024. Attendees included representatives from YWCA Yorkshire, JADE Youth Group, Clifton Learning Partnership, the Rainbow Project, Shiloh and Rush House.</p> <p>Engagement at events was carried out through conversations at stalls whilst giving out community safety related information. These included Rotherham Show, Council Tenants Engagement Event,</p>
--	--

	<p>Crossroads Dementia Conference, GP Protected Learning Time Event, Youth Cabinet and IC Youth Group.</p> <p>In relation to geographic communities, the outcome of Ward Plan consultations which took place in summer 2024 were analysed. Common themes related to community safety included in ward priorities were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-social behaviour • Road safety <p>The consultation was also presented to the Parish Council Network meeting and the online survey promoted.</p>
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	<p>Staff from partner organisations provided data and information for the SYP Partnership Analyst from June to September 2024 and were also invited to complete the online consultation survey as above.</p> <p>Strategic leaders from across the partnership were consulted via meetings from September 2024 to December 2024. These partners included Cabinet Members, Elected Members and members of the following boards/groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotherham Together Partnership • Strategic Housing Forum • Safeguarding Adults Board • Health and Wellbeing Board • Cultural Partnership Board • Safeguarding Children Partnership • Business Growth Board • Safer Rotherham Partnership priority groups <p>Recommendations about key actions required included training and awareness raising across a range of issues, more resources and supporting police interventions, clear pathways into services, early intervention, improved links with the voluntary and community sector, partnership work including youths and funding.</p> <p>Regular reports and approvals were sought from the SRP Board at each stage of the SRP Strategy and priority development from September 2024 to February 2025. Provisional SRP Board Priorities and Structures 2025/28 were presented to the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board in December 2024 and approved.</p>

4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)

How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

The Safer Rotherham Partnership plan meets the needs of different communities and groups by driving action to achieve its key priorities which are fully inclusive of the above protected characteristic groups. The key priorities are:

- Safer Neighbourhoods
- Tackling Violence, Abuse and Exploitation
- Preventing offending – Building resilience

The priorities will directly address needs of different groups and communities in the following ways:

- Safer Neighbourhoods
 - Hate Crime – Focusing on the use of education and engagement to prevent hate crime by tackling the drivers of hate.
 - Problem solving in neighbourhoods – exploring innovative ways to educate partners and the public around online safety and digital technologies, particularly amongst groups with additional vulnerabilities which increase their risk to online crime
 - Anti-social behaviour – addressing perceptions of ASB and promoting community cohesion
- Tackling Violence, Abuse and Exploitation
 - Violence Against Women and Girls – reducing male violence against women and girls focusing on engagement and awareness to improve feelings of safety for women and girls and promote equality
 - Serious Violence - Increasing community awareness and engagement to prevent organised and violent crime through education and outreach and promote cohesion and unity in communities
- Preventing offending – Building resilience
 - Preventing radicalisation – Reducing the risk of terrorism through a partnership approach aimed at combatting discrimination and prejudice and encouraging understanding and acceptance among diverse groups.

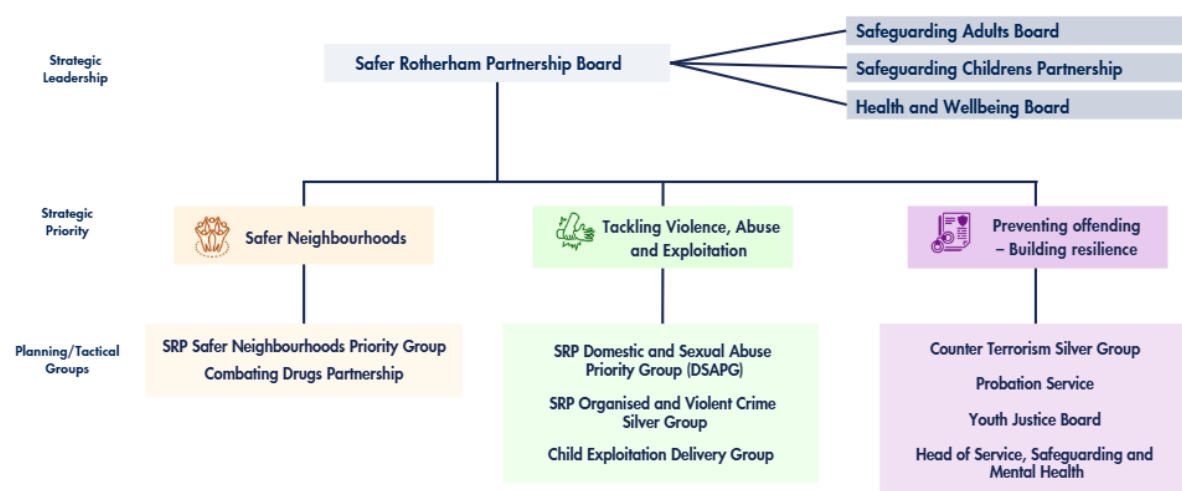
There are also cross cutting themes which will be embedded into each priority:

- Online Crime - Plans and actions for each priority area will take into account how online crime impacts on each crime/priority.

Appendix 4 - Community Safety Strategy 2025-2028

- Service User Voice - The voice of service users, including protected characteristic groups, will inform priority setting, action planning and performance management.
- Equality - Access and the impact of actions and services on communities including protected characteristic groups will be monitored.

Each of the priorities is monitored, reviewed and evaluated in their respective planning/tactical groups and there are individual action plans produced. Performance measures are agreed and reviewed annually and updates are provided to the safer Rotherham Partnership Board quarterly.



Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups?

No specific issues have been identified. By addressing the crime and community safety concerns affecting Rotherham's diverse populations, this policy aims to foster equality and strengthen community relations. Through consultations with key stakeholders, including partners, Voluntary and Community Sector Groups, and residents, the policy is designed to enhance community cohesion. Equality is a central theme throughout the strategy, ensuring that no barriers exist for any communities or groups.

Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?

The SRP Strategy identifies and puts in place actions to protect the most vulnerable people and communities within the Borough. Action plans for each priority will also focus on the cross cutting themes of Service User Voice and Equality and Inclusion and include actions and performance measures to ensure communities are engaged and included. In developing action plans to achieve objectives, barriers identified through the JSIA documents and consultation will be addressed, for example in relation to access to services, access to the criminal justice system and prevention and early intervention support.

What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)

A key priority of the SRP Strategy is Safer Neighbourhoods, which includes problem-solving in local areas and addressing hate crime. Online crime, service user voice, and equality are integral themes across all priority areas.

The SRP Strategy and its associated action plans aim to tackle the underlying attitudes that foster hate, prejudice, and division within communities. By taking early action to prevent community tensions, the plan seeks to build resilience within communities and among young people, countering harmful influences, especially online hate and extremism.

Please list any **actions and targets** that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment on the action plan below and ensure that they are added into your service plan for monitoring purposes – see page 12 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

If the analysis is done at the right time, i.e. early before decisions are made, changes should be built in before the policy or change is signed off. This will remove the need for remedial actions. Where this is achieved, the only action required will be to monitor the impact of the policy/service/change on communities or groups according to their protected characteristic - See page 11 of the Equality Screening and Analysis guidance

Title of analysis: Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy 2025-28
Directorate and service area: Regeneration and Environment, Community Safety and Street Scene
Lead Manager: Emma Ellis
Summary of findings:
<p>The Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy 2025-28 sets out how the Rotherham community safety partnership will work together to protect vulnerable people, help people feel safer and build safer and stronger communities.</p> <p>The strategy impacts on every individual/community in the borough along with businesses, voluntary and community sector organisations, public bodies and partner agencies and acknowledges that communities and individuals have different needs and vulnerabilities.</p> <p>The strategy demonstrates how strong strategic leadership, planning, performance management and problem solving will result in action plans which aim to deliver long term, sustainable solutions and improved outcomes for the people of Rotherham.</p>

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
---------------	---	---------------------

Performance information will be monitored on a quarterly basis to ensure actions achieve their intended impacts on communities/protected characteristic groups. Annual reviews of crime data and assessments of changing and emerging risks will be carried out.	All groups as below	Quarterly from 30 June 2025 to 31 March 2028
--	---------------------	--

***A = Age, D= Disability, S = Sex, GR Gender Reassignment, RE= Race/ Ethnicity, RoB= Religion or Belief, SO= Sexual Orientation, PM= Pregnancy/Maternity, CPM = Civil Partnership or Marriage. C= Carers, O= other groups**

6. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.		
Name	Job title	Date
Councillor Alam	SRP Board Chair and Cabinet Member for Finance & Community Safety	
Andrew Bramidge	Director, Regeneration and Environment	

7. Publishing	
The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.	
If this Equality Analysis relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.	
A copy should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date Equality Analysis completed	03/02/25
Report title and date	Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy 2025-28
Date report sent for publication	

Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	16.05.2025
---	------------

This page is intentionally left blank

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	None				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	None				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				

Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:

None

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change?

No

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

Previous achievements highlighted within the Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy have had a positive impact:

- WalkSafe has promoted active travel by addressing women's and girls' safety.
- Safer Streets funding has resolved a tension between perceived community safety and the amenity value of urban trees (sequestering carbon, intercepting rainfall, mitigating the urban heat island effect) in Clifton Park: if the same approach can be applied to protect or restore urban tree canopy cover elsewhere in Rotherham, then there may be far reaching benefits for climate adaptation.

Future projects may provide continuing environmental benefits from the partnership's activity, along the same lines.

Supporting information:

Climate Impact Assessment Author

Helen Banerjee
Community Safety Officer
Community Safety
Regeneration and Environment

Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.

If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.

Validation

Tracking Reference: CIA 488

Arthur King
Principal Climate Change Officer

<h1>BRIEFING</h1>	TO:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
	DATE:	9 th September 2025
	LEAD OFFICER:	Fiona Fletcher Pathways to Work Service Manager R&E Mobile: 07345 466197 Telephone: 01709 823934 Ext: 23934
	TITLE:	Progress update on the implementation of the Pathways to Work Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programme
1. Background		
1.1	Pathways to Work is a UK government initiative focused on supporting individuals with disabilities, health conditions, or other barriers to employment to find and maintain work. It aims to reform the benefits system and provide tailored support to help people move from welfare into employment. This includes early intervention, personalised support and addressing barriers to work.	
1.2	The Pathways to Work programme key objectives are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce long-term economic inactivity • Reform the benefits system • Provide tailored support • Increase employment rates 	
1.3	The Pathways to Work Economic Inactivity Trailblazer (EIT) is part of the wider Pathways to Work programme offer and is a government-funded initiative piloted in nine regions across England to test and learn new approaches to reducing economic inactivity. This initiative involves a coordinated network of local employment, skills, and health services to provide personalized support for economically inactive people, particularly those with long-term health conditions, caring responsibilities, or other barriers to employment. The goal is to create a cohesive system that helps individuals find, stay in, or return to work, ultimately aiming to improve employment outcomes and boost the economy.	
1.4	The Pathways to Work EIT is managed in South Yorkshire by the Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA). Funding is passed on to each of the local authorities, who have responsibility for delivery of the programme within their area.	
1.5	Funding is currently agreed for the 2025/26 year, with formal confirmation of onward funding for 2026/27 imminent. For the current year Rotherham has a target of moving 400 economically inactive residents into employment by the 31 st March 2026. This will be through a process including:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement – through Voluntary Community Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) organisations delivering hyper local activity in areas, and to groups, with the highest economic inactivity rates. • Personalised support – support to individuals, focussed on helping them overcome the barriers they face to securing and retaining employment. This includes delivery through the Council's dedicated Pathways to Work Employment Advisor team, working alongside Employment Solutions, and through the VCFSE • Employer Engagement – Work with local businesses to identify vacancies suitable for programme beneficiaries, identifying requirements for these posts and providing tailored training to support successful move into work through the EIT, as well as assessment of onward support that may be required once the new employee is in post, to ensure they sustain and maintain employment.
1.6	<p>The Pathways to Work commission report provided the evidence base for establishing South Yorkshire as an NHS England Health & Growth Accelerator (HGA) area, which funds tailored support to integrate health, skills and employment services. The HGA builds on the commission's recommendations for a radical, joined up approach to tackling economic inactivity by integrating support for people with health issues.</p> <p>The South Yorkshire HGA has identified 3 key priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in work: Supporting people in work with repeated or longer-term absences at risk of falling out of work due to MSK, Chronic Pain, depression or anxiety • Young People: Supporting 16-24 year olds struggling to remain in work or education or enter the workplace due to experiencing depression and anxiety • Occupational Health: Working jointly with employers to provide enhanced occupational health and wellbeing support
1.7	<p>Regionally, the ambitions of the Pathways to Work initiative is further supported by the introduction of Connect to Work, a UK Government funded voluntary employment support programme, designed to help people with disabilities, significant long term health conditions, and others with relative complex barriers to find and maintain employment. It focuses on individuals who are often outside the workforce or facing significant labour market disadvantages. A core element of the programme is its focus on integrating employment and health systems to support people with significant health conditions to move into sustained employment.</p>
1.8	<p>Connect to Work utilises evidence based 'place, train and maintain' models of supported employment, which includes Individual Placement and Support (IPS) and Local Supported Employment (LSA) options.</p>
2. Key Issues	
2.1	<p>Progress to date on the Pathways to Work EIT Programme includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathways to Work Service Manager started in post on 4th August 2025 • Contracts to deliver engagement activity have been awarded to 9 local VCSE organisations. • Dedicated Pathways to Work Employment Support team have been recruited, with the new team of 12 focusing solely on assisting economically inactive residents in to work. • Commissioning of Personalised Support through locally based VCFSE organisations is underway with awards pending. This will ensure the widest geographical reach and provide targeted bespoke support, through the most appropriate organisation for the individual.

- A reprofile of spend and outputs is being agreed with SYMCA – financial and activity outputs/outcomes remain consistent, but more backloaded to take account of slower than expected start to activity, which arose as a result of funding agreements with SYMCA not being in place until April. This impacted on our ability to commit expenditure until after this date.
- Following agreement of restructuring proposals in the Economic Development service within Regeneration and Environment, recruitment to key posts within the Pathways to Work will now be initiated.

3. Key Actions and Timelines

3.1	Monthly highlight/progress reports are submitted to SYMCA.
3.2	Planning for Year 2 is now underway, identifying priority test and learn criteria which reflects progress made in Year 1 and onward programme development.
3.3	VCFSSE organisations already delivering against Engagement Sub Grant Agreements, with Personalised Support expected to commence within communities from September 2025.
3.4	Triage service established with single point of contact via email or dedicated phone line, currently covered by existing RIDO teams, recruitment to Triage Officers post is pending the outcome of the role grading process
3.5	Internal cross service collaboration to ensure Pathways to Work addresses employment challenges for all residents – Early Help, Housing, Employment Solutions, Adult Social Care – audit of current provision and gap analysis.
3.6	Targeted provision planned for young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) to support young people to move into positive destinations, including into work/apprenticeships and employment related learning.
3.7	Connect to Work launch in September will see enhanced provision for residents experiencing barriers to work relating to disability and longer-term health issues.
3.8	Plan for increased levels of employer engagement and activation underway, working alongside local cornerstone employers, key networks and Chamber of Commerce.
3.9	Partnership working with Health Growth Accelerator leads to ensure mutual programme enhancement and seamless referral routes.
3.10	Continuation of Pathways to Work funding has been announced, with confirmation of this received from SYMCA, awaiting formal written notification. Delivery plan in development for submission early September.
3.11	Confirmation is needed on future funding of the programme. This needs to be a priority to avoid any impact on Council staffing of the project and the activity that has been commissioned to the local VCFSE.

4. Recommendations

4.1	That progress on the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer and wider Pathways to Work programme, is reported to the Board on an annual basis.
-----	---

This page is intentionally left blank



Pathways to Work

OSMB – September 2025

“To accelerate a more locally led and joined-up approach to tackling economic inactivity”

Pathways to Work – a drive for system change

Pathways to Work will bring new and existing employment support services together to make services easier for residents to access and navigate.

It will introduce a new front door and triage function to ensure residents access the most appropriate service to meet their needs and maximise opportunity for success.

Get Britain Working White Paper –
November 2024

Reform employment & health support, working
with local authorities & employers to tackle
economic inactivity and boost employment
rates

Pathways to Work Commission

Economic Inactivity Trail Blazer

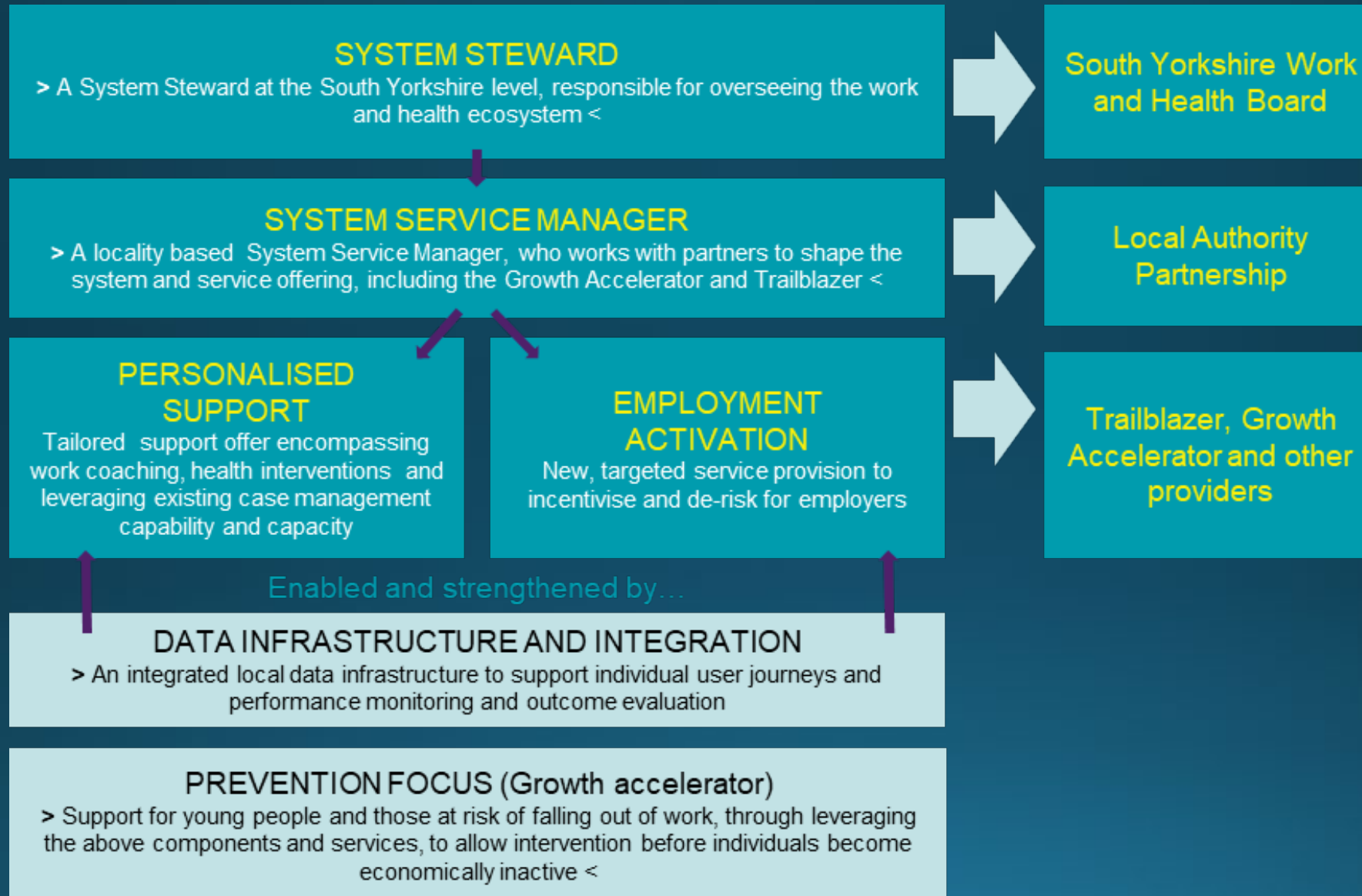
Government funded initiative
piloted in nine regions across
England to test and learn new
approaches to reducing
economic inactivity

Connect to Work

Government funded
voluntary employment
programme that supports
disabled people, those with
health conditions, and
individuals with complex
barriers find and maintain
employment

Health & Growth Accelerator

Government funded initiative
supporting people in work, and
young people with health
conditions to stay in, return to or
get into work through health & well
being interventions, as well as
support for employers to provide
enhanced occupational health
support



Understanding the challenge – key data



Unemployment rate –
3.3%



Claimant count – 4.3%



Economic inactivity –
28.7%



- A third of Rotherham residents are not in employment
- Around 45,800 residents are Economically Inactive – Hidden unemployment
- 15,000 residents are facing barriers to employment relating to long term sickness

Develop community engagement and
provision awareness

RMBC
Pathways
Management

RMBC
P2W Provision –
Employment Solutions
Team



VCS Community
Provision

Youth Services

Health, Housing
and Support
Services

Probation and
Criminal
Rehabilitation

RMBC
Internal wider
services

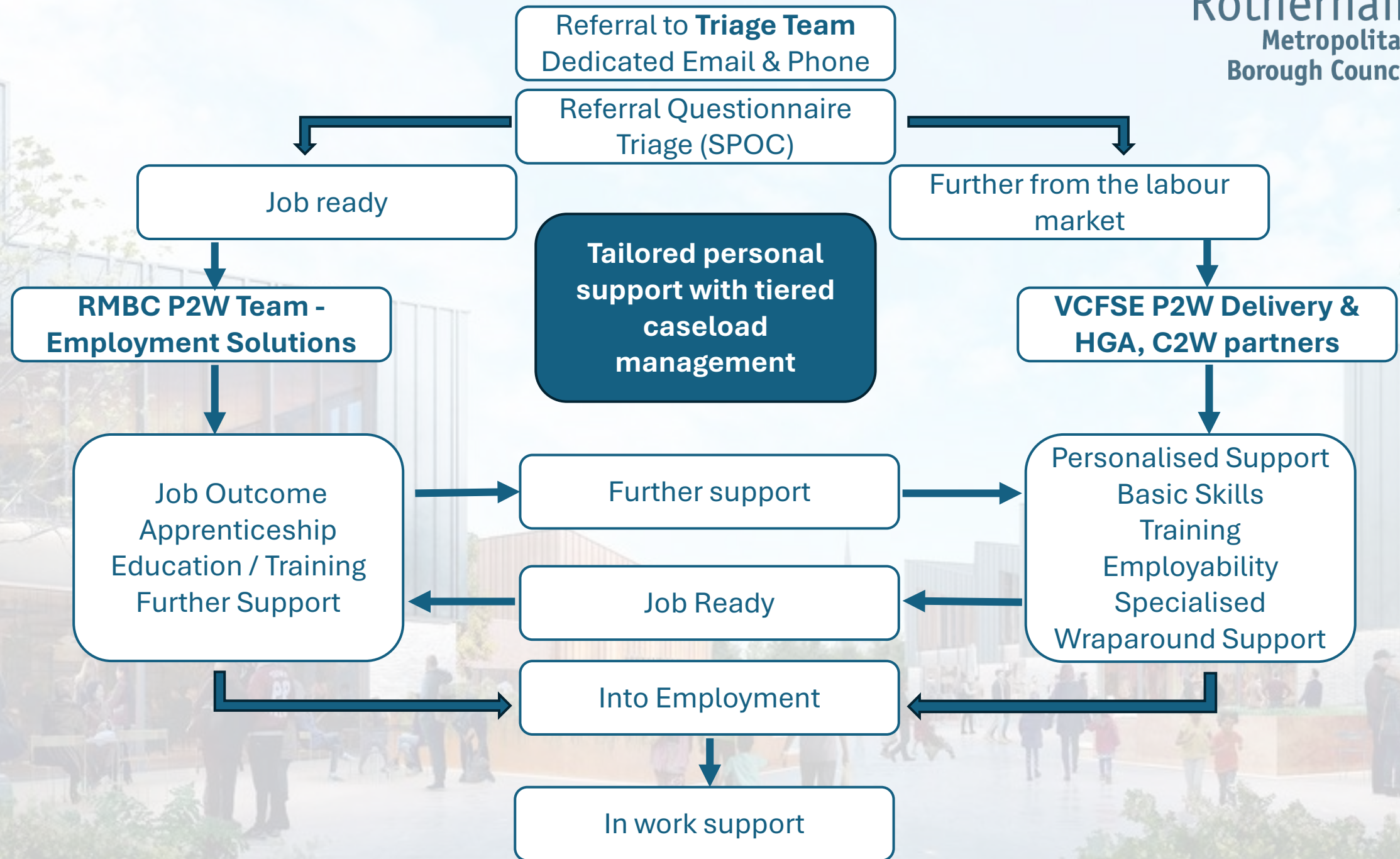
Community
Spaces

Voluntary Sector

Local Employers

RMBC Advertising
Opportunities

Independent
Training Providers
& Local Colleges



Employer Activation – Essential partnerships

Incentivising and de-risking inclusive recruitment

Sector Routeway, employer led, tailored provision

Building skills & employability of future workforce

Supporting 'good' & sustained employment

Creating tailored roles & job carving

Workforce development & retention

Single point of contact for the employer

Capital Fund for Employers

Filling vacancies effectively, sustainably & efficiently



Where are we now – capacity & planning?

Systems Service Manager in post

P2W Team leaders in post leading a team of P2W Employment Advisors working alongside the Employment Solutions Team

Triage function established; recruitment process started

9 VCFSE organisations undertaking engagement activity on the Economically Inactive Trailblazer

Personalised Support commissioning activity underway with VCFSE

Planning for employer led, sector focused training underway

Plans for bespoke targeted support for people who are NEET, on probation, experiencing health related barriers etc underway

Where are we now – participants?



102 pipeline participants now registered on the Enspirio platform, meeting with dedicated P2W Employment Advisors to complete the onboarding process, identify appropriate support services and move into work



Personalised Support grant awards will see a further increase in capacity with regard to participant activation and onward progression



Wrap around support services being identified to provide specific support for barriers such as MH and pain management

Where are we now – partnerships?



Working in partnership with the Health Growth Accelerator

Referring relevant queries coming into Triage

2 way referrals for young people looking to move into work



Close working partnership with DWP

Referrals into P2W from JCP where appropriate

Regular meetings to establish efficient working practices

JCP upskilling on principles of P2W and collaborative working



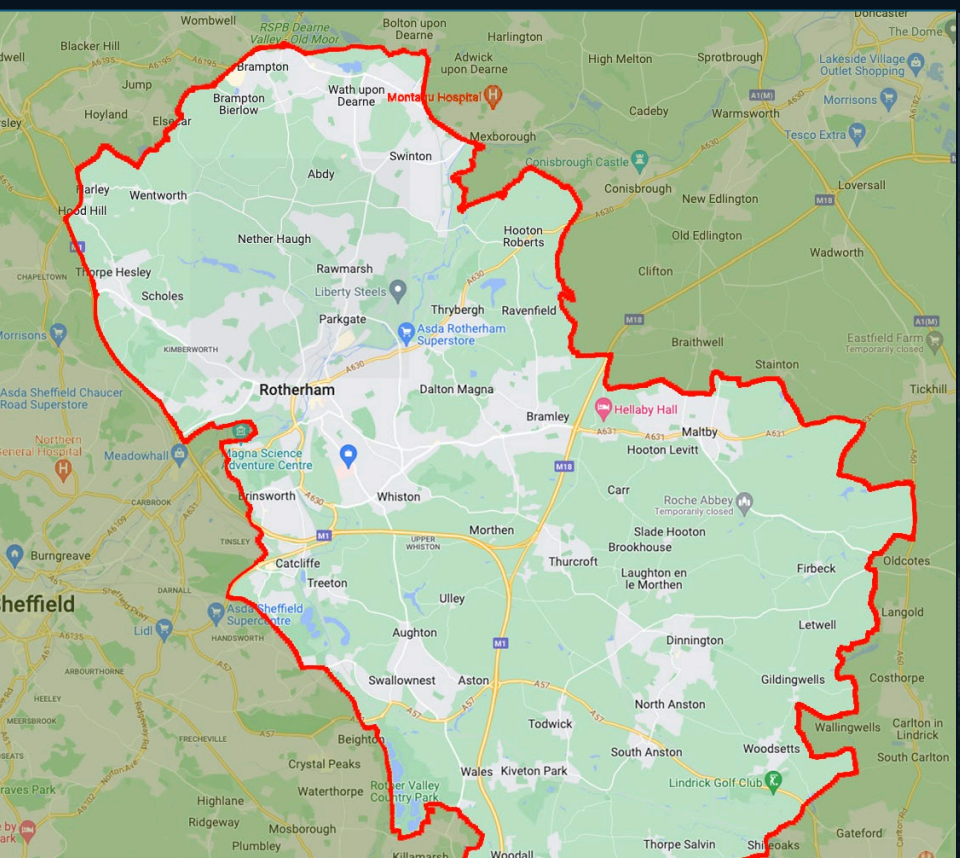
Employer activation

Collaborative working with Chamber of Commerce leads

Active establishment of key employer relationships

Engagement with existing employer networks allowing reach and driving awareness

Connecting the landscape to the SY trailblazer principles



- Joined up support
- Local partnerships
- Accessible and streamlined routes
- Focus on health and employment
- Addressing inequality and barriers

Pathways to Work addresses the fundamental issue that:

“The current employment support system is set up to deal with the problems of the past, not the challenges of today or the opportunities of the future”



This page is intentionally left blank

Public Report
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 09 September 2025

Report Title

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2024-2025

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

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Judith Badger, Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services

Report Author(s)

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services
Barbel Gale, Governance Manager

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

As described in Section 8.6 of the Constitution of the Council, this report is the annual update to be presented to Council on activities and outcomes achieved in respect of Overview and Scrutiny during the 2024-2025 municipal year.

Recommendations

That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:

1. Acknowledges and considers the content of the report; and
2. Approves the Annual Report for consideration by Council on Wednesday 10 September 2025.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 - Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2024-2025

Background Papers

Agendas and minutes of Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB), Health Select Commission (HSC), Improving Lives Select Commission (ILSC) and Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) during the 2024-2025 municipal year.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2024-2025

1. Background

- 1.1 This report has been written in accordance with Section 8.6 of the Constitution, which states, “The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will report annually to the full Council on the operation of Overview and Scrutiny Select Commissions and make recommendations where appropriate for future work programmes and amended working methods.”
- 1.2 The terms of reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Select Commissions are set out in Appendix 9 of the Constitution – Responsibility for Functions. Details of the specific areas for scrutiny by each select commission are also set out in Appendix 9.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Appendix to the report displays the range of scrutiny activity and highlights key findings and recommendations. Selected outcomes resulting from work in response to recommendations are also reflected in the report where these have been delivered. Where future outcomes are expected, these are noted.
- 2.2 The Chairs and Vice-Chairs for the 2025-2026 municipal year are set out at the end of each of the overview and scrutiny select commissions sections within the Annual Report.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The 2024-2025 Annual Report provides an overview of activity undertaken by Scrutiny over the last year through key lines of inquiry, evidence gathering, and findings leading to recommendations. The report provides a selection of the year’s achievement of Scrutiny as a supplement to full agendas and minutes of Cabinet, OSMB and Select Commission meetings throughout the year. The recommendation is that OSMB acknowledges and considers the content of the report and approves the Annual Report for consideration by Council on Wednesday 10 September 2025.
- 3.2 It was agreed in 2021/22 that future Annual Reports would be organised by Council Plan theme. This approach reflects a fully joined up approach by Scrutiny to work programming, reducing overlap through efficient allocation of Scrutiny attention and ensuring that Scrutiny is able to effectively contribute to the work of the Council.
- 3.3 It should be noted that each area of activity undertaken by Scrutiny over the last year may span multiple Council Plan themes, especially where improvements pertaining to wider determinants of health such as environmental and economic circumstances lead to cascading benefits. Therefore, the report should be considered as an indicative rather than definitive account of outcomes.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 As this is the report of the OSMB and Scrutiny commissions, consultation with Chairs and Vice-Chairs of these committees was undertaken and feedback incorporated in the final report.

4.2 The report describes outcomes that are already in the public domain.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 This report will be submitted to the meeting of Council on 10 September 2025.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no financial or procurement implications directly arising from this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no Human Resources implications directly arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are no implications for children or young people or vulnerable adults directly arising from the report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no equalities and human rights implications directly arising from this report.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no climate or carbon emissions implications directly arising from this report.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 There are no implications for partner organisations directly arising from this report.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There are no risks arising directly from this report.

Accountable Officer(s)

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Report Authors:

Barbel Gale, Governance Manager

01709 807665 or barbel.gale@rotherham.gov.uk

Natasha Aucott, Governance Advisor

01709 255601 or natasha.aucott@rotherham.gov.uk

Kerry Grinsill-Clinton, Governance Advisor

01709 807267 kerry.grinsill-clinton@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

This page is intentionally left blank

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - 2025

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD, CLLR BRIAN STEELE



With the introduction of the government's Devolution bill, it is crucial to recognise the changes in how the Mayoral Authority collaborates with local authorities. We must ensure that services are delivered effectively across all authorities and represent the needs of Rotherham residents in that arena. As the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) and alongside the Vice Chair, I attend the South Yorkshire Mayoral Authority (SYMCA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee to do exactly that. As the Vice Chair of the SYMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee, I feel privileged to be able to represent Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and its communities in scrutiny at that regional level.

2024-2025 was the first year in a four-year term of office for Councillors elected in May 2024, myself included. With a mixture of experienced and new Councillors representing Rotherham's communities, this year represented an opportunity to review, reset and refocus the Council's scrutiny function and to lay the foundations that would deliver impactful, meaningful improvements during that time. That did not mean the day-to-day business of scrutiny was set aside; the important work of influencing Cabinet decision and policy making, scrutinising budget plans, supporting the next generation of scrutineers through working with the Youth Cabinet and continuing to work with partners locally and regionally progressed with pace and purpose.

OSMB, along with the Improving Lives, Improving Places and Health Select Commissions look forward to delivering even more in 2025-26 building upon the considerable groundwork undertaken and encouraging Rotherham's residents to engage with scrutiny, shape the future for Rotherham and drive the changes they want to see.



Flood Risk Management
Health Inequalities
Access to Primary Care
SEND
Health Select Commission
Rotherham
Lettable Standards
Children's Social Care
Housing Repairs
Mental Health Services
OSMB
School Attendance
Domestic Abuse Strategy
Adult Social Care
Town Centre Regeneration
Improving Places
Improving Lives

2024-25 SCRUTINY AT A GLANCE

4 scrutiny commissions



84

substantive items considered

29

pre-decision scrutiny reports



2 decisions subject to call in

7

workshops



5 reviews progressed

1 site visit



26 off-agenda briefings

FAQ:

WHAT IS SCRUTINY?

Scrutiny aims to ensure that public services and policies best meet the needs of Rotherham Residents. It acts as the check and balance to the Council's Executive decision makers (the Cabinet) by contributing to policy review and development; holding the Cabinet and partners to account for decisions and performance; investigating issues that matter to residents; working with Council officers and partners to improve services.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

Any Councillor who is not a member of the Cabinet can participate. Committees also have co-opted members and dedicated officer support. Cabinet Members, Strategic Directors, and representatives of partner organisations are invited to attend meetings and discuss issues.

WHAT KIND OF THINGS CAN SCRUTINY LOOK AT?

Councillors and co-opted members prioritise issues. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board manages the overall Work Programme, considering whether scrutiny can make a real difference by looking at an issue.

IS THERE ANYTHING SCRUTINY CAN'T EXAMINE?

Individual complaints or regulatory decisions are not appropriate topics for scrutiny.

CAN I SUGGEST A TOPIC?

Yes, contact your ward Councillor to suggest a topic, or use the [online form](#) to submit your suggestion.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Contact the [Governance Team](#) for more details on anything in this report.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) acts as the principal overview and scrutiny committee of the Council. It considers matters relating to the conduct, structure and procedures of overview and scrutiny, ensures overview and scrutiny of the Council's values, plans and strategies and make recommendations for improvements either directly or via the Health Select, Improving Lives or Improving Places Commissions through oversight of the work programmes of those commissions.

2024-25 KEY CONTACTS



Cllr Brian Steele
Chair



Cllr Joshua Bacon
Vice Chair



Jo Brown
Link Officer



Barbel Gale
Governance Manager

Children's Takeover Challenge

As part of the national Children's Takeover Challenge, Rotherham Youth Cabinet led a focused review on health and wellbeing, engaging over 4,000 young people. The initiative explored four key areas: vaping, mental health, physical activity, and healthy eating. Recommendations included reducing vape advertising, improving mental health support and early diagnosis, enhancing youth spaces and extracurricular activities, maintaining safe parks, and promoting healthy food options in schools. The Council committed to considering these proposals and working with partners to improve outcomes for children and young people across the Borough.



Housing Repairs and Maintenance

OSMB and the Improving Places Select Commission reviewed the Housing Repairs and Maintenance Policy, focusing on service responsiveness, contractor performance, and future delivery models. Key issues included damp and mould management, support for vulnerable tenants, and the potential inclusion of fencing in maintenance scope. Members supported an increase in the decorating allowance and endorsed ongoing work to align services with emerging regulations. Performance data would be shared with a further update expected in 2025.



Modern Slavery Transparency Statement

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board reviewed the Council's ongoing work under the Modern Slavery Charter. Progress included strengthened procurement practices, increased staff and partner training, and improved referral rates through awareness campaigns. The Board endorsed the publication of the 2025/26 Transparency Statement and requested confirmation on planned training for taxi drivers.



Annual Compliments and Complaints

The Board reviewed the Annual Compliments and Complaints Report for 2023/24 in November 2024. The report showed a 13% decrease in complaints and a 14% increase in compliments compared to the previous year. While overall performance improved, response times to complaints fell slightly below the Council's target. Housing and Regeneration & Environment received the highest number of complaints, though notable reductions were seen across several directorates. Training and support for staff continue to be prioritised, and a Member Session was agreed to further review the report and strengthen engagement with the complaints process.



Gaza Petition

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board considered Cabinet’s response to a petition-led set of recommendations, with five actions in progress and eight completed. Scrutiny focused on resource implications, timelines, and ongoing dialogue with affected communities, particularly regarding the display of the Palestinian flag and peace advocacy. The Board noted the response and agreed to receive a progress update on outstanding actions within six months.



Council Plan & Year Ahead Delivery Plan

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board reviewed progress against the Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan. Scrutiny focused on service delivery delays, capital programme challenges, and performance targets—particularly in early education, apprenticeships, and care services. Members raised concerns about project slippage, audit findings, and winter gritting effectiveness. The Board supported the reported progress and requested further updates on snow warden insurance and ongoing performance monitoring.



Call-in: Waste Collection Policy and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board reviewed two key policy decisions following call-in requests. On Strategic CIL funding, concerns were explored about project prioritisation and community engagement. The decision was upheld, with a Member Seminar agreed to improve understanding of the process. On the Waste Collections Policy, scrutiny focused on the balance between enforcement and education. The decision was also upheld, with a requirement for pilot area details and an education plan to be presented before final approval.



Budget & Council Tax

OSMB reviewed the Council’s 2025/26 Budget, which included £12.5m in new government grants and a proposed 3% Council Tax increase. Key investments target Adult Social Care (£17m), Home to School Transport (£4.3m), and Waste Management (£1.5m), alongside £2.6m in planned efficiency savings. Scrutiny focused on service changes including the PAUSE programme transition, waste route optimisation, and the Street Safe Team rollout. Members requested updates on these initiatives and further details on employment support, food provision, and capital programme monitoring.



Council Plan themes supported by the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in 2024-25:

EVERY
NEIGHBOURHOOD
THRIVING

PEOPLE ARE
SAFE, HEALTHY
AND LIVE WELL

EVERY CHILD
ABLE TO
FULFIL THEIR
POTENTIAL

A CLEANER,
GREENER LOCAL
ENVIRONMENT

EXPANDING
ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY

2025-26 KEY CONTACTS



Cllr Brian Steele
Chair



Cllr Joshua Bacon
Vice Chair



Phil Horsfield
Link Officer



Barbel Gale
Governance Manager

HEALTH SELECT COMMISSION

The remit of the Health Select Commission (HSC) is to undertake scrutiny in respect of all matters relating to Rotherham in the context of the health and the public health agenda, as described in the relevant legislation. In broad terms, this relates to health service commissioning, partnerships and integrated health and social care services, emergency planning, public health arrangements, measures delivering health improvements and promoting wellbeing, measures intended to address health inequalities, food standards and environmental health. The Chair also represents Rotherham at the South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC), which considers matters affecting regional or specialist health services and 'matters of substantial variation'.

2024-25 KEY CONTACTS



Cllr Eve Keenan
Chair



Cllr Taiba Yasseen
Vice Chair



Ben Anderson
Link Officer



Kerry Grinsill-Clinton
Governance Advisor

Quality Accounts

The Health Select Commission has been given access to monitor 'Care Opinion' as a direct result of its response to the Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDaSH) Quality Account 2024/25. Care Opinion monitoring access will facilitate real time evaluation of feedback regarding the quality of care received by patients, enabling the identification of patterns and themes and giving scrutiny the opportunity to quickly identify areas where its involvement might encourage service improvement. The Commission believes this represents a real step forward and an opportunity to engage more purposefully with RDaSH over the coming year to address issues that cause concern to those who access its services. They also considered and provided comments on the YAS (Yorkshire Ambulance Service) and TRFT (The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust) Quality Accounts, identifying areas which will inform scrutiny activity in 2025-26.



Oncology Transformation Programme Workshop

HSC's work in conjunction with the JHOSC led to a Members workshop which outlined the Oncology Transformation Programme's plan to relocate Lung Clinic services to Rotherham Hospital. Discussions highlighted a number of areas for service managers and commissioners to consider as part of the implementation of the proposals, and the Health Select Commission's Members developed reporting metrics to measure the success of the Lung Clinic's implementation and its direct impact on Rotherham residents. The Cancer Alliance are due to report against those metrics and outline the long term plan to the HSC in March 2026. In addition, Commission Members asked the Cancer Alliance to liaise with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to consider the public transport infrastructure serving the hospital site to ensure steps were taken to minimise the impact on parking availability and minimise impact on those affected by ill health or disabilities, given the direct relevance of the Clinic's services. The Commission's wider focus on this issue has led to the potential of a review in conjunction with the Improving Places Select Commission around how the public transport infrastructure can best serve Rotherham residents and address health inequalities in 2025-26.



Place Partners Winter Planning and Cost of Living Impact on Community Health

In November 2024, the Health Select Commission scrutinised the Place Partners Winter Plan. Arising out of those discussions, having recognised the importance of initiatives such as Open Arms and the contributions of Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Organisations such as Rotherfed and Citizen's Advice (CARD) in delivering support in conjunction with the Council, the Commission requested that the Council consider the mechanisms for gathering data on footfall at Open Arms sessions to inform planning and service delivery, and how that data could be shared with Councillors. That data was subsequently shared, and through further discussions following the identification of spikes in particular wards, plans have been made to increase CARD representation from fortnightly to weekly in affected areas to improve accessibility and ensure that demand is met, without exposing residents to lengthy waits during challenging weather.

**citizens
advice**

**Rotherham
& District**



Sleep Pathways

In January 2025, HSC scrutinised the Sleep Pathway referred in by OSMB. Members requested the service prepare data allowing conclusions to be drawn regarding possible correlation between sleep issues/disorders and levels of deprivation amongst Rotherham's communities. The intention was to use that data to inform how SYMCA's 'Safe Space to Sleep' programme might be best utilised for Rotherham residents and shape support offers. HSC will also receive a report on the Tier 3 support pilot upon its conclusion to help shape future provision.

Hospital Waiting Times

In March 2025, HSC scrutinised the position of waiting times at Rotherham Hospital and assessed progress made to reduce delays through various initiatives implemented. Members requested further data to allow the identification of service areas where the greatest challenges persisted with a view to prioritising these for further scrutiny in 2025-26, in order to encourage TRFT to maintain its focus on alleviating system pressures, delivering improved services and reducing wait times to benefit the health and wellbeing of Rotherham people.

Same Day Emergency Care Centre (SDEC) Development

HSC members were briefed on significant capital investment to develop a Same Day Emergency Care Centre within Rotherham Hospital to reduce pressure on the Urgent & Emergency Care (A&E) Department which had caused concern for residents. Members provided views which helped shape the implementation plans, asked TRFT's Board to revisit parking facilities and public transport serving the hospital site and are due to receive an update on the impact achieved in March 2026.

Adult Social Care Mental Health Pathway

HSC received an update on the revised Mental Health Pathway implemented and identified successes and potential areas from improvement from the information shared. Members requested benchmarking data held by the service be provided to the Commission to allow them to more accurately assess comparative performance and identify areas to be targeted for further improvement through focused scrutiny. HSC also agreed to undertake pre-decision scrutiny on the Mental Health Strategy prior to consideration by Cabinet in December 2025.

Council Plan themes supported by the Health Select Commission's work in 2024-25:

EVERY
NEIGHBOURHOOD
THRIVING

PEOPLE ARE
SAFE, HEALTHY
AND LIVE WELL

EVERY CHILD
ABLE TO
FULFIL THEIR
POTENTIAL

A CLEANER,
GREENER LOCAL
ENVIRONMENT

EXPANDING
ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY

2025-26 KEY CONTACTS



Cllr Eve Keenan
Chair



Cllr Taiba Yasseen
Vice Chair



Scott Matthewman
Link Officer



Kerry Grinsill-Clinton
Governance Advisor

IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION

The Improving Lives Scrutiny Commission (ILSC) is tasked with carrying out in-depth overview and scrutiny of issues affecting Rotherham's residents including the Borough's education functions, including educational outcomes and expanding opportunities for skills and learning for young people, SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) and reviewing the performance of Children's and Young Peoples Services. Safeguarding children, which comprises of neglect, abuse, CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) and CCE (Child Criminal Exploitation) and prevention and early intervention strategies including family intervention, fostering, adoption and looked after children. It also considers transition from childhood to adulthood for young people with complex needs and Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), in conjunction with the Health Select Commission as required and Domestic Abuse, including the Domestic Abuse Strategy and response.

2024-25 KEY CONTACTS



Cllr Lyndsay Pitchley
Chair



Cllr Stuart Knight
Vice Chair



Kelly White
Link Officer



Natasha Aucott
Governance Advisor

Preparation for Adulthood for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Review

The purpose of the review was to assess the measures in place to support successful preparation to adulthood for young people with SEND in Rotherham in order to identify any gaps in provision or areas requiring further focus. Following the review, the Recommendations Report was approved by the Commission and taken to Cabinet in October 2024. Cabinet endorsed all recommendations made, which have since been implemented or are in the process of implementation.

Recommendations included further embedding networks and partnerships such as the Rotherham Parent Carer's Forum to maximise SEND families engaged, the review of the Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) process to ensure the young person's voice is present throughout and further focus on improving engagement of children and young people with SEND in marginalised communities. Plans are in place to ensure all recommendations are achieved by September 2025.



The Family Prosperity Strategy

The draft Family Prosperity Strategy was presented to the Commission for pre-decision scrutiny in April 2025. The purpose of the Strategy was to set out the work undertaken to address child poverty and the forward-facing priorities aimed at tackling the root causes of child poverty and improving equity of opportunity. Whilst Members felt that the Strategy successfully highlighted activity in Rotherham, they felt that the Strategy would benefit from further information relating to the support available for children and families experiencing poverty and how this could be accessed. To address this, further additional information was added. The updated Strategy entitled 'No Family Left Behind' is due to go before Cabinet for approval in Summer 2025.



SEND Strategy Workshop

A SEND Strategy Workshop was held in October 2024 for the Commission to provide their feedback on the SEND Strategy as part of the consultation and co-production process, giving members the opportunity to take part in shaping the revised Strategy. Members contributed to the policy development by providing specific feedback around the need to include further information on disabilities within the Strategy's commitments and requested that a further document be developed to sit alongside the Strategy relating to transitions. Once drafted, the draft Strategy was presented back to the Commission for pre-decision scrutiny work, ahead of presentation to Cabinet in February 2025 where it was subsequently approved.



Elective Home Education Workshop

A workshop on the revision of the Elective Home Education (EHE) Policy was held to capture members feedback as part of the consultation and engagement on the EHE Policy revision, prior to public consultation. Members shared concerns relating to the impact of social isolation for children removed from a school setting. Once drafted, the draft Policy was presented back to the Commission for pre-decision scrutiny, ahead of being presented to Cabinet in October 2025. The Commission requested that any updates on the future changes to government legislation in this area be presented back into the Commission.



Radicalisation in Schools Workshop

In May 2025 a workshop was held relating to Radicalisation in Schools, the Prevent Programme and the Protest Recovery Response following the community unrest and disorder within the Rotherham Borough in the Summer of 2024. Members scrutinised all three areas and were reassured that work completed and ongoing would enhance community cohesion and ensure education, information and where appropriate, interventions effectively addressed the threat radicalisation posed.



Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP) Annual Report 2023 – 2024

In October 2024 Members considered the RSCP Annual Report 2023–24, and proposed changes to next year's annual report to include further information relating to training and the uptake to enable better interpretation of data. The Commission also requested further scrutiny on the changes to the Partnership that were due to be presented to Cabinet, which was delivered in February 2025.



Council Plan themes supported by the Improving Lives Select Commission's work in 2024-25:

EVERY
NEIGHBOURHOOD
THRIVING

PEOPLE ARE
SAFE, HEALTHY
AND LIVE WELL

EVERY CHILD
ABLE TO
FULFIL THEIR
POTENTIAL

EXPANDING
ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY

2025-26 KEY CONTACTS



Cllr Gina Monk
Chair



Cllr Rajmund Brent
Vice Chair



Kelly White
Link Officer



Natasha Aucott
Governance Advisor

IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION

The remit of the Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) is to undertake scrutiny activity in respect of all matters pertaining to the Borough of Rotherham as a place. In broad terms, this remit relates to business and economic development, employment, emergency planning, environment, housing, climate change, leisure, culture and tourism, transport and highways, trading standards and environmental health. The breadth of functions and services that fall within the Commission's remit is significant and varied, with some cross-over with the work of the other scrutiny commissions.

2024-25 KEY CONTACTS



Cllr Cameron McKiernan
Chair



Cllr Adam Tinsley
Vice Chair



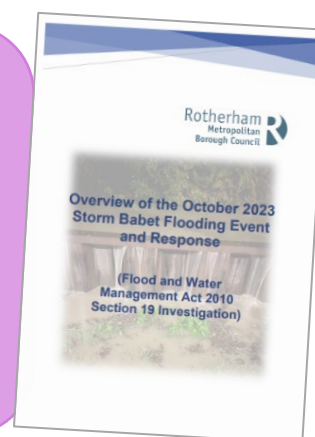
Andrew Bramidge
Link Officer



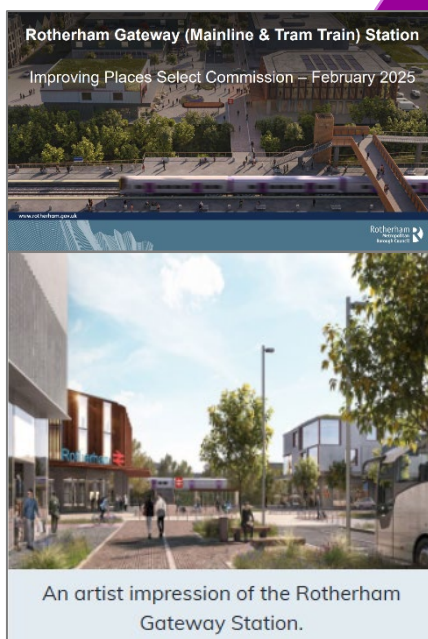
Barbel Gale
Governance Manager

Section 19 Report for Storm Babet

Following the anniversary of Storm Babet in 2023, the Commission received the Section 19 report outlining the causes, impacts, and future mitigation strategies in October 2024. Catcliffe was the most adversely affected area in Rotherham, with flooding also reported across the Borough as a whole. The Environment Agency addressed concerns raised about its communication strategy, confirming improvements to flood warning trigger levels to enhance response times. All partners, including the local community, are collaboratively reviewing flood and emergency plans to strengthen preparedness and resilience.



Rotherham Gateway (Mainline and Tram Train) Station



The Commission scrutinised plans in February 2025 noted this was a key infrastructure project aimed at improving regional connectivity and supporting economic growth. Discussions focused on the station's location at Parkgate, access challenges, and integration with Rotherham's existing transport infrastructure. Members raised concerns about connectivity for communities in the south of the borough, such as Maltby, and the lack of direct public transport links.

Officers confirmed that the site was selected following a detailed strategic assessment and that the project would improve journey times to major cities, though London connections would remain via Doncaster. Funding implications were considered in detail, with the outline business case already funded and further stages progressing through regional and national bids.

Land acquisition was being supported through the Towns Programme, with no financial risk to the Council. The station was identified as a top priority for South Yorkshire, alongside the Sheffield–Rotherham airport corridor, and formed part of a wider vision to enhance transport links and regeneration opportunities across the borough.

Flooding Alleviation Update

In December 2024, the Commission received an update on Borough-wide flood risk management. The presentation outlined key schemes, funding arrangements, and mitigation actions. Members were assured that flood resilience remains a Council priority.



Housing Strategy 2022-25

In June 2024, the Improving Places Select Commission reviewed the year two progress of the Housing Strategy 2022–25. Members noted rising homelessness pressures and reaffirmed the Council’s commitment to expanding housing stock through both development and acquisition. Garage sites were identified as key opportunities for delivering new council homes, particularly bungalows, which are in high demand and the Commission committed to reviewing the repairs and maintenance policy before it was considered by the Cabinet.

ROTHERHAM'S HOUSING STRATEGY 2022-2025



Climate Emergency Annual Report

In March 2025, the Commission scrutinised progress on climate action in Rotherham, focusing on EV infrastructure, renewable energy, and sustainable transport. Key points included expanding EV charging, supporting businesses to decarbonise, and exploring local energy generation.

Concerns were raised about solar farms on green belt land, battery safety, and disposal of lithium and solar panels. The Council was assessing district heating options, improving energy efficiency in housing, and trialling alternative fuels like Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO). Work is ongoing to address on-street EV charging and future-proof infrastructure through the Local Area Energy Plan.

Council Plan themes supported by the Improving Places Commission’s work in 2024-25:

EVERY
NEIGHBOURHOOD
THRIVING

PEOPLE ARE
SAFE, HEALTHY
AND LIVE WELL

A CLEANER,
GREENER LOCAL
ENVIRONMENT

EXPANDING
ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY

2025-26 KEY CONTACTS



Cllr Cameron McKiernan
Chair



Cllr Adam Tinsley
Vice Chair



Andrew Bramidge
Link Officer



Kristianne Thorogood
Governance Advisor

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – Work Programme 2025-26**Chair: Councillor Brian Steele****Vice-Chair: Cllr Joshua Bacon****Governance Manager: Barbel Gale****Link Officer: Phil Horsfield**

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
Wednesday 7 May 2025	Council Plan 2025 - 2028 & New Year Ahead Delivery Plan - Pre-decision Review of the Non-Residential Charging Policy - Pre-decision Work Programme Work in progress from Select Commissions Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 4 June 2025	Finance Update - June 2025 - Pre-decision Social Value Annual Report - Pre-decision Employment Solutions 2025-26 - Pre-decision Work Programme Work in progress from Select Commissions Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 2 July 2025	Council Plan 2022-2025 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Update 2024-25 - Pre-decision Ethical Procurement Policy - Pre-decision Financial Outturn 2024- 25 - Pre-decision Treasury Management Outturn 2024-25 - Pre-decision May 2025-26 Financial Monitoring Report - Pre-decision Work Programme Work in progress from Select Commissions Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Tuesday 9 September 2025	Progress update on the implementation Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programme Scrutiny Annual Report 2024-2025 July 2025-26 Financial Monitoring Report - Pre-decision scrutiny Community Safety Strategy 2025-2028 - Pre-decision scrutiny Investing in our Community Facilities - Pre-decision scrutiny

	Work Programme Work in progress from Select Commissions Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 8 October 2025	Rotherham Employment & Skills Strategy - Pre-decision scrutiny Selective Licensing Policy - Pre-decision scrutiny Work Programme Work in progress from Select Commissions Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 12 November 2025	Leader Q&A - to be scheduled after Council plan on the agenda. Complaints Annual Report Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report Work Programme Work in progress from Select Commissions Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 10 December 2025	Work Programme Work in progress from Select Commissions Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Tuesday 13 January 2026	Council Plan 2025 - 2028 & New Year Ahead Delivery Plan - Pre-decision Work Programme Work in progress from Select Commissions Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 4 February 2026	Question and answer session, Mayor Coppard, South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority. Work Programme Work in progress from Select Commissions Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 11 March 2026	Modern Slavery Transparency Statement - Annual Refresh Work Programme Work in progress from Select Commissions Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Wednesday 8 April 2026	Progress update on the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programme Work Programme Work in progress from Select Commissions Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Substantive Items for Scheduling	
January 2026 & July 2026	Leader Q&A - to be scheduled after Council plan on the agenda.
Feb-26	Question and answer session, Mayor Coppard, South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority.
Jul-26	Council Plan 2025 - 2028 & New Year Ahead Delivery Plan - Pre-decision

Apr-26	An update on progress following the implementation of Waste Service Route Optimisation programme be brought back to OSMB within twelve months.
Apr-26	An update on the progress following the implementation of the Street Safe Team programme be brought back to OSMB within twelve months.
TBC	Selective Licensing - Joint with IPSC
Reviews for Scheduling	
In progress	A spotlight review - Life-saving equipment and related byelaws
On going	Spotlight Review - Agency Staff
Completed	Spotlight Review - Grass Cutting / Ground Maintenance
Items to be Considered by Other Means (e.g. off-agenda briefing, workshop etc)	
Completed	A report be provided to OSMB within three months detailing the performance information for the Employment Solutions Team.
Sep-25	A briefing to be provided to OSMB detailing information on the number of vacancies where recruitment to those vacancies was held for a period of time, listed by directorate and the potential impacts of delaying that recruitment process.
Items for Future Consideration	
Apr-26	Future Rothercare Model

This page is intentionally left blank