

Rotherham Safeguarding Partnership Protocol

Purpose of this protocol

To describe the roles, functions and interrelationship between the various strategic partnerships across the borough in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people, adults and their families.

To ensure that the complementary but distinctive roles of the partnership boards are understood and carried out so that the needs of children, adults and their families in the borough are identified, planned for and addressed.

To ensure a shared focus on positive outcomes for children, young people, adults and their families; and that appropriate arrangements are in place between strategic leaders, elected members and chairs to ensure strategic priorities in relation to safeguarding are translated effectively into action plans.

Partnership board signatories

The strategic partnerships which are stakeholders to this protocol include:

1. **Rotherham Health and Well Being Board (RHWBB)**
2. **Rotherham Children and Young People's Partnership Board (RCYPPB)**
3. **Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP)**
4. **Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board (RLSCB)**
5. **Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB).**

Principles

This protocol does not seek to dilute the discreet responsibilities of each board. Its focus is to ensure that the following principles underpin how the five boards will operate:

- **Safeguarding people is the business of all the boards listed above**
- **Boards will understand each other's business**
- **A culture of challenge will exist across the boards**
- **The boards will work collaboratively to avoid duplication and ensure consistency.**

Context

Rotherham Council believes that every child, young person and adult, regardless of their background, age, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, ethnicity or religious belief, should be able to participate in a safe society without any fear, violence, abuse, bullying, discrimination or exploitation (Corporate Safeguarding Policy Statement).

A Child-Centred Borough: One of the priorities in the Improvement Plan for the Council and its partners is for Rotherham to become a 'child-centred borough'.

The aim of a child-centred borough is for communities of children, young people and adults, including elected members as locally democratically elected representatives, to combine their resources to support every child to be the best they can. The strength of resources within families can be better utilised in realising the potential of children and young people and therefore the child centred borough plan will focus on how better links can be made, both within the council and with partners, to ensure that families are supported to thrive.

Aspirations for Rotherham to be a child-centred borough include the following six principles:

- A focus on the rights and voice of the child
- Keeping children safe and healthy
- Harnessing the resources of communities
- An inclusive borough
- Ensuring children reach their potential
- A sense of place.

Whilst becoming a child centred borough is a key priority for the Council, it will also be important to ensure this is achieved in harmony with the Council's responsibility to keep all its residents safe, including adults and older people, and the boards included in this protocol reflects that.

Functions and responsibilities of the five strategic partnerships

Rotherham Health and Well Being Board

Overview functions: setting strategic vision, objectives and outcomes / influence and oversight of relevant commissioning plans.

The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWbB) is a statutory sub-committee of the council, established under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The HWbB responsibilities include:

- Assessing the needs of the population and producing the local joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA)
- Using the data and knowledge in the JSNA to publish a local health and wellbeing strategy, setting local priorities for joint action
- Using the strategy and its priorities to influence and inform commissioning decisions for the health and wellbeing of Rotherham people
- Enabling, advising and supporting organisations that arrange for the provision of health or social care services to work in an integrated way
- Hold relevant partners to account for the quality and effectiveness of their commissioning plans
- Ensure that public health functions are discharged in a way that helps partner agencies fully contribute to reducing health inequalities.

Rotherham Children and Young People's Partnership Board

Overview functions: setting strategic vision, objectives and outcomes / influence and oversight of relevant commissioning plans.

Rotherham's Children and Young People's Partnership Board (CYPP Board) brings together representative partners from a wide range of children and young people's services. The partnership is the driving force in ensuring improved services and outcomes for children, young people and families in Rotherham. The CYPP Board promotes collaborative working and creative thinking, their responsibilities include:

- Working with children and their families to provide strategic direction for children's services, improve joint working between agencies, and shape the children and young people's plan for Rotherham
- Create an environment where staff from all organisations, communities and families can work well together to deliver on local priorities, including those identified by the HWbB
- Consulting with children, young people and families and respond to their needs
- Monitoring progress against shared priorities and targets in the children and young people's plan and being accountable for outcomes
- constructively challenging areas of under-performance and deploy resources to ensure improvement
- Championing Rotherham as a child-centred borough, ensuring that the voice of children and young people and their families is at the heart of the CYPPBs work
- Aligning and/or pooling budgets to enable joint commissioning of services and the most effective use of resources
- Working with the HWbB to deliver the aims of the health and wellbeing strategy in relation to children and young people, and reporting to the HWbB on progress
- Providing direction and specific actions to task and finish groups and reporting outcomes, achievements and issues to the Children's Improvement Board.

Safer Rotherham Partnership

Overview functions: setting strategic vision, objectives and outcomes / influence and oversight of relevant commissioning plans.

The Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) is the borough's community safety partnership with statutory responsibilities established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The partnership has legal responsibilities to:

- Produce a local assessment of crime and disorder: joint strategic intelligence assessment (JSIA)
- Tackle crime, anti-social behaviour and drug and alcohol misuse
- To enhance feelings of safety delivered through Safer Neighbourhood Teams
- To undertake Domestic Homicide Reviews and advise on lessons to be learned.

Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board

Overview functions: providing challenge and oversight of practice in relation to safeguarding children outcomes

The Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is a statutory body. It is neither a commissioning body nor a provider of services. The core objectives of the LSCB, as set out in Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 are:

- To coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the LSCB for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area, and ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes
- To develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority
- To communicate to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so
- To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advise them on ways to improve
- To participate in the planning of services for children in the area; and undertake reviews of serious cases and advise the authority and their partners on lessons to be learned.

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board

Overview functions: providing challenge and oversight of practice in relation to safeguarding adults outcomes

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is established in line with duties set out in the Care Act 2014 as the statutory mechanism for agreeing how partner agencies within Rotherham cooperate to protect adults at risk, prevent neglect and abuse and promote the wellbeing of adults in its area. The SAB must lead adult safeguarding arrangements across its locality and oversee and coordinate the effectiveness of the safeguarding work of its member and partner agencies. The Care Act 2014 requires that statutory safeguarding responsibilities arise where there is reasonable cause to suspect that an adult:

- (a) has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),
- (b) is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- (c) as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it. The responsibilities of the SAB include:

- Assuring itself that safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome-focused
- Working collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect where possible
- Ensuring agencies and individuals give timely and proportionate responses when abuse or neglect have occurred
- Assuring itself that safeguarding practice is continuously improving and enhancing the quality of life of adults in its area
- Concerning itself with a range of issues which can contribute to the wellbeing of its community and the prevention of abuse and neglect, such as:

- the safety of people who use services in local health settings, including mental health
- effective interventions with adults who self-neglect, for whatever reason
- the quality of local care and support services
- the effectiveness of prisons in safeguarding offenders
- making connections between adult safeguarding and domestic abuse

Opportunities and expectations for effective coordination

Share Priorities; share strategic risks; share learning; consultation; promote joint communication and engagement.

All key strategic plans overseen by the bodies referenced in this protocol, whether they are formulated by individual agencies or by partnership forums, should address safeguarding issues. This will help to ensure that existing strategies and service delivery, as well as emerging plans for change and improvement, include effective safeguarding arrangements that ensure that all people in Rotherham are safe and their wellbeing is protected and promoted.

It is critical that in drawing up, delivering and evaluating all plans and strategies there is effective interchange between the LSCB, SAB, HWbB, CYPPB and the SRP.

Specifically there needs to be formal interfaces with the safeguarding boards on key issues including:

- Ensuring that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
- Ensuring that the LSCB and SAB's needs evaluations are fed into the JSNA and JSIA, and that the outcomes of these assessments are used to inform priorities and fed back into safeguarding boards' planning
- Ensuring each board is updated on progress made in the implementation of the HWB Strategy, the SRP Plan, the CYP Plan in a context of mutual challenge
- Sharing annual plans and relevant evaluations of the safeguarding boards to ensure effective coordination, share learning and enable all boards to feed any improvement and development needs into the planning process for future years' strategies and plans.
- To provide mutual support, guidance, advice and challenge to ensure that all partners discharge their safeguarding responsibilities effectively and that relevant strategic plans include complementary objectives and actions to promote the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults
- Aligning the work of the LSCB and SAB business plans with the HWB Strategy, SRP Plan and CYPP Plan where relevant
- Identifying a coordinated approach to communication, learning and improvement, performance management, change and commissioning.

Arrangements between the 5 strategic partnership boards	
The following details the activity that will take place between the strategic boards.	
Bi-Annually	The chairs of the all boards will meet to ensure the coordination of leadership, the coherence of respective plans and to consider the strategic risks facing children, young people, families, adults and communities. The supporting officers for the boards will also meet, at the Partnership Steering Group, to follow up key decision and planning actions.
Annually	Update reports on relevant plans/strategies – i.e. Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Safer Rotherham Partnership Plan and Children and Young People’s Plan, to be shared with the safeguarding boards to enable appropriate challenge, in relation to commissioning decisions and outcomes, and ensure that the respective safeguarding business plans appropriately reflect relevant priorities set by the HWBB, SRP and CYPP.
Between September and November	<p>The independent chairs of the two safeguarding boards will present to the HWbB and the SRP Board their Annual Reports outlining performance against their business plan objectives in the previous financial year. The LSCB will also present its Annual Report to the CYPPB.</p> <p>This will be supplemented by a position statement on the boards’ performance in the current financial year.</p> <p>This will provide the opportunity for the HWbB, CYPPB and the SRP Board to challenge the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements across the borough, to draw across evidence and data to be included in the JSNA and JSIA and to reflect on key issues that may need to be incorporated in the refresh of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, CYP Plan and the SRP Strategy.</p>
On-going	<p>The strategic boards will share their refreshed plans when they are published to ensure co-ordination and coherence. (this may be different for each board and is up to the chair and responsible officer to ensure this reporting is factored into their forward plans).</p> <p>In addition to the scheduled interface across all 5 boards, it is expected that relevant learning arising from reviews is shared; and opportunities for coordinating consultations, communications and engagement are fully utilised.</p>
Relationship between the Safeguarding Boards	<p>There should be equally effective co-ordination and coherence between the two safeguarding boards. This will be achieved in part by the arrangements set out above but it is critical that there are processes in place to ensure effective cross-working and challenge. This will be achieved in two ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing annual plans during the formulation stages to enable co-ordination and coherence where there are overlaps in business. • Ensuring that there is cross-Board representation to secure on-going communication.

SIGNATORIES

Name	Designation / Organisation	Signature