

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

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



ANNUAL REPORT

2019/20

INTRODUCTION BY MOIRA WILSON

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Independent Chair



I am pleased to present the Annual Report for 2019/20. We hope the report demonstrates the continued commitment of all partners to work together to ensure that

adults who may be at risk of abuse or neglect are protected and safeguarded. This includes awareness raising through events such as Safeguarding Adults Week, training and development for staff, working with voluntary and community partners, and strong partnership working with health, police and other agencies in responding to safeguarding concerns and enquiries.

During this year we have supported the partnership sub-groups to take forward the Board's priorities and the report gives examples of

work achieved during the year. Charing of these group is shared across SAB partners, ensuring a whole system perspective and I would like to thank colleagues who have taken on these roles on behalf of the Board. We have also strengthened links with the strategic Rotherham Partnership thus ensuring that safeguarding adults is truly everyone's business.

This report covers work of the Board up to March 2020. Since then we have all been working intensively together to keep people safe during the pandemic. Now, as this report is published, we are still very much in the middle of the challenges of how best we can continue to support adults who may be at risk and work in ways which adhere to local and national requirements. We will be keeping close scrutiny on the impact of Covid -19 and how we adapt our practice to new and changing circumstances.

MESSAGE FROM Cllr DAVID ROCHE

Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board



This Safeguarding Annual Report for 2019/20 once again highlights the strong partnership working from all board partners and evidences how the Rotherham

Safeguarding Adults Board ensures that partners are held to account by assessment and challenge and each agency provides the board with regular updates on their developments.

Raising awareness of Safeguarding is only achievable by working together to ensure the

vulnerable and those who lack the mental capacity to make the right decisions are supported, safeguarded and protected from harm. The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board works across the partnership to ensure training and resources are available to everyone and gives reassurance that safeguarding is embedded in all organisations and at all levels.

May I take this opportunity to acknowledge the commitment of all the board partners including the statutory, independent and voluntary community sector, Rotherham needs everyone to work together to safeguard its citizens and to continue to raise awareness of safeguarding.

Keeping people safe from abuse is everyone's business

RECOGNISE • RESPOND • REPORT

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

The RSAB's objective is to ensure that local safeguarding arrangements and partnerships act to help and protect adults at risk or experiencing neglect and/or abuse. The RSAB is a multi-agency strategic, rather than operational, partnership made up of senior/lead officers within adult social services, criminal justice, health,

housing, community safety, voluntary organisations.

It coordinates the strategic development of adult safeguarding across Rotherham and ensures the effectiveness of the work undertaken by Partner Agencies in the area. The Rotherham Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board ('RSAB') aims to achieve those objectives whilst supporting individuals in maintaining control over their lives and in making informed choices without coercion.

Who is at risk?

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

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

What is abuse?

Abuse can be:

- Something that happens once
 - Something that happens repeatedly
 - A deliberate act
 - Something that was unintentional, perhaps due to a lack of understanding
 - A crime
- Abuse can happen anywhere, at any time and be caused by anyone including
- A partner or relative
 - A friend or neighbour
 - A paid or volunteer carer
 - Other service users
 - Someone in a position of trust
 - A stranger

Types of abuse:

Physical abuse

Hitting, kicking, punching, kicking, inappropriate restraint.

Domestic violence or abuse

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

Organisational or institutional abuse

Poor treatment in a care setting.

Financial or material abuse

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

Sexual abuse

Being made to take part in a sexual activity without consent.

Discriminatory abuse

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

Neglect or acts of omission

Failure to provide care or support

Psychological and emotional abuse

Shouting, ridiculing, or bullying.

Modern slavery

Human trafficking and forced labour

Self-neglect

Declines essential care support needs, impacting on their overall wellbeing



Doing nothing is not an option!

ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REVIEW of 2018/19

The priorities for the board for 2019/20 were:

Priority	Resulting Action
<p>Agree as a partnership a Quality Assurance Framework to ensure consistency within Safeguarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timescales • Section 42 enquires • No Further Action 	<p>The Policy and Practice subgroup worked with the regional and national guidance that was developed around section 42 enquiries and this was used to develop QA framework that could be used across the partnership.</p> <p>The framework is a tool to assist in decision making, but not to replace professional judgement, its aim is to support people to be able to record effectively and account for their decision-making process.</p>
<p>Partners to complete the self-assessment electronic system by 1 November as agreed by the joint safeguarding arrangements.</p>	<p>The Safeguarding Adults Board and the Children’s Safeguarding Partnership have worked collaboratively to develop one joint safeguarding self-assessment framework. More importantly this recognises the many links between safeguarding adults and safeguarding children, particularly in relation to transition from childhood to adulthood.</p> <p>The new safeguarding self-assessment tool has been developed as an easy to use online process. All partners completed the self-assessment tool by November 2019 and were all complimentary of the new way of working.</p>
<p>Develop a Safeguarding Board training offer and ensure that the voice and experience of Vulnerable Adults is central to the training and development activity that is delivered.</p>	<p>The Workforce Development sub-group have commissioned a needs-led learning and development programme and have responded to emergent training needs. They will support the workforce to be equipped with the knowledge, skills and expertise required to fulfil their job roles effectively through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A core training programme of courses and e-learning modules • Association of Directors of Adult Social Services events • Learning from Practice Briefings • RSAB Specialist Interest Training Programme • Safeguarding Awareness Week conferences and workshops • South Yorkshire Safeguarding Training Consortium courses and conferences.

The Safeguarding Adults Board has four subgroups to ensure the priorities of board are delivered. The Sub-Groups each have a work plan and during 2019/20 they were able to deliver the following specific pieces of work:

Performance and Quality Subgroup

Priority	Resulting Action
<p>The Performance and Quality Subgroup carried out several case file audits during 2019/20.</p> <p>In October 2019 the group looked at the use of Making Safeguarding Personal during safeguarding investigations, they looked at casefiles from across the partnership and made recommendations to the board on their findings.</p>	<p>A task and finish group is needed from across the partnership to examine and propose revisions to the forms used for safeguarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for user friendly forms • Forms to be easily identifiable • Look at the language used <p>This work will be completed late in 2020.</p> <p>Advocacy training will be delivered in November 2020 across the partnership and all partners need to be more aware of the benefits of advocacy.</p> <p>Making Safeguarding Personal training will be refreshed to ensure that all partners are working within the safeguarding principles.</p>
<p>The Performance and Quality subgroup worked with the Yorkshire and Humber Region to develop an audit tool that will be used across the region and will be launched by the Regional Principal Social Workers (PSW) for Adult Services.</p> <p>The audit tool will provide consistency across the region and will take into consideration the national guidance on section 42 enquiries.</p>	<p>Safeguarding audits will use the ADASS tool developed by the Principal Social Workers network.</p> <p>All audits will provide feedback to the PSW network so the form can continue to develop.</p> <p>Audits will continue during 2020 using new audit tool.</p>

Workforce Development

Priority	Resulting Action
The Workforce Development subgroup was tasked with developing a new RSAB Training Strategy and Prospectus for 2020/21.	<p>The group worked across the partnership to identify what multi agency training was needed and what single agency training was already being delivered.</p> <p>A core training programme was needed to equip the workforce with the knowledge, skills and behaviors to carry out their role to safeguard adults from abuse and/or neglect.</p> <p>www.rsab.org.uk/downloads/file/36/rsab-training-strategy</p> <p>www.rsab.org.uk/downloads/file/35/rsab-training-prospectus</p>
Learning for Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR) where a care provided or care home had been part of the review needed to be shared across the provider sector. Providers expressed an interest in learning more about the SAR process so the workforce development group developed a bespoke training session.	<p>Training sessions were developed with the Commissioning Manager and colleagues from health that shared the learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews and looked at good practice that had been identified.</p> <p>The training sessions were delivered to the provider network and were well received across all sectors.</p> <p>The sessions will be repeated during 20/21.</p>

Policy and Procedures

Priority	Resulting Action
<p>The Policy and Practice group spent time looking at the different types of abuse and what information and guidance was available to the public.</p> <p>The group wanted to create a publicity campaign to raise awareness and promote safeguarding across Rotherham.</p>	<p>Group decide to develop posters and leaflets on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Abuse • Psychological Abuse • Discrimination • Self-Neglect <p>Work commenced on a campaign and a communication plan and sample posters were presented to the Board in January 2020.</p> <p>The campaign will be launched later in 2020.</p>
<p>The Policy and Practice group worked with ADASS to help develop guidance and advice on section 42 enquires, the aim was to develop a framework for making decisions on when to carry out safeguarding adults enquires.</p>	<p>The group developed a summary of the guidance that was easy to use, the information is available on the RSAB website and can be downloaded for all partners to access.</p>

Safeguarding Adults Review

Priority	Resulting Action
<p>The Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) Subgroup continue to manage the SAR process from recommendations through to the completion and publication of a SAR.</p> <p>During 2019/20 there were three referrals made for consideration and one review was completed. The other two cases were taken through safeguarding as a section 42 investigation.</p>	<p>SAR Elizabeth was commissioned in August 2019 and was presented to the Safeguarding Board in January 2020.</p> <p>The review was signed off by the Independent Chair later in the year and was published on the RSAB website in June 2020.</p> <p>Further details of the review can be found later in the report.</p>

LOOKING FORWARD to 2020/21

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board will be focusing on the second year of the strategic plan during 2020/21 and will want to ensure that any unfinished actions from year 1 that were affected by Covid-19 are complete.

The RSAB face many challenges in the year ahead due to the changes that Covid-19 has brought to all partners of the board, we will be working together to ensure that we continue to help and support partners effected by the pandemic. We will ensure that the SAB continues to manage its statutory duty, that we continue to learn from the Covid-19 crisis and we prepare the board and its partners for what the safeguarding issues may be post Covid-19.

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board – Aspiring to be the Best that we can be Strategic Plan 2019 to 2022

Our Strategic Priorities	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
<p>PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION</p> <p>Working with partners to develop preventative strategies that work to reduce the risk of abuse and neglect.</p>	Continue to strengthen links and work closely with all partners to provide assurance that the preventative strategies are effective via self-assessment and joint learning events.	Joined up partnership working to target areas of service to improve awareness and guidance for service users and staff.	Develop methods of sharing and embedding learning for reviews and lessons learnt.
<p>MAKING SAFEGUARDING PERSONAL</p> <p>Continue to develop and assess the effectiveness of MSP, ensuring a high quality, personalised safeguarding response as the norm in Rotherham.</p>	Ensure that all partners are working with the Making Safeguarding Personal agenda and delivering a person centred approach to safeguarding with appropriate use of advocacy.	Ensure training and learning materials, guides and toolkits are available to partners to fully support Making Safeguarding Personal agenda.	Work with national guidance to measure the effectiveness and impact of MSP to ensure Rotherham are 'getting it right'.
<p>QUALITY ASSURANCE</p> <p>Ensure the quality of Safeguarding within Rotherham is timely and proportionate and individual's outcomes are realistically achieved.</p>	Continue to develop a robust audit programme and capture intelligence data to shape service provision.	Monitor and assure the governance and effectiveness of the Adult Safeguarding Board.	Commission a Peer Review of the Rotherham Safeguarding Board.
<p>SERVICE USER ENGAGEMENT</p> <p>Full and real user involvement across all service groups. Bring the voice of the service user to the board.</p>	Develop ways of gaining the views of people who have experienced and worked with the safeguarding service.	Ensure RSAB's Communication Strategy is relevant, up to date and effective and has community involvement.	Engage with networking events across the borough and South Yorkshire to share and learn from peers.

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

Rotherham Council

Making Safeguarding Personal

Rotherham Council have taken part in the national MSP Pilot scheme. We are capturing data from customers who are involved in a safeguarding enquiry and are recording where outcomes are achieved, and people have been empowered to make changes.

We are working with all partners through the Policy and Practice subgroup to redesign the safeguarding forms to make them easier to complete and understand, we want to ensure all forms record how the customers wishes are captured and that advocacy is a consideration with each customer.

Person-centred care means working together with the individual to plan their care and support to meet their unique needs. This cuts down the risk of negative, unfair or harmful treatment and neglect. The individual is at the centre, able to choose and control how they want their care and support to be delivered.

Miss G was a 22 year female and the subject of a DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Honour Based Violence) referral, from this it was identified that a safeguarding enquiry was needed to protect the young woman from further abuse. The social worker worked with Miss G to determine what she wanted her life to look like.

Working together to plan for Miss G's future where she could live free from abuse, she was helped to move to supported living and was able to access services to help with her addiction.

Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust:

Prevention and Early Intervention

Ensuring that all staff receive training to enable them to recognise and respond to concerns about an adult at risk.

We monitor the number of concerns raised by our staff.

We monitor closely compliance with mandatory training requirements.

Making Safeguarding Personal

All staff are encouraged to discuss their concerns with the patient and/or the family (as appropriate) to ensure that the views of the person are taken into account when formulating a plan of safety.

We monitor the concerns raised to ensure there is evidence of consultation with the patient/family where possible.

Safeguarding training for every member of staff remains a priority for the Trust.

Our aim is to provide staff with the skills, knowledge and confidence to enable them to develop an understanding of adult safeguarding and its associated processes that they can relate to their individual roles and responsibilities within the Trust.

The Trust has supported learning by the use of seven minute briefings on a variety of topics, which are shared Trust-wide.



NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group – RCCG

Prevention and Early Intervention

Recognising and responding to modern slavery

NHS Rotherham CCG acknowledges the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) guidance: adult (England and Wales) Updated 29 November 2019. This is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support. NRM guidance, referral, assessment for victims of modern slavery.

NHS Rotherham CCG works closely as a NHS partner with the South Yorkshire Modern Slavery Partnership (SYMSP). The Partnership was launched in 2019, since its launch the SYMSP have worked together to create the SYMSP pocket book for professionals, develop a website and deliver online training.

Practices to adopt as good practice

Template Guidance circulated to Safeguarding Leads for General Practices to adopt as good practice asking GPs to change codes for children and adults in need who are not brought to appointments as ‘was not brought’ rather than ‘did not attend’.

Supporting the Domestic Abuse Strategy

NHS Rotherham CCG continues to work closely with partners on the 2021 strategy.

NHS Rotherham CCG is committed to supporting the domestic abuse strategy with attendance at the Domestic Abuse Priority group and take seriously our commitment to this.

Following publication in June 2018 of the Domestic Abuse Toolkit for Employers, NHS Rotherham CCG’s HR and safeguarding team put together a policy/guidance. All employees who experience abuse should be supported regardless of gender and the type of abuse. This policy was shared as a tool for GPs to utilise.

NHS Rotherham CCG alongside Safer Rotherham Partnership and providers delivered a Supported Learning Event covering Domestic Abuse for General Practice staff. The session was provided to meet learning needs across Rotherham in response to themes of concern.

Delegates rated the event as “Excellent” and “Good”. Delegates stated they had learnt something new about services/processes and felt the information sharing will assist in future working practices.

Click to view the full
<http://www.rotherhamccg.nhs.uk/annual-report.htm>

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

Quality Assurance

RDaSH contribute regularly to the development of RSAB policy and procedures.

Regular attendance at the RSAB, both at sub-group and Executive level.

The Safeguarding Team also attend and contribute to the Rotherham Care Group Quality Meeting to provide steer and guidance around safeguarding practice and any changes in local / national developments.

The Team undertake internal audits throughout the year.

The Team contributes to the RDaSH monthly dashboards providing a level of quality assurance.

A culture that safeguarding adults is everybody's responsibility permeates across all RDaSH teams and the individuals who work in them. We remain committed to working with partners in order to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of adults at risk in all communities within Rotherham.



South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (SYFR):

Prevention and Early Intervention

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue have in recent years developed a route for fire risks and hazards to be reported. This portal is called 'Safe and Well'.

The SYFR Safe and Well Referral Partnership Scheme aims to improve how the fire service and local organisations work together to effectively identify and reduce hazards for people most at risk.

Membership of Safe and Well Referral scheme will enable SYFR and partners to work together to keep our communities and services safer. We regularly train partners and their teams on Fire Safety Awareness and secure referral pathways for

partners working with people at risk. Agencies once registered and can make direct referrals to SYFR and work in partnership with them to either reduce or eliminate the risks.

SYFR are active members and contributors to the annual Safeguarding Awareness Week.

SYFR have two Safeguarding Officers. Main duties and responsibilities include: Preparation, review and revision of policies for both Children and Adult Protection, identifying and managing safeguarding training and learning needs within the organisation.

SYFR attended a domestic house fire in relation to a cooking incident. All emergency services were in attendance. This wasn't a fire incident.

The lady presented as somewhat confused and had started to empty her kitchen cupboards but couldn't say why. Family informed SYFR that she often goes wandering and raised concerns in relation to memory problems.

The attending Fire Fighters quickly assessed the concerns and risks and raised these as per the SYFR Safeguarding pathway. The Adult Single Point of Access in Rotherham was contacted. She had some support from services. SYFR had previously carried out a Home Safety Check in 2018.

Information provided by the Fire Fighters indicated that the lady's cognitive ability had become significantly impaired and an urgent Care Act Assessment required by Adult Social Care.

The lady had removed her Rothercare equipment and is a regular caller to police advising someone is trying to get into her house and cupboards. The lady has also lost a lot of weight over the last few months.

There has since been ongoing communication with Adult Social Care - awaiting a joint visit to carry out an HSC, further to a Mental Capacity Assessment and Best Interest meeting.

South Yorkshire Police:

Customer Engagement

Neighbourhood teams are responsible for engagement and provide this through online drop in forums, Independent Advisory Groups (IAG), revisit/recontact to victims and via social media. This also involves key partners and stakeholders. The Victim Code gives officers in all areas of work structure, guidance and accountability when dealing with victims of crime and ensures a contract is agreed and followed with regular updates provided.

Victim Satisfaction is measured at a force level and within district. These results are independent and give clear guidance around domestic abuse, burglary, vehicle crime, vulnerability crimes and Hate.

In addition, we monitor victim code compliance by way of supervisory reviews at every level of management.

Currently Rotherham satisfaction sits at 85 % (4 % over the force average).

“I believe that had it not been for the officer’s efforts, I would have lived out the rest of my life with the ongoing fear that has dominated the last 22 years. This is life changing and I wonder if you can imagine what a difference it makes to at last, be free of fear”.

Rotherham Voluntary and Community Sector:

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

The nominated representative, who is the Chief Executive of Age UK Rotherham, attends the Safeguarding Adults Board to provide a voluntary and community sector perspective on developments. They also provide a liaison function between the wider sector and the Board to keep VCS organisations updated on safeguarding issues and encourage and support their contribution to this important area of work.

VCS organisations continue to contribute to the Safeguarding Board and Development Days as partners; in addition, they act as alerters referring concerns appropriately.

Individual VCS organisations have continued their work internally in respect of their own policies and procedures for Safeguarding, linking into the wider Safeguarding Procedures in the Borough. Staff and Volunteers have attended training sessions raising awareness of Adult Safeguarding throughout the Borough.

The Adult Services Consortium and Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR) have promoted Safeguarding Week, and VCS groups are taking an active part during the week.

VAR promotes DBS and provides related advice and support.

VAR supports VCS with the development of Safeguarding Policies and procedures; including ‘Safer Recruitment’ support.

Workforce and development

In 2019/20 the Workforce Development Sub-group ran a rolling programme of supportive training opportunities for staff, managers and volunteers on local policy, procedures and professional practice so that adults across Rotherham are protected from abuse and neglect and their wellbeing is promoted 960 learners attended training courses as detailed in the table below.

Local authority	309
Independent/ Voluntary sector	616
Health	11
Housing Partners	8
Service Users / Carers	16
Other	2

The Workforce Development Sub-group developed and refreshed the Training Strategy and Training Plan for 2020/2021 to lead and manage training arrangements across Rotherham. To enhance the application of the safeguarding process and achieve improved outcomes for Service Users the group carried out a training needs analysis to identify cross sector training requirements. The group continues its work to develop mechanisms to measure the success and outcomes of safeguarding adults training.



RECOGNISE · RESPOND · REPORT



KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

A Concern

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

A total of 1586 concerns were reported through the new Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC).

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

The safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

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

If the concern does not meet the criteria of the three point test the case may be signposted to a different team such as the complex lives team or maybe a care assessment is needed. We will always ensure the person is safe and not in any danger.

1586 Safeguarding Concerns were received in 2019-20

Section 42 Enquiry

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

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

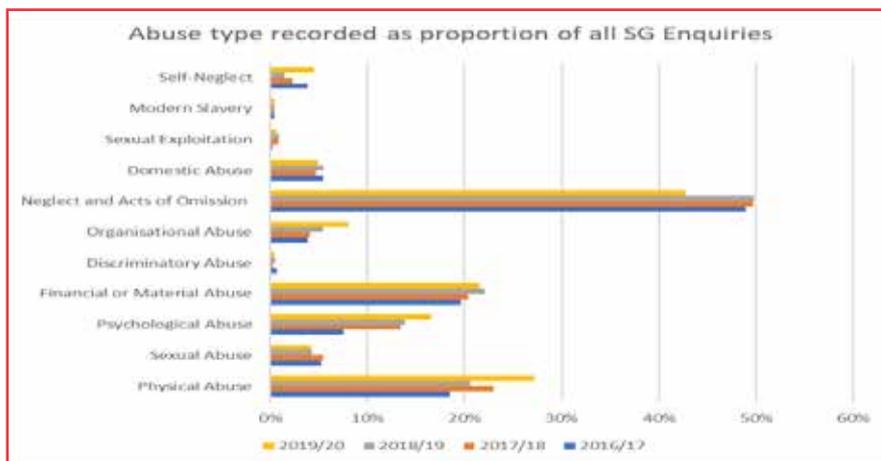
At any point during this investigation a case can exit the safeguarding process.

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

506 Section 42 enquiries begun 2019-20



The chart above shows a slight increase in safeguarding concerns received compared to last year with a 7% rise, however the number of Section 42 enquires carried out during the year is also slightly higher at a 6% increase.



The chart above shows the breakdown in types of abuse recorded over the last four years, with neglect and acts of omission being the largest group of recorded incidents. Neglect and acts of omission covers concerns including:

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

Decision Making Meeting (DMM)

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

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

Outcomes Meeting

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

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

Safeguarding Adults Review – (SAR)

A Safeguarding Adults Review must be carried out if:

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

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

Number of SARs Commissioned 2019-2020

One SAR was commissioned in 2019/20.

Number of SARs Completed 2019-2020

One SAR was completed in 2019/20
Published June 2020

SAR Elizabeth

Elizabeth died at the relatively young age of 60 after an overdose followed by pneumonia. She had spent a five-year period in care homes and rehabilitation units following a fall. The fall left Elizabeth with life changing injuries and her life changed dramatically. She was no longer able to return to the home she shared with her mother or resume her employment. She was dependent on others for meeting her care and support needs. Sadly, her mother died suddenly in the year prior to her death and left Elizabeth traumatised and grieving. This led to an increase in alcohol intake and anxiety. Somehow during this period Elizabeth's needs became entangled with funding processes such as Continuing Healthcare (CHC), Independent Funding Review (IFR) and Social Care funding.

We will of course never know if Elizabeth would have taken an overdose if circumstances had been different. What we can say is that her lifestyle change following her fall and the death of her Mother had an untold impact on the way in which she saw her future. We have learnt that sometimes the process surrounding funding decisions and constraints in systems means that we can take our eyes off the person and each other. There is learning for agencies in understanding multidisciplinary working, developing a shared language and managing escalation. Most importantly, there is a desire to be more person centred.

Recommendations

1) Explore and agree how the Health and Care system uses multi-agency discussions for people who do not neatly 'fit' into safeguarding

This review has highlighted the need to ensure that funding should be a consideration but must not drive decisions. It appears that Practitioners/agencies were not aware of all possible routes for support in navigating Elizabeth's complex needs, including the existence of a group like the 'High cost Panels'.

The Health and Wellbeing Board has a key role to play in promoting and helping to embed processes for people with 'unique' needs, such as Elizabeth, across the workforce. This will ensure that staff are aware of their role, including the processes for people with vulnerabilities in line with Making Safeguarding Personal, and have clear expectations of outcomes. There should be clear guidance for referrers with details of escalation and appeal processes.

Furthermore, MDT assessments should include as per national guidance health and social care professionals who know the individual and not just rely on reports. Decisions about CHC should be reached collectively to ensure multidisciplinary assessment of eligibility is agreed. This was a concern raised by participants in the learning event. There was a sense that Elizabeth's needs were not always fully understood. There should be local guidance to inform referrers of the opportunity to restart processes such as DST if circumstances change.

The role of MDTs is a common theme in safeguarding reviews and in the wider integrated care agenda. There should be Investment in the development and joint training of multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) to transform their skills, cultures and ways of working. This is wider

than the SAB but is vital if systems are to be transformed to achieve person centre care.

The teams who worked with Elizabeth could work together to build on this approach as an example.

2) Independent Advocacy

The SAB should review the use of Independent advocacy as outlined in the Care Act (2014). This review should include the number of available and trained Advocates.

The Care Act places a duty on councils to provide independent advocacy when someone has 'substantial' difficulty being involved in the process of care and does not have an appropriate individual to support them. RMBC should undertake its own review to understand how and when independent advocates are commissioned and trained.

3) Appreciative inquiry /Learning Reviews

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board should build on the use of appreciative inquiry to build a culture of learning across agencies. This would help agencies to come together in complex circumstances such as Elizabeth's and reflect on progress.

4) Debriefs

Rotherham Safeguarding Partnership should consider how it will provide support and debriefs for Practitioners from organisations, including non-statutory organisations following learning reviews. Self-care is vital and many practitioners and the SAB should explore supervision and counselling opportunities following SARs. The SAB business manager could be an initial point of contact for practitioners until processes are in place. The SAB may wish to consider linking to other mental health support services for staff such as RMBC.

5) Signposting

RDaSH should consider how to make staff aware of the need for signposting to charities/voluntary sector when individuals are not considered to require mental health services support but still have significant risk factors.

6) Review and understand escalation process

This is a recommendation for the SAB and for each organisation. Participants in the review were not all aware of escalation processes and those who were had not considered their use.

7) Making Safeguarding Personal

There had been no safeguarding enquiry for Elizabeth, therefore no involvement in Elizabeth's care from safeguarding specialists in health and social care. Most practitioners involved in working with Elizabeth had not considered her to be 'at risk' or to have any safeguarding needs or concerns. It would be useful for the SAB to consider how it will raise awareness of the principles of MSP in line with person centred approaches.

The recommendations will be developed into an action plan that will be monitored by the Performance and quality subgroup until the action plan is completed. All completed action plans are delivered back to the Safeguarding Adults Review sub group for sign off and reporting back to the board.

APPENDIX 3 ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ATTENDANCE

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

	May 2019	July 2019	October 2019	January 2020
South Yorkshire Police	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Rotherham Foundation Trust	✓	✓	✓	Apologies
Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group	✓	✓	✓	✓
RMBC Director of Social Services	✓	✓	✓	✓
RMBC Childrens Service	Apologies	Apologies	✓	✓
South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue	Apologies	✓	✓	✓
RDaSH	✓	✓	✓	Apologies
RMBC Services	✓	✓	✓	✓
Healthwatch	✓	Apologies	✓	✓
Voluntary Sector	Apologies	✓	Apologies	✓
National Probation Service	✓	✓	Apologies	✓
Community Rehabilitation Company	✓	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies
Cabinet Member for Adults Services	✓	✓	✓	✓

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



Do you know the signs of adult abuse?



Recognise • Respond • Report

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

Keeping people safe from abuse is everyone's business

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

