

# Annual Report 2020 - 2021



The Safer Rotherham  
PARTNERSHIP



# Foreword

## Councillor Saghir Alam, Chair of the Safer Rotherham Partnership



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Throughout 2020/21 the partnership continued to address previously agreed key areas for joint working that impact on our communities, retaining focus on protecting vulnerable children and adults, community safety concerns in local neighbourhoods including anti-social behaviour and hate crime, domestic abuse and sexual offences and serious organised crime.

These broad areas will remain our focus throughout 2021/22 so we can continue to strengthen partnerships and ensure that services are working better together.

The level of activity over the period has been encouraging, supported by the development of Board members roles and responsibilities, which will continue over the coming years. Likewise, the development of our structures starting at Ward level with the Community Action Partnerships, through to our tasking and coordinating processes and Theme Groups has improved information and intelligence sharing, enabling us to better focus our resources where they are needed most. As ever, these efforts are targeted at making the Safer Rotherham Partnership as effective as it can be in working towards our overall objective of ensuring that Rotherham continues to be a safe place for people to live, work and visit.

Whilst important, the developments in the overall partnership are only part of the story and this report will share some of the key highlights in relation to delivery against each priority area in the coming pages.

As 2021/22 is the final year of our current Partnership Plan, the Safer Rotherham Partnership has already embarked upon the process of identifying and agreeing our crime and disorder priorities for the three years commencing 2022/23.

I want to thank the members of the board for their work over the last year in setting out our vision and the priority group leads for taking this forward into action.

I would also like to thank the previous Chair of the partnership, Councillor Emma Hoddinott for her leadership, drive and commitment in the development and progression of the partnership to where it is today.



# Introduction



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The Safer Rotherham Partnership is the borough's Community Safety Partnership with statutory responsibilities established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The partnership has a legal responsibility to tackle crime, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse, and to enhance feelings of safety.

There are currently five responsible authorities on the Safer Rotherham Partnership, who have a legal duty to work in partnership to address these issues. They are:

- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- South Yorkshire Police
- South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Probation Service
- Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group

The Safer Rotherham Partnership has agreed its priorities for 2018/21 after a wide ranging, inclusive consultation period. The priorities are:

- Protecting Vulnerable Children
- Protecting Vulnerable Adults
- Building Confident and Cohesive Communities
- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences
- Tackling Serious Organised Crime

# Protecting Vulnerable Children

Chief Superintendent Steve Chapman, South Yorkshire Police



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## Summary of key activities and outputs

**Child criminal exploitation** – In 2020/21, intel reports have remained consistent and there has been an increase in referrals. Additional resources have been put in place in Evolve to ensure demands are met. This is part of a 6 month pilot which will also include looking at and developing a single pathway for child exploitation.

**Online offending** – In 2020/21 the number of online incidents against young people has increased. The prevalence of online offending is likely to continue to increase due to improved knowledge and awareness of technology by offenders, especially those who's offending behaviour has changed due to limited contact opportunities during lockdown. A Digital Champions Network is being put in place which will co-ordinate training across the partnership, work together on developing key points/questions to be embedded into existing assessments and raising awareness of new technologies.

**Child sexual exploitation** - In 2020/21 there has been an increase in intel reports. Awareness raising has been done through the Spot The Signs campaign and a video was produced to raise awareness publicly alongside an extended video specifically for use with hospitality staff. Training has continued to take place virtually including sessions delivered to partners by Evolve, and e-learning modules.

**Preventing offending** - Due to improvements to pathways for out of court disposals, YOT are able to carry out more assessments of children/families and put interventions in place where appropriate to offer a longer term impact and change behaviours. New data measures will be provided from Q1 2021/22 to give a more accurate picture of offending and provide Partners with a better understanding of the YOT cohort/demands.

**Repeat missing children** - The number of children with 3 or more missing episodes in the period has remained consistently low and Rotherham continues to perform well in comparison with other areas in South Yorkshire. The rollout of the Philomena protocols have had a positive effect and are helping placements carry out checks prior to contacting police alongside problem orientated policing plans and problem solving plans to understand the triggers to the missing episode.

# Protecting Vulnerable Adults

Andrew Wells, Head of Service, Safeguarding & Mental Health



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## Summary of key activities and outputs

**Mental health** – The mental health clinical specialist within the co-located Safer Neighbourhood Team has made 432 mental health support interventions from April 2020 to March 2021.

**Preventing vulnerable adults becoming victims of crime** - The Community-Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference is working successfully to reduce offending against vulnerable adults. During 2020/21, 55 vulnerable/repeat victims of crime were supported by agencies across the partnership.

**Preventing offending** – During 2020/21 the Safer Rotherham Partnership developed its focus towards reducing offending of high frequency offenders. Throughout the year the partnership managed a total of 58 high frequency service user cases, although it should be noted that some service users contributed to more than one case in the overall 58 cases recorded. Over the year, crimes committed by the managed users reduced significantly.

**Substance misuse** In 2020/21, 92 Drug Rehabilitation Requirement Orders were made, reflecting the drive to ensure tools to tackle substance misuse are used appropriately.

**Preventing modern slavery, 'mate crime' and 'cuckooing'** - Awareness raising to increase referrals and safeguard victims resulted in 22 modern slavery referrals to the National Referral Mechanism in 2020/21. During the period 13 Council officers were trained as Single Points of Contact (SPOC's) making us far better equipped to identify and respond to cases of modern slavery and human trafficking.

# Building Confident & Cohesive Communities

Steve Adams, Group Manager, South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue



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## Summary of key activities and outputs

Neighbourhood based working, through co-located multi-agency teams and joint action planning and initiatives, continues to develop and achieve improvements in problem solving in local neighbourhoods.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) - Sustained progress has been made, including the creation of a more effective anti-social behaviour service, with Police and Council officers co-located within three locality teams. 881 fewer ASB incidents were reported in 2019-20 than in 2018-19. This positive progress was interrupted by the Covid pandemic between April to June 2020, which saw an 81% increase in reported incidents compared to the previous three months, with a 22% increase over the whole year. ASB therefore remains a continuous focus for action.

Preventing hate crime - Positive work has taken place to raise public confidence and awareness to report hate crime, improve responses and tackle the drivers of hate in communities. Hate crimes and incidents in Rotherham increased by 19% in 2020-21 compared to last year. The rise is attributed to the impact of Covid with an increase in hate crimes related to neighbour disputes and online hate, and greater public awareness about reporting hate crime. Remedi (restorative justice organisation) delivered hate crime awareness workshops to over 1000 young people in schools, colleges or online in 2020-21 and also worked one to one with 25 young people who had been involved in or at risk of being involved in hate crime as perpetrators. Rotherham Youth Cabinet also launched their hate crime pledge/charter for schools.

Police and Council arrangements for information sharing continue to facilitate a better understanding of the potential for community tensions and faster joint responses including, where appropriate, community reassurance measures

Raising awareness of risks is key to safeguarding people who may be vulnerable to becoming drawn in to extremism and terrorism – 366 learners across a range of partners attended additional online Prevent training over the year. This enhanced the training offer provided by each Prevent partner organisation, as required by the Prevent Duty.

# Tackling Domestic Abuse

Sam Barstow, Head of Community Safety & Regulatory Services



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## Summary of key activities and outputs

Operation Encompass has been expanded to all levels of risk. This operation ensures that schools are notified if a child lives in a household where a domestic abuse incident has occurred. This ensures that any wrap around support available from the school is utilized.

Emergency online support for victims was launched during the pandemic. The Partnership also placed information about how to access help and support at testing and vaccination sites alongside delivering campaigns to support people to access services in places such as shops or pharmacies

The Council has continued to provide refuge accommodation for victims fleeing Domestic Abuse, along with wrap around family support.

Smartwater project launched to protect victims of domestic abuse. This project helps victims feel safe in their own home. Smartwater is a uniquely identifiable liquid that allow the Police to gather evidence against perpetrators.

Over 2,500 referrals were made in to support service for victims of Domestic Abuse

# Tackling Serious & Organised Crime

Detective Chief Inspector Dan Boulter, South Yorkshire Police



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## Summary of key activities and outputs

Throughout the year, increased enforcement and disruption activity has resulted in the dismantling of some established crime groups, whilst improved mapping processes have resulted in the identification of new groups.

Our work towards tackling violent crime together with the Violence Reduction Unit has resulted in reductions in overall violent crime and knife crime. During 2020/21 there were 2,217 violence with injury offences recorded which is a reduction on the 2696 offences recorded during 2019/20. During the same period 314 offences involving knives or bladed articles were recorded, which was a reduction on the 352 recorded the previous year.

A shared understanding of the areas of organised criminality which present the highest risk and harm to communities was achieved. A key theme included the criminal exploitation of children in relation to serious and organised crime. Whilst this is now being progressed through the vulnerable children priority, the Serious Organised Crime function continues to focus on areas of overlap in relation to the issue. A further key theme, violent crime, continues to be an issue of national significance, particularly knife crime.

To support identification and intelligence flow from partners other than the Police, awareness raising sessions have taken place through various channels, including social media.

Through the development of the local violence reduction plan, work continued to tackle violent crime alongside the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit, which takes a public health approach to preventing and reducing violence, delivering a range of innovative initiatives with partners.



# Project Highlights



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During 2020/21 a total of £118,105 was allocated and spent on projects and initiatives, a sample of which are highlighted

Continuation of the Perpetrator Programme addressing issues with Domestic Abuse offenders.

**Community Payback Project**  
A team of up to 8 supervised offenders from the local area worked exclusively on projects in Rotherham identified by members of the public, Cllrs and officers.

Modern Slavery 'spot the signs' training

Completion of the Draft Rotherham Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Strategy 2021/26

Production of a Hate Crime animation video by young people for young people, to raise awareness of hate crime and how to report it.

**Covid 19 Domestic Abuse Support**  
Encourage victims of domestic abuse to contact the commissioned service for support during Covid-19 and making services available through webchat and other innovations over extended hours

**Trauma Informed Practice Training**  
At total of 75 professionals attended Tier 2 Trauma Informed training and a total of 50 professionals attended the higher level Tier 3 training.

Purchase & distribution of Domestic Abuse 'Smart-Water' canisters

Delivery of Safeguarding from extremism and terrorism training including, understanding radicalisation and risks relating to online extremism and gaming.

**Teen Talk Project** – A youth health education programme, providing both physical resources and online interactive sessions for young people and children to explore together with professionals focussed on harm reduction, prevention, and education

## Covid 19 Fraud Awareness Campaign

**SINCE THE START OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, CRIMINALS HAVE JUMPED AT THE CHANCE TO FIND NEW SCAMS.**

**TOP 10 SCAMS HAPPENING IN LOCKDOWN**

**BE AWARE**  
TOP 5 COVID-19 VACCINE SCAM METHODS

**Remember, the COVID-19 vaccine is free!**

You can find out more about reporting fraudsters at [www.rotherham.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/coronavirus)

**BE ALERT TO COVID-19 FRAUD**

**SINCE THE START OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, CRIMINALS HAVE JUMPED AT THE CHANCE TO FIND NEW SCAMS.**

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Rotherham Borough Council





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For more information contact [community.safety@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:community.safety@rotherham.gov.uk)

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