# The Rotherham Plan 2025







## Contents

Foreword	
The story so far	
Our borough	1
Our principles	1.
Our plan	1
A place to be proud of	1
Inclusive economy	1
Climate and environment	2
Health and wellbeing	2
Building stronger communities	2
Delivery	2

### **Foreword**

In the five years since we produced the Rotherham Plan, it would be an understatement to say that a lot has happened.

In a positive sense, we have delivered tangible improvements as a partnership, but we have also faced significant challenges: from the lockdowns and restrictions of Covid-19; through a growing national and global recognition of the need to act on climate change; to the rising living costs that are now causing real hardship across our communities.

To reflect this changing picture, we have updated the plan to show where our emphasis lies over the next few years and what we intend to deliver.

But we should also take the time to celebrate what we've already achieved. The next section, *The story so far*, provides a flavour of this. Rotherham now has a university centre, a major theme park, and further schemes in the town centre and local high streets are taking shape. Building work has begun on the Forge Island leisure development where a cinema, hotel, and five new restaurants have signed contracts for unit space.

Through the Levelling Up Fund, partners including Wentworth Woodhouse, Gulliver's, Maltby Academy, and Magna have secured investment to boost the borough's leisure and tourism sector.

As well as delivering a new urgent and emergency care centre at Rotherham hospital, one of the first major milestones in our plan, NHS partners are using digital channels and technology to make it easier for patients to access the information and support they need. Examples of this are the Rotherhive online wellbeing and mental health resource and the Rotherham health app.

The pandemic didn't derail our progress; on the contrary, it brought us closer together: as partners, as people – as a Rotherham community. From the immense efforts of frontline staff in the NHS and other organisations, to the hundreds who volunteered to help isolated and struggling residents, we showed how this borough responds in times of adversity: with hard work, determination and – above all – compassion.

The rest of this updated plan describes the ongoing journey we are taking and the big themes that unite us all, from spreading opportunity and tackling inequality to responding to climate change and protecting our environment.

Our ambitious regeneration plans are progressing, despite the economic challenges we face, and our strong health and care partnership is enabling us to offer support when and where it is needed to improve people's health and wellbeing.

Through all of this, our partnership is not just across organisations and sectors, but – critically – is with our residents and our communities. We will continue to listen, to engage and to act together to secure Rotherham's economic future, build stronger communities, and enable our residents to live better, healthier and more fulfilling lives.



**Cllr. Chris Read,**Chair of the Rotherham
Together Partnership



## The story so far

In 2017, local partner organisations, working through the Rotherham Together Partnership, developed and launched the Rotherham Plan.

Setting out an ambitious programme of activity through to 2025, the plan described how partner organisations would deliver improvements for Rotherham people and places by focusing their efforts on:

- Creating more connected neighbourhoods where residents and agencies come together to solve problems and make improvements
- Helping people gain the skills they need to meet their aspirations and support a growing economy



- Acting early to prevent health problems from developing or worsening, enabling people to live happily and independently
- Transforming the town centre into a vibrant place where people feel safe and there is plenty to do and see
- Instilling hope and confidence in Rotherham by highlighting its many strengths, attractions and successes

Much has been achieved over the past five year.

In Rotherham town centre, major new developments are taking shape, part of a raft of regeneration schemes that will deliver benefits across the borough. Public spaces have been improved, homes schemes delivered, and preparatory work completed on Forge Island, where agreements have also been signed with a cinema operator and major hotel chain.

Partners have signed a social value charter, committing to using their spending power to create opportunities for local people and businesses, with tangible benefits now being felt.

A range of employment programmes are helping people to secure good jobs and progress in their career. For example, the Pathways and Inspire projects have helped over 760 people into employment or training since November 2020.



And the new University Centre Rotherham is at the heart of our commitment to improving skills and creating a genuinely inclusive economy.

Our solid partnership foundations have seen Rotherham stay ahead of the curve in establishing joined up health and social care arrangements, which enabled a swift and effective response to the Covid pandemic.

Rotherham has led the way nationally on social prescribing, which involves staff referring people for community-based support to improve their health and wellbeing. This connects people to local voluntary and community services and activities, helping them become more resilient and able to self-care.



At a neighbourhood level, multi-agency teams are working with communities to respond to local priorities. Police and council officers have joint bases across Rotherham, enabling better sharing of intelligence and resources.

Community organisations continue to play a vital role: ensuring people's voices are heard and providing an essential link between local communities and services.

Confidence in Rotherham is growing. We have attracted investment, hosted major events and have a diverse and proud community.

We continue to face the future with optimism, committed to working together to make a better borough.





### Our achievements

Rotherham receives Three council-police Urgent and First £32m for town joint neighbourhood Resettled **Emergency Care** public Wellgate investment teams in place 60 family Centre opens meeting of Integrated Place, first **Building** plan Town Jan 2019 groups from integrated health Jul 2017 of 3 housing health & Jun 2021 stronger and social care place Ukraine with centre schemes, communities social care Rotherham hosts board completed - May 22 Nov 2022





## Our borough



265,800 people, with 47,100 children (under 15) and 68,600 over 60s. The population is ageing with one in four people aged over 60.

Employment rate at 73.9% as of June 2022. This has been growing over the past decade, although is still slightly below the national rate (75.5%).



Full-time weekly pay is £72 lower for Rotherham residents compared to the national average. Within the borough, it is £164.20 lower for women than men, much wider than the Yorkshire & Humber (Y&H) (£111.10) and Great Britain (GB) (£97.40) gaps.

13,300 16-64 year olds are economically inactive due to long-term sickness. This represents 36.3% of those economically inactive overall in Rotherham, compared to around 25% in Y&H and GB.

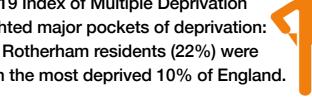




34.6% of Rotherham children were living in poverty in 2020, based on research from End Child Poverty.

Rotherham's Food in Crisis Partnership, which supports people who are struggling financially, saw a more than four-fold increase in the number of food parcels provided between 2019/20 (4,357) and 2020/21 (19,466).

The 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation highlighted major pockets of deprivation: 57,560 Rotherham residents (22%) were living in the most deprived 10% of England.





**32% of 16-64s have an NVQ4** or above qualification, compared to 38% in Y&H and 43.6% in GB (ONS data 2021).

13,100 16-64s have no qualifications, equating to 8.3%, compared to 7.8% in Y&H and 6.6% for GB.

64.5% of children under 5 achieving "good" level of development, compared to 65.2% nationally.



Rotherham has a vibrant voluntary and **community sector** with over 1,200 organisations and around 40,000 volunteer roles.

The Rotherham Community Hub, launched in March 2020 as part of the local response to the pandemic, responded to over 7,900 requests for support from residents who were isolated or in need. Over 1.280 people offered their services as volunteers via the Rotherham Heroes programme.

Life expectancy is lower than the national average in Rotherham, 77.5 for men (England average 79.4) and 81 for women (England 83.1.)

Life expectancy is 9.1 years lower for men and 10.5 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Rotherham, compared to the least deprived.



Emissions decreased by 41% between 2005 and 2020. There was a significant reduction of 10.14% from 2019 to 2020. though this was largely due to the impacts of the pandemic (i.e. unusual reductions in traffic/car travel).

£10.87 million pounds of social value commitments secured through council contracts in 2022.



Rotherham's wealth of green space, in the form of urban and country parks, nature reserves, woodlands and playing fields, is a major asset.

Rotherham has strong transport links and is home to the first tram-train in the country.





## Our principles

The principles that underline everything we do as a partnership are:



Connecting organisations and people to share knowledge, skills and resources



Building confident and cohesive communities, where people from different backgrounds can come together



Creating opportunities that benefit all residents, particularly those who are most disadvantaged

In order to have the most impact on the borough and its residents, partners will combine their resources, exploring innovative ways to share knowledge and skills across organisations. Only through concerted efforts, will we be able to combat disadvantage, bring people together and create a proud and healthy borough which offers positive opportunities to its residents.

As a partnership, we will have a clear and open commitment to reducing inequality, fostering good community relations and challenging discrimination. We will work with our communities and organisations across Rotherham to share expertise on equality and diversity so we can be confident leaders, able to respond to challenging issues. This will lay the groundwork for cohesive communities, where people from different backgrounds can come together.

We are committed to working together in partnership and with our communities to identify opportunities and solutions to problems. We know that some individuals and communities face barriers to meaningful participation. As part of our commitment to equality, we recognise that we must promote and use different ways to



engage and involve people. As we focus on expanding opportunities for local residents, we need to ensure that they reach those who are currently most disadvantaged.

In order to realise these principles, we must create the right environment; driving action across all our themes to create safe, healthy and vibrant communities, underpinned by good quality housing, jobs and local infrastructure.



## Our plan

The themes below reflect the things that we think are most important to focus on together over the next few years. This is based on the progress we've made so far, the intelligence we've gathered, and the consultation we've carried out with local people and organisations.

By combining our efforts across these themes, underpinned by our principles, we will continue to deliver improvements for local people and places.

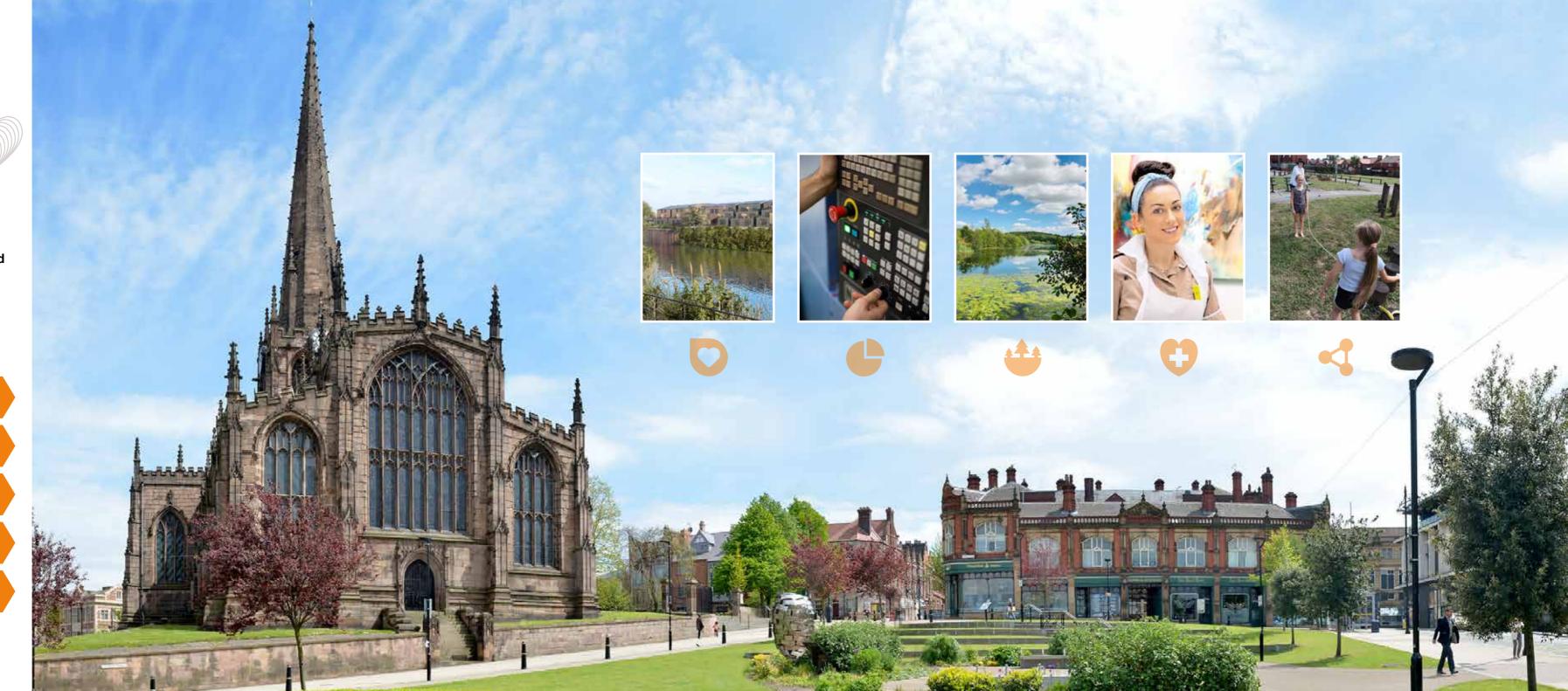


Inclusive economy

Climate and environment

Health and wellbeing

Building stronger communities





## Delivering regeneration across Rotherham, inspiring people and creating great places:

- Successful delivery of regeneration schemes
- Diverse cultural events and activities
- Rejuvenating the town centre

Our borough already has much to offer, with many places to go and things to do, from nature reserves, to our wonderful parks and our award winning museum, to historic landmarks such as the recently restored Keppel's Column and the grandeur of Wentworth Woodhouse.

The recent Women's Euros demonstrated our ability to successfully host major events raising the town's profile and creating a feelgood factor, as well as delivering a boost to local businesses.

Transformation of the town centre is now gathering pace. Attractive open spaces and homes are appearing as we focus on culture, leisure and living. The new cinema and hotel on Forge Island are moving closer to reality and plans are in place for the exciting markets and library redevelopment.

Over £90 million of investment has been secured and a raft of regeneration programmes are in the pipeline or already in delivery across the borough, enhancing existing assets and attractions and creating new ones. This includes funding for improved stables at Wentworth Woodhouse, new exhibitions at Magna and improvements at Thrybergh and Rother Valley country parks.

This regeneration activity is built on partnership working; on public, private and community organisations generating ideas, planning together, and delivering projects.

It is crucial that everyone feels part of what we're doing and can see how it benefits them and their local area, so that it instils hope and confidence.

With that in mind, a number of smaller schemes in towns and villages throughout Rotherham - informed by consultation with residents – will help to create accessible, welcoming, well-connected places, encouraging people to take pride in their communities and spend more time outside in their neighbourhood.

Complementing this will be an ongoing programme of events and activities that and provide further opportunities for people to



come together. This will provide a showcase for local talent and help to increase participation in art, culture and sport.

The Children's Capital of Culture 2025 is an inspiring initiative that is being shaped by our young people. Encompassing a wide range of creative activities and experiences, together with life-changing training and skills opportunities, it is central to our ambition of making Rotherham a place that young people are proud to call home.



- Key town centre regeneration schemes, including Forge Island, the markets redevelopment and new central library, new homes and Riverside Gardens
- An inspiring programme of creative events and experiences, led by young people, culminating in Rotherham becoming the world's first Children's Capital of Culture in 2025
- Capital improvement schemes across Rotherham through the Towns and Villages Fund
- Our ambitious Levelling Up Fund projects at Wentworth Woodhouse, Magna and Rother Valley and Thrybergh country parks
- A series of public events and activities in communities across the borough





## Creating opportunities for everyone to participate in and benefit from a growing economy:

- Improving skills and raising aspirations
- Targeting support to increase inclusion and spread opportunity
- Social value and a people-centred approach

Pre-Covid, Rotherham had one of the fastest growing economies in the UK and the fastest growing in Yorkshire, consistently topping UK Powerhouse rankings. This was driven, in part, by our expertise in advanced manufacturing and major investment by the likes of McLaren and Rolls Royce.

Whilst this trend was positive, the Covid pandemic caused significant contraction to Rotherham's economy (10.5% fall in its year on year growth rate for Q3 of 2020), with a detrimental impact for people and businesses. It is also clear that not all sections of the community benefited from economic growth.

Around 20% of our residents live in the 10% most deprived areas in the country and over one third of Rotherham children were in relative poverty in 2020. Many households are struggling to make ends

meet with three times as many people relying on food banks compared to before the pandemic.

Our vision is for a fair and thriving economy that provides chances for everyone to get a good quality job or start and grow a business; where people's contributions to the economy secure their economic wellbeing; and where households and businesses can plan confidently for the future.

A core element of this is our joint approach to social value. Partner organisations are 'anchored' in Rotherham, rooted in its communities and with a genuine stake in its future. We will continue to explore ways to use the money we spend, the buildings and space we occupy, and the people we employ to benefit local communities and businesses. For example, by applying local labour clauses to major developments we are making it easier for local people to access jobs and benefit from investment.

At the same time we will promote the Real Living Wage, emphasising the benefits for organisations across Rotherham of being 'good' employers.

The support we provide - with our local and regional partners - to boost skills and overcome barriers, must effectively

target those who are in danger of being left behind. A great example of this is Project Search, which offers internships for students with learning disabilities and

autism spectrum conditions.

Further opportunities will be created through Skills Street at Gulliver's, which will focus on training and development in the leisure and hospitality sector, and the new business incubation hub at Manvers, which will offer space and support for up to 38 micro or start-up businesses."

Finally, we recognise the importance of digital connectivity in enabling people to play a full part in society. Not only by finding jobs or cutting costs, but also staying in touch with friends and family and feeling less isolated. The partnership's digital inclusion programme will take action to increase internet access and improve digital skills.



- An expansion of the higher-level skills offer at University Centre Rotherham and a curriculum that focuses on reusable and sustainable energy skills
- 'Skills Street' at Gulliver's Valley focusing on training, development and accreditation within the hospitality and leisure sectors
- Employment support programmes (Pathways and Inspire) that reduce barriers to work and help people to progress in their chosen careers
- Improved transport links to connect people to opportunities, including a new tram train stop at Magna
- Work with employers to ensure they have a local labour pool with the required skills and experience to help their businesses to grow
- Joint initiatives and commitments on social value and promotion of the Real Living Wage





### Climate and environment



### Building a healthy and attractive local environment in Rotherham, whilst acting on the climate crises:

- Acting together to reduce emissions
- Protecting nature and the local environment
- Helping communities adapt

The climate crisis has emerged as one of the key challenges of our time, and we are already seeing early signs of the detrimental impact that this crisis will have on wellbeing in Rotherham through recent floods, heatwayes, and economic concerns.

It has also become increasingly apparent that climate change is occurring in the context of a wider nature crisis: the erosion of environments, the loss of species of flora and fauna and the decline of biodiversity, air and water pollution, and the consequent damage to ecological systems that humans depend on.

Partner organisations have already made climate and environment commitments, including Rotherham Council's commitments to reach net zero emissions as an organisation and support Rotherham

to be net zero by 2040, and the Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust's Green Plan which also aims to reach net zero by 2040.

We will harness these collective efforts to protect Rotherham's natural environment and mitigate the impacts of climate change and the nature crisis, building an adaptation response so that Rotherham can be resilient to future impacts and maintain a healthy and thriving environment.

The iconic canal barrier at Forge Island, for example, will reduce flood risk in the town centre and further schemes are in development. Meanwhile, investment is also being made into renewable energy initiatives in the Borough.

Work is underway to develop a shared vision and strategic approach towards climate and the environment across partner organisations. This will involve agreeing a partnership charter, including shared commitments to reduce emissions and encouraging others to do the same.

Work will also be progressed to better understand the overall nature crisis in its full complexity, so that action is evidencebased. This will build on existing activity including wild flower and tree planting, with 2,000 trees planted between November 2021 and February 2022 alone.

A crucial aspect is to engage effectively with local organisations and communities to raise awareness of climate and environmental issues. This will enable us to co-produce and jointly deliver action across the borough. Local schools and community groups are already getting involved in tree planting, and Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust has carried out biodiversity improvements along the River Rother corridor.

Through this collaborative approach, we aim to tap into the vast pool of collective knowledge, talent and experience, mobilising shared resources and assets to greater effect.

Finally, a critical part of our efforts is to ensure a 'just transition', so that the benefits of climate mitigation and adaptation are capitalised upon for all communities, and the potential risks are effectively addressed and reduced and do not fall disproportionately on particular areas or groups.



- The development of renewable energy projects
- Agree a Partnership Charter, with shared commitments to respond to the climate and nature crises
- Support for tree planting, rewilding, and other projects to promote nature recovery and biodiversity
- Reduced risk and impact of flooding in the borough, by investing in alleviation schemes







- Improving mental health
- Integrated services focused on individuals
- Embedding prevention and action on inequalities

Good health and wellbeing enable people to lead fulfilling lives and to be actively engaged in their community. In Rotherham, too many people are not in good health and significant differences exist between our most and least deprived communities. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a huge and continuing impact on local communities and services, especially health services. However, through our local health and wellbeing and placeboards, we have shown the strength of partnership working and what we can achieve when combining our efforts.

The impact of the pandemic on mental health has been significant and has made it more difficult for professionals to identify problems at an earlier stage. More people are seeking support for their mental health and an increasing number needing intensive support, including treatment on specialist mental health wards.

We are working with patients and carers to transform mental health services, ensuring people are able to access them as early as possible.

Our ethos as health and care partners is to work together to design joined-up health and social care services around families and individuals, responding to their specific circumstances at exactly the right level of need. By supporting residents early and working with them to find solutions, enabling access to GP services at the right time, and improving our facilities for early diagnosis, we can prevent problems from worsening. This includes opening a new diagnostics centre (a respiratory physiology hub) and day facilities for people with learning disabilities. autism and complex needs.

Education, as well as family and social support networks available to people, have a huge impact on health and wellbeing. Making sure that people have integrated, accessible support when and where they need it is vital. For us as partners, this means developing a family hubs approach: strengthening connections between organisations, developing our digital infrastructure and making it as easy as possible for residents to access our services.



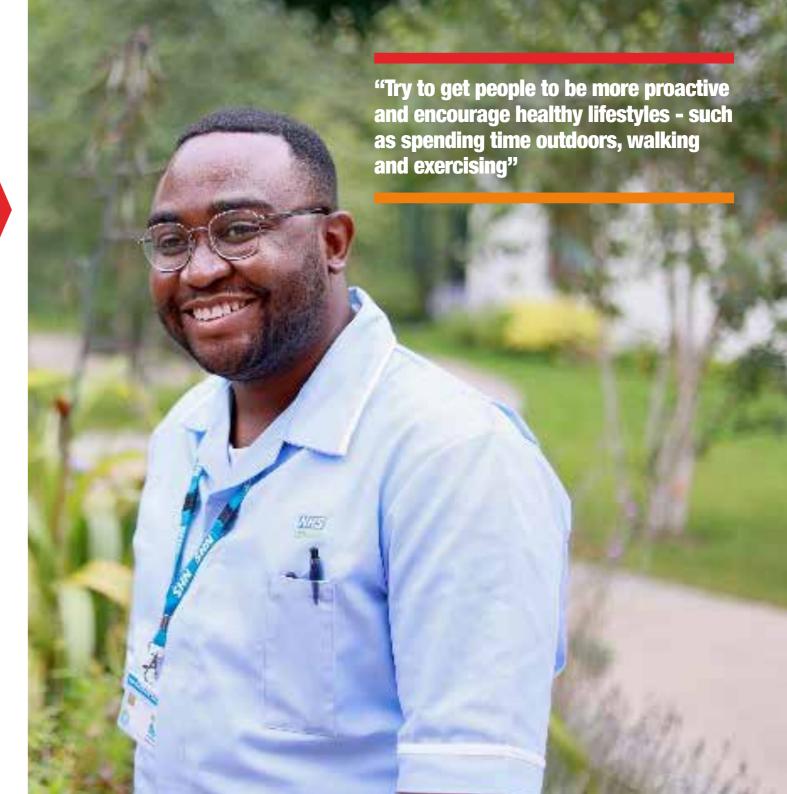
For our fostering service, maintaining our children in care in local family-based homes close to their local community networks and family links is a key principle.

To create a healthy borough where ill health is prevented, we will focus on encouraging and enabling people to be physically active, which has substantial health benefits. We can do this by making sure people feel safe in their local environment, with infrastructure and support in place.

The work we are doing as large-scale 'anchor' organisations, recognising our role as major employers and purchasers of goods and services, will also have a considerable impact on people's health and wellbeing by improving wider factors that impact on health, such as employment and the local environment.



- Transformation of community mental health services with patients and carers
- Opening of day facilities for people with learning disabilities, autism and complex needs
- Family hub approach to provide integrated support to families
- A strategic approach to increase physical activity across the borough, including investing in opportunities for active travel
- A prevention campaign to reduce the harms from smoking, obesity and alcohol and support healthy ageing
- A new diagnostic centre (respiratory physiology hub)



## Building stronger communities



### Working with individuals and communities on the things that matter most to them:

- Multi-agency neighbourhood working
- Engaging effectively listening, responding and co-producing
- Understanding our communities

To achieve a more cohesive and connected Rotherham we will work collaboratively, building on our multiagency neighbourhood working model, to make the best use of the assets we have in our local areas. This means bringing together everyone - residents, businesses, community and faith groups, councillors, and public sector bodies - to work in partnership, share resources and enable new ideas to develop.

This collaborative approach will ensure all places across the borough benefit from good quality, responsive services, tailored to local circumstances. By designing solutions with people and the agencies that support them, and addressing the root causes, we strengthen our commitment to preventing people's needs from escalating.

We will work closely together with all partners, including local voluntary and community groups, to ensure our public spaces, buildings and other local assets are used effectively to deliver public and community services.

We also want residents and community groups to make the most of enhanced town and village centres, green spaces and neighbourhood hubs such as local libraries and a new multi-use development at Olive Lane (Waverley). To be able to do this, we will continue to work with partners to make communities safer, responding to problems in local neighbourhoods, including antisocial behaviour, as well as tackling hate crime. We will also continue to invest in improving the borough's CCTV camera system, providing a better deterrent to offending and improving feelings of safety.

Building on the community spirit shown during the pandemic, we want to harness the positive aspects of Rotherham, creating a place where everyone feels connected and able to actively participate in their community. This includes working with a wide range of local partners to deliver the Rotherham Show each year; strengthening

community infrastructure; and promoting and celebrating volunteering and its impact, through events such as the annual volunteer walk.

We will continue to improve our understanding of local communities, their diversity, their particular strengths, and the barriers they face. By working in partnership and sharing information, we can provide tailored support to help people participate.

Treating people as equal partners, we will design more of our services together, listening to residents as experts and taking on board their experiences. This includes continuing to work with schools to increase take up of the Rotherham Youth Cabinet's 'Schools' Hate Incident Charter', which contains eleven pledges to tackle hate through education, reporting and taking hate incidents seriously.

As we strengthen our relationships with communities, we aim to create a virtuous circle, where mutual trust is established. cooperation increases and our collective skills, knowledge and assets are applied to finding effective solutions to the challenges we face together.

- A new multi-use development at Olive Lane (Waverley) acting as a vibrant centre at the heart of the community
- Annual Rotherham Show with a wide range of partners
- Support for voluntary and community sector to enable sustainable and resilient community-led local improvement
- Continue to invest in improving the Borough's CCTV camera system.
- Tackling hate crime by engaging with communities and working with schools to increase take up of the Rotherham Youth Cabinet's 'Schools' Hate Incident Charter'.





## **Delivery**

As part of Rotherham Together Partnership, there are several thematic partnerships through which local organisations are working together every day to improve outcomes for local people. These include:

Safer Rotherham Partnership	Health & Wellbeing Board	Business Growth Board	Children & Young People's Partnership	Cultural Partnership
Key aims and outcomes				
Protecting vulnerable children Protecting vulnerable adults Safer and stronger communities Protecting people from violence and organised crime	Children get the best start in life  People enjoy the best possible mental health and wellbeing  People live well for longer  Communities are healthy, safe and resilient	Businesses can flourish and grow People are skilled and enterprising Infrastructure is provided to support growth	Children and young people have a voice and are listened to Children have accessible, fun things to do Places are safe, clean and welcoming Young people can celebrate Rotherham's diversity	Enable everyone to get active, get creative and get outdoors more often

These partnerships will embed the Rotherham Plan principles and themes in their strategies, plans and programmes. Chief officers and partnership chairs will meet regularly to ensure connectivity and coordination across the partnership, with quarterly strategic meetings focusing on progress against the projects and programmes identified for each theme in the plan, as well as key cross-cutting issues such as safeguarding. In addition, two showcase events will be held each year, giving people the chance to hear about what's been delivered and the impact it's had.



## The journey to 2025







### A place to be proud of

- Key town centre regeneration schemes, including Forge Island, the markets redevelopment and new central library, new homes and Riverside Gardens
- An inspiring programme of creative events and experiences, led by young people, culminating in Rotherham becoming the world's first Children's Capital of Culture in 2025
- Capital improvement schemes across Rotherham through the **Towns and Villages Fund**
- Our ambitious Levelling Up Fund projects at Wentworth Woodhouse, Magna and Rother Valley and Thrybergh country parks
- A series of public events and activities in communities across the borough



### Inclusive economy

- An expansion of the higher-level skills offer at University Centre Rotherham and a curriculum that focuses on reusable and sustainable energy skills
- 'Skills Street' at Gulliver's Valley focusing on training, development and accreditation within the hospitality and leisure sectors
- **Employment support programmes** (Pathways and Inspire) that reduce barriers to work and help people to progress in their chosen careers
- Improved transport links to connect people to opportunities, including a new tram train stop at Magna
- Work with employers to ensure they have a local labour pool with the required skills and experience to help their businesses to grow
- Joint initiatives and commitments on social value and promotion of the Real Living Wage



### Climate and environment

- The development of renewable energy projects
- Agree a Partnership Charter, with shared commitments to respond to the climate and nature crises
- Support for tree planting, rewilding, and other projects to promote nature recovery and biodiversity
- Reduced risk and impact of flooding in the borough, by investing in alleviation schemes



### Health and wellbeing

- Transformation of community mental health services with patients and carers
- Opening of day facilities for people with learning disabilities, autism and complex needs
- Family hub approach to provide integrated support to families
- A strategic approach to increase physical activity across the borough, including investing in opportunities for active travel
- A prevention campaign to reduce the harms from smoking, obesity and alcohol and support healthy ageing
- A new diagnostic centre (respiratory physiology hub)



- A new multi-use development at Olive Lane (Waverley) acting as a vibrant centre at the heart of the community
- Annual Rotherham Show with a wide range of partners
- Support for voluntary and community sector to enable sustainable and resilient community-led local improvement
- Continue to invest in improving the Borough's CCTV camera system.
- Tackling hate crime by engaging with communities and working with schools to increase take up of the Rotherham Youth Cabinet's 'Schools' Hate Incident Charter'.

