

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 15 September 2025

Report Title

Community Safety Strategy 2025-2028

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

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Andrew Bramidge, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Helen Banerjee, Community Safety Officer

Sam Barstow, Assistant Director, Community Safety and Street Scene

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

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

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

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

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

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

Recommendations

That Cabinet:-

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

List of Appendices Included

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

Background Papers

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

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Community Safety Strategy 2025-2028

1. Background

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

2. Key Issues

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

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

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

1. Safer Neighbourhoods

Problem solving in neighbourhoods

(Objective owner: Safer Rotherham Partnership Board)

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

Anti-Social Behaviour

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

Hate Crime

(Objective owner: Safer Rotherham Partnership Board)

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

Combatting alcohol and substance misuse

(Objective owner: Chair of Combatting Drugs Partnership)

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

2. Tackling violence, abuse and exploitation

Domestic abuse (including Domestic Homicide Reviews)

(Objective owner: Safer Rotherham Partnership Board)

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

Sexual Offences

(Objective owner: Safer Rotherham Partnership Board)

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

Violence Against Women and Girls

(Objective owner: Safer Rotherham Partnership Board)

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

Modern Slavery

(Objective owner: Safer Rotherham Partnership Board)

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

Serious Violence (Serious Violence Duty) and Organised Crime

(Objective owner: Safer Rotherham Partnership Board)

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

Child Exploitation (Criminal and Sexual exploitation)

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

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

3. Preventing Offending – Building resilience

Preventing radicalisation (Prevent and Channel duties)

Martyn's Law (Protect Duty)

(Objective owner: Safer Rotherham Partnership Board)

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

Preventing offending and reoffending (adults)

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

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

Preventing offending and reoffending (young people)

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

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

Vulnerable Adult Risk Management Pathway

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

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

2.5 **Cross Cutting Themes**

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

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

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

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

3. **Options considered and recommended proposal**

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

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

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

4. Consultation on proposal

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

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

4.6 The results of other consultations taking place during the same period were also taken into account including consultation for the Council Plan, Ward Plans, Housing Strategy consultation and rural crime engagement carried out by the South Yorkshire Police Motorcycle and Rural Crime Team.

4.7 The purpose of the consultation was to:

- Confirm the proposed overarching priorities for 2025-28.
- Identify the types of partnership responses that are most important to stakeholders under each priority.
- Identify any important community safety issues not addressed by the proposed priorities.

4.8 The outcome of the consultation was broadly supportive of the priority areas identified. In relation to the areas of focus, there was some variance but generally people thought the partnership should focus on raising awareness and delivering prevention and early intervention activities. The full outcome of the consultation has been provided to each SRP priority lead to inform development of their action plans.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

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

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no direct procurement implications as a result of the recommendations detailed in this report. However, any identified need for the Council to procure goods, services or works in relation to achieving the Strategy must be procured in compliance with the Council's Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules as well as relevant procurement legislation; namely the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023, which will be determined by the route to market selected.

6.2 The Safer Rotherham Partnership has received revenue grant funding of £113,062.98 in 2025/26 from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), to contribute to the delivery of the priorities set out in the Safer Rotherham Partnership Strategy and in the SYMCA Police and Crime Plan. Any costs associated with the delivery of these should be managed within the grant funding or they will have to be managed within approved revenue budgets.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

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

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

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

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

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

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

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

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

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

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

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

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

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1. There are wide-ranging implications for partners, who have been involved throughout the process of developing the SRP Strategy 2025-28. The Strategy sets out how the Safer Rotherham Partnership (which is the borough's Community Safety Partnership, set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998) will achieve the duties of the responsible authorities to work together to protect local communities and help people feel safer. There are five responsible authorities that make up the Safer Rotherham Partnership:

- Probation Service
- NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- South Yorkshire Police

- 12.2 The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust, Victim Support and Voluntary Action

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

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

13. Risks and Mitigation

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

14. Accountable Officers

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

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

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

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