

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Cabinet – 17 November 2025

**Report Title**

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025-2028

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

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

**Report Author(s)**

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**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

The Care Act 2014 states that all Safeguarding Adult Boards must produce a Strategic Plan outlining how they will achieve their objective of helping and protecting adults at risk of abuse or neglect, and how member organisations will contribute to the plan.

The 2025 – 2028 Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan has been developed through consultation with all members of the Board, including Rotherham Healthwatch and local voluntary organisations.

**Recommendations**

1. That Cabinet note the development of the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025 – 2028.

**List of Appendices Included**

- Appendix 1 Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025 2028
- Appendix 2 Part A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment
- Appendix 3 Part B – Equality Analysis Form
- Appendix 4 Climate Impact Assessment

**Background Papers**

None

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

Health Select Commission – 02 October 2025

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## **Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025-2028**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The primary objective of the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) is to ensure that local safeguarding arrangements and partnerships act to help and protect adults at risk of or experiencing neglect and/or abuse. The RSAB is a multi-agency strategic partnership made up of senior lead officers and nominated safeguarding leads from within adult social services, criminal justice, health, housing, community safety, and voluntary organisations.
- 1.2 The RSAB has an independent chair who is accountable for the effective delivery of the Board. The Care Act 2014 also specifies that there are three statutory core partners:

1. Local Authority
2. Integrated Commissioning Board
3. Police

The RSAB is a multi-agency, strategic partnership made up of the three core members alongside:

- Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
- Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust
- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- Probation Service
- Voluntary and Community Sector
- Cabinet member for Adult Care
- Other Council service representatives across housing, community safety and criminal justice
- Children and Young People's Partnership.

- 1.3 The Care Act 2014 requires all Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs) to produce a Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is a statement of a SAB's vision, objectives, and agreed-upon strategic priorities for the next three years.

The Strategic Plan informs the public about the SAB's plans and commitment to keeping adults safe.

- 1.4 The previous Strategic Plan was developed in 2022 and covered the period 2022-2025. The Plan had three strategic objectives to be delivered during the 3-year period. The objectives were:

#### Back to Basics

Working with partners to ensure the 6 principles of safeguarding are embedded in practice. Making Safeguarding Personal is part of everything we do. Key achievements included:

- Carried out the Partnership Self-assessment joint process with Children's Safeguarding Partnership.

- Worked with partners and providers to develop Safeguarding Threshold Guidance to provide a common understanding of 'what is safeguarding.'
- Provided safeguarding training to the partnership, voluntary sector, and commissioned services.
- Responded to emerging themes and demands highlighted in the quarterly performance report.
- Initiated training for the workforce delivered by Sheffield Hallam University.
- Conducted self-neglect and Hoarding Thematic Review involving colleagues from across the partnership.
- Developed a Hoarding and Self-neglect guide to assist reporting of issues.
- Raised awareness of Domestic Abuse in older people, via a publicity campaign and a learning event.

#### Systems, Processes and Performance

Make sure that all services have appropriate systems and processes in place to support and safeguard Adults effectively. Key achievements included:

- Worked with the Local Authority to develop a New Safeguarding Referral Process to ensure the customer's voice is heard throughout the process.
- Updated the safeguarding pathway to include customer satisfaction questions.
- Embedded the 'Caused Enquiry' safeguarding process to ensure the safeguarding process was working efficiently.
- Revised and refreshed the Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) process, developed new paperwork and included timelines to the process.
- Developed a thematic review process to capture non-SAR cases to ensure all learning is captured and disseminated across the partnership.
- Developed a SAR Multi-Agency Learning Approach to embed learning in practice and ensure all key messages are shared.
- Developed the Professional Curiosity training programme for the partnership, using the 'Train the Trainer' model to ensure training continuity.

#### Strengthen Partnership

Make sure that partners, organisations, and communities will work together to prevent abuse from happening. Key achievements included:

- Commissioned a Local Government Peer Review to ensure all Board partners are working together to provide the best possible outcomes for the people of Rotherham.
- Reviewed the structure of the SAB and its subgroups, improved membership and reporting.
- All Terms of Reference for SAB and its subgroups refreshed.
- Strengthened the links with all partners of the Board.
- Delivered Safeguarding Awareness Week during November of every year, working with the Children's Safeguarding and Safer Rotherham Partnerships.

- Strengthened the Safeguarding message, using Safeguarding Awareness Week to provide training and awareness sessions on many different topics.
- Developed a Safeguarding Newsletter with partner contribution, with the newsletter circulated to all partners of the SAB.

## **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025 -2028 was developed in consultation with Board members, including the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care. A development day was held in January 2025 to bring partners together to agree the safeguarding priorities for the next three years. The development session included workshops to understand what the safeguarding partnership felt were the areas for development, and where, by working together, we could improve services for the people of Rotherham.

The partnership agreed to five new strategic priorities.

### **Strategic Priority 1: Communication, Engagement and Voice**

Improving safeguarding awareness across all citizens, communities, and partner organisations.

- We will work to ensure the citizens of Rotherham are heard by the safeguarding partnership.
- We will work with communities across Rotherham to promote the work of the Board and raise awareness of safeguarding issues.
- We will work to ensure that the voices of seldom-heard people are heard by the Board.

### **Strategic Priority 2: Prevention and Early Intervention**

Developing tools to support practice that promotes open cultures and reduces the risk of abuse and neglect.

- We will continue to work closely with the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership to build on and develop support for young people in transition.
- We will continue to work with the Safer Rotherham Partnership, partners and communities to protect vulnerable adults including cuckooing, modern day slavery, hate and mate crime and repeat victims of crime to improve reporting and strengthen joint working to tackle crime.
- We will embed a robust Vulnerable Adults Pathway to support people who may be at risk of harm and abuse who do not meet the safeguarding thresholds but have complex needs.
- We will further strengthen our safeguarding practices relating to neglect, self-neglect and hoarding.

### **Strategic Priority 3: Leadership and Partnership**

To promote effective leadership, partnership working and governance for safeguarding adults, holding partners and agencies to account.

- We will explore the benefits of an Adult Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.
- We will continue to develop the SAB website to provide timely and accurate information and guidance from across the Partnership for the public and professionals.
- The Board and its partners will continue to work together across the Adult, Children's and Safer Rotherham Partnership Boards.
- Adopting a Think Family approach, we will work together across the partnership to fully embed a Think Family approach to safeguarding.

#### **Strategic Priority 4: Making Safeguarding Personal**

To make sure that safeguarding practice places adults at the centre and supports them in making their own decisions and outcomes.

- We will review and refresh Making Safeguarding Personal across the safeguarding partnership.
- All work will be done with the "so what?" question in mind. What is the difference we are making?
- We will strengthen our approach to the application of the Mental Capacity Act and use of Advocacy in safeguarding practices.

#### **Strategic Priority 5: Learning and Development**

To identify and share lessons from reviews and audits to drive practice development and learning.

- Deliver training to staff across the partnership to make sure safeguarding is person-centred and outcome focused.
- Undertake Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) to identify learning, improve practice and prevent similar mistakes from happening again.
- We will develop a SAB multi-agency audit process.
- We will use the professional website page to share the outcomes from learning reviews.

2.2 The RSAB has four subgroups that sit under the Board and the Executive Group. Membership of the sub-groups includes representatives from across the partnership and each of the groups has a work plan that supports delivery of the Strategic Plan:

- Safeguarding Adults Review Subgroup
- Policy and Practice subgroup
- Performance and Quality Subgroup
- Workforce Development Subgroup

A new subgroup, Voice, will be developed to bring the customer voice and experience to the Board.

A business plan will track the progress made on each of the priorities, and the SAB Executive will monitor all actions quarterly.

### **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 Cabinet endorses and supports the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Strategic Plan 2025 – 2028.

### **4. Consultation on proposal**

- 4.1 The report was presented and signed off by the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board on 16 July 2025.

### **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 5.1 The Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan will be available electronically via the RSAB website, <https://www.rsab.org.uk> from 1 December 2025.

### **6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.
- 6.2 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report. Where there is a need to engage third party suppliers to deliver objectives from the plan, these must be procured in compliance with relevant legislation (namely the Procurement Act 2023 and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015) subject to the route to market selected, as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

### **7. Legal Advice and Implications**

- 7.1 S43 of the Care Act 2014 requires each local authority to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) with the specific aim of protecting vulnerable adults in its area. To achieve this, the local authority is required to co-ordinate activities and approaches amongst partner organisations so as to ensure effectiveness of partners in achieving safeguarding outcomes.
- 7.2 Schedule 2 of the Act requires the SAB to produce a strategic plan which sets out how it will achieve its objectives and what each partner will do to implement the strategy. There are requirements that in the production of the strategic plan, the SAB will consult with the local Healthwatch and engage with the community in its area.
- 7.3 The requirements for the strategic plan are further amplified in the Care and Support Statutory Guidance and identifies the need for local SABs to understand the needs of their local community in the work that is done by the Board. The report reviews the previous activity of the Board and sets out its aims and objectives for next three years as required by the legislation.

### **8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

- 8.1 There are no HR implications associated with this report.

## **9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

- 9.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board is a partnership board and has representation from Children and Young People Services. The Chair of the Children's Safeguarding Partnership was involved with the development of the new Strategic Plan, and the Adults and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships work jointly to deliver cross-cutting themes.
- 9.2 The Strategic Plan has identified areas that will benefit from joint partnership working to ensure that safeguarding adults in Rotherham is effective and services are person-centred.

## **10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

- 10.1 The Care Act 2014 states that all Safeguarding Adult Boards (SAB) must produce a Strategic Plan outlining how they will achieve their objective of helping and protecting adults at risk of abuse or neglect, and how member organisations will contribute to this.

The 2025 – 2028 Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan has been developed through consultation with all members of the Board, including Rotherham Healthwatch and local voluntary organisations.

The Equalities Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix 2 and 3.

## **11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change**

- 11.1 There are no known climate impacts arising from the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board strategic plan 2025-2028 as proposed. Appendix 4 contains the Carbon Impact Assessment.

## **12. Implications for Partners**

- 12.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Strategic Plan 2025-28 has been produced with all partners of the Board contributing and agreeing on the final content.
- 12.2 Partners of the Board will share within their own organisations.

## **13. Risks and Mitigation**

- 13.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025-28 has a requirement to be published to ensure the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board meets its statutory duty under the Care Act 2014.

## **14. Accountable Officers**

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health  
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Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	John Edwards	27/10/25
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	27/10/25
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	27/10/25

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