

Annual Health Protection Assurance Report 2025

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Assurance Overview

Collaborative Multi-Agency Efforts

Multiple agencies in Rotherham work together to safeguard public health through coordinated health protection arrangements.

Health Protection Domains

The report covers infectious disease control, screening, immunisation, emergency preparedness, and infection prevention.

Stakeholder Assurance and Reporting

The report informs stakeholders on current status, achievements, and areas needing attention in health protection.



Screening Programmes

Improved Screening Uptake

Screening programmes in Rotherham have increased participation, especially in breast, bowel, and cervical cancer screenings.

Accessibility for Learning Disabilities

Collaborative efforts have improved screening accessibility for individuals with learning disabilities.

Diabetic Eye Screening Progress

Diabetic Eye Screening Programme addressed backlog and maintained compliance with national invite interval standards.

Bowel Screening Age Extension

Bowel screening programme expanded age coverage, supporting early detection and national policy compliance.



Immunisation Programmes

MMR Vaccination Coverage

MMR dose 1 coverage by age two remains above 90%, aiming for 95% for effective community protection.

Adolescent Immunisation Challenges

Post-pandemic declines in adolescent vaccinations led to targeted interventions to improve school-based uptake.

HPV Vaccination Focus

HPV vaccination aligns with national cervical cancer elimination strategies to reduce disease incidence.

RSV Vaccination Introduction

RSV vaccine launched in 2024 for pregnant women and older adults to protect vulnerable groups.



Maternal and Seasonal Immunisation

Pertussis Vaccination for Pregnant Women

Pertussis vaccination uptake among pregnant women remains above the 60% optimal threshold amid rising national cases and infant deaths.

Targeted Seasonal Flu Vaccination

Seasonal flu vaccination targets high-risk groups including young children, pregnant women, and immunocompromised individuals through focused initiatives.

Focus on Vulnerable Populations

Efforts prioritise individuals with chronic respiratory conditions, learning disabilities, or severe mental illness to reduce infectious disease impact.



Healthcare-Associated Infections

Pathogen Surveillance

Monitoring key pathogens like MRSA, MSSA, C. Difficile, and E. coli is essential to control infection spread in healthcare settings.

Effective MRSA Control

MRSA cases decreased significantly, reflecting success of targeted infection control measures and protocols.

Antimicrobial Stewardship

Increased cases of C. Difficile are addressed by improved antimicrobial stewardship and staff interventions.

Care Home Hydration Project

Hydration initiatives in care homes support infection control by improving patient health and reducing complications.



Tuberculosis (TB)

Low TB Incidence in Rotherham

Rotherham maintains a low TB incidence despite rising national rates through effective local health strategies.

Enhanced Case Management

Complex TB cases require enhanced case management to ensure proper treatment and thorough follow-up.

Collaborative Health Protection

Regional collaboration and cohort reviews promote best practices in TB screening and management.

Support for Underserved Populations

Proactive TB management includes ensuring care and support for underserved and vulnerable populations.



Infection Prevention & Control (IPC)

Leadership and Coordination

A Senior Public Health Practitioner leads IPC initiatives, ensuring focused and organized infection control efforts across the community.

IPC Audits and Outbreak Management

Regular audits and outbreak management support help identify risks early and enable rapid response to infection incidents.

Community Engagement and Training

Engaging care homes and coordinating the IPC Champions Network strengthens infection prevention practices and staff competencies.

Strategic Integration

Embedding IPC within local authority structures ensures sustainable and cohesive infection control to protect public health.



Emergency Planning & Response

Incident Management

Rotherham managed 33 emergency incidents in 2024/25, showing strong operational readiness and resilience.

Training Exercises

Participation in Exercise Solaris and preparations for Exercise Pegasus have improved emergency response capabilities.

Regional Coordination

The upcoming South Yorkshire-wide rest centre plan enhances coordinated support during emergencies.

Preparedness and Improvement

Continuous updates to planning and response frameworks emphasize public health safety during crises.



Strategic Priorities for 2025/26

Community IPC Strengthening

Focus on enhancing infection prevention and control through community-based programs for greater health impact.

Vaccination and Screening Uptake

Improve vaccination and screening rates specifically in deprived and underserved populations to reduce health disparities.

Preparedness and Surveillance

Prepare for adverse weather and pandemics while enhancing surveillance systems to detect emerging health threats early.

Addressing Antimicrobial Resistance

Tackle antimicrobial resistance with targeted health strategies to protect public health and ensure effective treatments.

