# **Annual Health Protection Assurance Report 2025**



### **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**

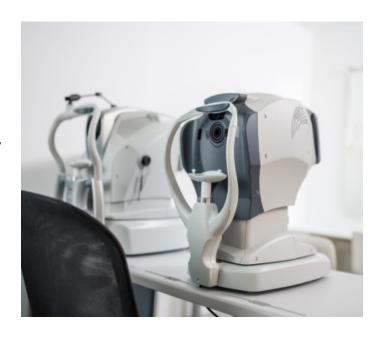
Collaborative efforts have improved screening accessibility for individuals with learning disabilities.

### **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**

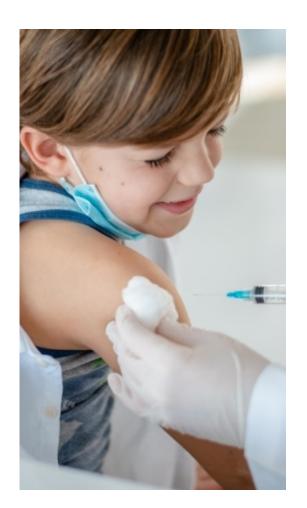
Post-pandemic declines in adolescent vaccinations led to targeted interventions to improve school-based uptake.

### **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.