

BRIEFING	TO:	Health and Wellbeing Board
	DATE:	28 January 2026
	LEAD OFFICER	Chris Clark
	TITLE:	Project Officer, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council

Background

- 1.1 The proposal for the Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Project was to engage a specialist educational psychologist to contribute to the initial assessment of children who may be affected by foetal alcohol spectrum disorder and produce effective education plans to meet the specific needs of affected children.
- 1.2 A presentation on the FASD Project came to the Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Board meeting in January 2025.
- 1.3 The presentation included detail on the key project deliverables such as the FASD Pathway development and implementation, the formation of a Steering Group, a Prevention and Awareness working group, and the setting up of an Educational Psychology Service.
- 1.4 One of the actions associated with this presentation was for an update to be addressed to the Board in January 2026.

Key Issues

- 2.1 The central purpose of this proposal is to get agencies working together in a multi-disciplinary way around the specific issue of FASD. South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) were involved with the project throughout and have worked closely to support the development of Prevention & Awareness services across South Yorkshire (SY). We have worked closely to start developing a FASD pathway to diagnosis and support across SY, utilising developments from other agencies. One Adoption West and One Adoption North & Humber have supported where appropriate to develop a Yorkshire approach to bringing FASD to the fore across a range of services.
- 2.2 Three distinct working groups were established throughout the project, these were: Prevention & Awareness: Working across SY to develop and deliver strategies, Working to identify current support services around FASD, where there are gaps and who we need to work with to fill these gaps, Looking at the development of services to support FASD diagnosis. The achievements of each respective group are outlined in the main report.
- 2.3 The scheme saw the set up of three multidisciplinary FASD working groups in 3 of the four Local Authorities (LA), with discussions continuing to take place with the 4th, although they include FASD in their 0–24-month programme. The Educational Psychology team have trained over 650 members of staff across SY schools, adoptive parents, post adoption Social workers and educational psychologists and virtual school staff amongst other outcomes.

2.4 2.5	<p>There is a raised awareness of FASD across SY and more trained staff thanks to the project. More staff across SY have received FASD training and the feedback from this training has been excellent. Adopters, both new and existing now have a better understanding of FASD and where to gain support with their adoptees. The educational Psychologists are creating an FASD toolkit that will be available across SY with tools for parents, schools and educational psychologists. We are working with authorities across SY to develop an FASD eLearning package that is available to all staff across SY.</p> <p>The recommendations were to provide a longer lead time from the grant agreement to starting the project to allow for recruitment to positions across the project. There were opportunities noted to share best practice, issues and risks at the various meetings throughout the duration of the projects. Overall, the process was well received except for engagement with NHS colleagues throughout the project.</p>
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Key Actions and Relevant Timelines

3.1	<p>The FASD Project ran from April 2023 until March 2025, due to the duration of the grant.</p>
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Implications for Health Inequalities

4.1 4.2 4.3	<p>FASD is the most common yet unrecognised neurodevelopmental condition in the world. It is the most commonly known cause of neurodevelopmental disability and birth defect in the western world. 1 in 20 in the UK could have FASD compared to 1 in 94 with Autism Spectrum Disorder.</p> <p>The condition is therefore a largely hidden disability and is closely associated with entrenching disadvantage across the life course and placing additional demand on health, social care and wider public services.</p> <p>The SY FASD Project is aiming to create a system for recognising and implementing support systems and appropriate care for those with the condition with the opportunities left open for further work across the region to support those affected.</p>
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Recommendations

5.1	<p>That the Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Board note the information provided about the conclusion of the FASD Project for South Yorkshire.</p>
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