

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Cabinet – 09 February 2026

**Report Title**

Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (RSCP) Annual Report 2024/25

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

**Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Nicola Curley, Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services

**Report Author(s)**

Chris MacDonald, Head of Safeguarding, Children and Young People's Services  
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**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

Each Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership (SCP) is required to produce and publish an annual assurance report. The report for 2024/25 is appended for Cabinet to note.

**Recommendations**

1. That Cabinet note the contents of the Rotherham SCP Annual Assurance Report 2024/25.

**List of Appendices Included**

- Appendix 1 Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership: Annual Assurance Report, 2024-25
- Appendix 2 Initial Equality Impact Assessment
- Appendix 3 Carbon Impact Assessment

**Background Papers**

[Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance](#)  
[Cabinet Report - Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements Nov 2024](#)  
[South Yorkshire Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements](#)

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**  
Improving Lives Select Commission on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## **Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership – Annual Report 2024/25**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 is statutory guidance which governs how agencies work to help and protect children. This introduced Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (M.A.S.A.), changing how the three statutory safeguarding partners (Local Authority, Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Police) should work in partnership to discharge their responsibilities to safeguard children as part of the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership. The Rotherham Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements were endorsed at Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024.
- 1.2 Under the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements, the Lead Safeguarding Partners are:
- The Chief Executive of Rotherham Council
  - The Chief Executive of South Yorkshire ICB
  - The Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police
- 1.3 The Delegated Safeguarding Partners are:
- Executive Director, Children's Services, Rotherham Council
  - Director of Nursing, South Yorkshire ICB
  - Chief Superintendent for Rotherham, South Yorkshire Police
- 1.4 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 expects that each Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership publish an annual report by the end of September each year. The report should be transparent and easily accessible to families and professionals. The report should be shared with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the Department for Education within 7 days of publication.
- 1.5 The annual assurance report, dated September 2025 and covering the period April 2024 to March 2025, was considered and approved by the Lead Safeguarding Partners ahead of its submission to the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the Department for Education. The report was considered at Improving Lives Select Commission in December 2025.

### **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 specifies that the LSCP Annual Assurance Report should address:
- What partnerships have done as a result of the arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews.
  - How effective the arrangements have been in practice.
  - The contribution of each safeguarding partner to the functioning and structure of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.
  - Any themes emanating from aggregated methods of scrutiny, for example, reviews and scrutineer activity and multi-agency audits.

- Evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children and families.
- An analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities.
- An analysis of learning from serious incidents.
- A record of key decisions and actions taken by the safeguarding partners in the yearly cycle, including in relation to implementing the recommendations from any local and national child safeguarding practice reviews and the impact this has had.
- Ways in which the safeguarding partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision.
- The breakdown of costs in delivering the arrangements for that period, including the financial contributions of individual partners, any changes to funding and an assessment of the impact and value for money of this funding.
- Evidence of how safeguarding partners are ensuring the adequate representation and input of education at both the operational and strategic levels of the arrangements.
- An overview of how data is being used to encourage learning within the arrangements and evidence of how information sharing has improved practice and outcomes.
- A review of the impact and learning from independent scrutiny arrangements to ensure the leadership is strong and the arrangements are leading to the desired and necessary impact.
- Any updates to the published arrangement with the proposed timescale for implementation.
- Evidence that national reforms have been implemented, taking into account key decisions and actions taken by safeguarding partners in response to reforms, and any issues or concerns encountered within the yearly cycle.

2.2 The Independent Scrutineer has determined that the Annual Assurance Report 2024/25 meets these criteria.

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

3.1 That Cabinet note the contents of the Rotherham Safeguarding Annual Assurance Report 2024/25.

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

4.1 There was no formal consultation conducted for the Annual Assurance Report. The Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership has a number of mechanisms to consult with children and families and obtain feedback.

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

5.1 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 required that the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (RSCP) Annual Assurance Report

2024/25 was approved by the Lead Safeguarding Partners and submitted to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the Department for Education by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Failure to do so may result in the notification of the Secretary of State.

- 5.2 The report covers activity from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The Partnership has an Independent Scrutineer and Chair who approves and contributes to the report.

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

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the publication of the RSCP Annual Assurance Report for 2024/25. The report outlines the key partnership activities during the year and how effective these arrangements have been in practice.
- 6.2 The total cost of undertaking the partnership activities for 2024/25 is £0.253m, which is funded through funding contributions from partner organisations and carry forward resources from the previous year, totalling £0.289m. An overall underspend of £0.036m is reported for the partnership for the year, which has been carried forward into 2025/26.
- 6.3 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

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

- 7.1 The Children Act 2004, Section 16 E (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) defines safeguarding partners as the Local Authority, the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Chief Officer of police in the local areas. It dictates that safeguarding partners have a joint and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the local area. Such collaboration involves acting as a team rather than a voice for the agency alone, as prescribed by Working Together 2023 statutory guidance. Relevant agencies should also be included to review progress against agreed priorities and identify areas for scrutiny with a focus on achieving outcomes for children.
- 7.2 The annual assurance report 2024/25 is noted to include progress against statutory guidance and strategic priorities, in line with the reporting requirements set out at Section 16 G (7) of Children Act 2004 and Working Together 2023, to provide a publication of those arrangements in a yearly report. Such report should be submitted and published by the 30<sup>th</sup> of September every year and should be reflective of work undertaken during the previous financial year. The statutory guidance also states that if partners fail to submit the yearly report, this may be escalated to the Secretary of State. By noting the contents of this annual assurance report, as per the recommendations at paragraph 3.1, there are no legal implications.

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

- 8.1 There are no direct HR implications within this report.

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

- 9.1 The RSCP Annual Assurance Report 2024/25 outlines how partner agencies, particularly the three statutory safeguarding partners and education, work together to keep children safe and details how effective this has been in the preceding twelve months. Clear accountability and coordination are critical to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

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

- 10.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership, and the role and representation of the Council within RSCP, contributes to the Council's mission to reduce inequality and promote the rights of children and their families. Where children are more likely to be vulnerable or suffer harm, RSCP works to coordinate and oversee effective safeguarding systems for children, and where children and families may experience unequal outcomes, RSCP encourages and challenges all partner agencies to work together to address this.
- 10.2 An Initial Equality Impact Assessment (Part A) has been completed and is attached as Appendix 2. Cabinet are being asked to note the report, and this is an Annual Assurance Report as opposed to a policy or strategy, which means that there is no potential for impact on Council services or the public. The report itself has no implications for equality. All Council strategies and policies referred to within the Annual Assurance Report that required Cabinet approval were subject to an individual equality analysis. Given this, there is no need for a Part B Equality Analysis.

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

- 11.1 There are minimal implications for CO2 emissions and climate change. Travel for bimonthly groups is minimal as most meetings are held online. Work to promote children's welfare and integration into universal services reduces health and other inequalities which improves climate resilience.

## **12. Implications for Partners**

- 12.1 Publication of the RSCP Annual Assurance Report 2024/25 discharges the equal responsibilities for the three statutory safeguarding partners, which includes partners in the ICB and Police. It also details the hard work and dedication of other partner agencies who contribute to the strategic multi-agency work to safeguard children.
- 12.2 The annual assurance report is expected to be transparent and easily accessible for partner agencies to allow them to also consider the impact of the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

### 13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 If the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership did not publish a compliant annual assurance report by the required date, the Secretary of State may be notified. There would be a risk that public and partner confidence would be lost.

13.2 A compliant annual assurance report was published on time.

### 14. Accountable Officers

Helen Sweaton – Joint Service Director, Commissioning, Quality & Performance

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	John Edwards	23/01/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	20/01/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	19/01/26

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