

Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council

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1st June 2026

Mr Martyn Shepherd

Dear Mr Shepherd

Council Meeting – Wednesday 20th May 2026

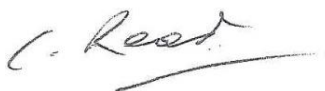
Thank you for your question to Council on Wednesday 20th May 2026. I have set out your question and my response below.

Following my last question, do you agree that at least some of the reasons given for not distributing the 1400 copies of 'Voices' purchased at a cost of £5600 made no sense at all? The intended audience was crystal clear - RMBC's workforce AND it was agreed that a RMBC leaflet showing support services would be placed in each copy.

I do not. To reiterate, the booklet was not distributed because it was viewed by Council officers and the government-appointed Commissioners with responsibility for the Council at that time, as being unsuitable for use by the Council.

On a subject so sensitive as the best way to train staff in responding to the sexual abuse of children, and the resulting trauma, I will always take advice from professionals in the field. In the decade since the events that you refer to, I have yet to hear any advice from all the people who have worked with us who feel that the book should be used for this purpose.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council