

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Improving Lives Select Commission – 05 March 2024

**Report Title**

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) – Peer Review Action Plan

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

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

**Report Author(s)**

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**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board commissioned the Local Government Association to carry out a Peer Review in July 2023 which identified a number of areas to further strengthen our safeguarding offer for Rotherham. Following the Peer Review, the Board held a Development Day in November 2023 to discuss the findings and recommendations. An action plan was subsequently developed to reflect the areas for improvement as a result of learning from the Peer Review.

This report follows presentation of the initial findings with the Improving Lives Select Commission in October 2023 as part of the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report and presents the formal action plan developed in response to the Peer Review for Safeguarding Adults.

**Recommendations**

That the Improving Lives Select Commission:

1. Consider the report and action plan.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 Rotherham SAB Peer Challenge Report  
Appendix 2 Peer Challenge Action Plan

**Background Papers**

None

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

None

**Council Approval Required**

None

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## **1. Background**

1.1 The Care Act 2014 requires all local authorities set up a Safeguarding Adults Board to co-ordinate local work to safeguard adults who need care and support. The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) works to protect adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect. The RSAB must:

- Produce an annual report on the effectiveness of adult safeguarding within their area.
- Produce a strategic plan that sets out the aims of the board.
- Commission Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SAR's) when needed.

The RSAB has an independent chair who is accountable for the effective working of the Board. The Care Act 2014 also specifies that there are three statutory core partners:

1. Local Authority.
2. Integrated Commissioning Board
3. Police

RSAB's objective is to ensure that local safeguarding arrangements and partnerships act to help and protect adults at risk or experiencing neglect and/or abuse. The RSAB is a multi-agency, strategic partnership made up of the three core members alongside:

- Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
- RDaSH
- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- Probation Service
- Voluntary and Community Sector
- Cabinet member for Adult Care
- Other Council service representatives across housing, community safety and criminal justice
- Children and Young People's Partnership

The RSAB co-ordinates the strategic development of adult safeguarding across Rotherham and ensures the quality and effectiveness of the work undertaken by partner agencies in the borough. RSAB aims to achieve its objective whilst supporting individuals to maintain control over their lives and make informed choices without coercion.

To ensure the RSAB was effectively meeting its duties, it commissioned the Local Government Association (LGA) to conduct a Peer Review in July 2023. The Peer Review provided a report to the Board which summarised a number of recommendations for the Board to improve its effectiveness and governance.

## 2. Key Issues

### 2.1 The LGA Peer Review was held from 11 – 13 July 2023.

The intention of the Peer Review was to seek an external view of the effectiveness of the RSAB, including the relationship across the three statutory partners.

The RSAB intends to use the findings of this peer challenge as a marker on its journey of improvement. RSAB requested the focus be on 2 of the benchmark themes.

1. Outcomes for, and the experiences of, people who use services
2. Leadership, Strategy and Working Together

Recommendations made:

1. Use the groups and mechanisms which already exist in your partner organisations to start the work to increase voice in the work of the Board. Take time to think what questions you would want to ask these groups.
2. Set aside some time for a development session to better understand the relevance of the various meetings, who attends them and why. We recommend reconsideration of the best way to include representation of the independent care provider market.
3. Review how the SAB sets its agendas to encourage oversight of broader safeguarding related matters arising from partnership working.
4. Ensure you have robust SMART plans which you can track and monitor. Look to other Boards for good practice and templates in this area.
5. Explore how best you can use the data and information to identify areas for improvement, celebrate successes and answer the 'so what' questions.
6. Consider whether partners' understanding regarding the safeguarding pathways and expectations around these is sufficiently clear and shared and whether there are strategic or operational changes which can ensure better alignment.

The RSAB held a Development Day in November 2023 to consider the draft recommendations and formally approved the Peer Review report in December 2023. The RSAB subsequently agreed a set of actions that would deliver the improvements that were agreed (Appendix 2).

The Peer Review actions have been grouped into three specific categories:

- User Voice
- Governance
- Data and Information

The action plan will be monitored by the Board Executive Group and will be reported quarterly. It is anticipated that the action plan will be fully delivered by October 2024.

The following actions have been identified across the three themes to address the areas for improvement:

- The User Voice
  - Raising the profile and extending the reach of the SAB through a communication campaign, improved digital presence and engaging with the public.
  - Developing a User Voice subgroup/mechanism.
  - Mapping across all partner agencies how service users are engaged and their voices captured.
  - Building on how MSP outcomes are recorded to capture User Voice.
- Governance
  - Review how the Exec functions, this should be a very small group who can collectively agree Board agendas and oversee delivery against the Board Strategy and Delivery Plan.
  - Review the TOR and attendees at the Exec, Board and Subgroups to ensure appropriate representation. Consider a ‘contract’ for board members.
  - Strengthen governance across other strategic partnerships.
  - Raise the profile of the SAB, consider a ‘Who’s who’ and publicise internally to front line staff.
  - Ensure the SAB has robust SMART plans which can be tracked and monitored.
- Data and Information
  - Ensuring the data set is truly partnership data rather than ASC data.
  - Ensuring data is qualitative not just quantitative with an accompanying narrative that puts it into context. Not just the ‘what’ but the ‘so what’ in order that there can be meaningful discussion as to determining the ‘now what’.
  - Performance and Quality Subgroup to review data and information first and undertake any further work required (e.g. single/multi agency audit) to identify ‘What’s working well’, ‘What we are worried about’ and make recommendations to the Board about ‘What needs to happen’.

### **3. Recommendation**

3.1 Improving Lives Select Commission note the outcome of the Peer Review.

3.2 Improving Lives Select Commission offer any further recommendations for addressing the areas for improvement within the RSAB Peer Review Action Plan.

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

- 4.1 The Peer Review consisted of 37 interviews with a range of agencies including The Rotherham Foundation Trust, Integrated Care Board and South Yorkshire Fire

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

### 5.1 Milestones.

- Create a Customer Voice task and finish group to deliver actions to improve the User Voice complete by July 24.
- Improve RSAB Website by May 24.
- Refresh the Terms of Reference for the Board and the Executive Groups by April 24.
- Improve the Performance Dashboard to include data from across the partnership by July 24

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

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications.

6.2

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

- 7.1 S43 of the Care Act 2014 sets out the statutory duty of the Council to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board for the borough of Rotherham.

A Safeguarding Adults Board has the objective to help and protect adults in its area who have care and support needs and who are at risk of neglect and/or abuse and unable to protect themselves. A Safeguarding Adults Board may undertake any lawful activity which is necessary and desirable to achieve its objective.

The Council has the lead in co-ordinating responsibility for safeguarding, this includes strategic responsibility and establishing multi-agency arrangements to ensure the effectiveness of what the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board members do.

The recommendations from the Peer Review highlighted areas for the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board to improve its effectiveness and governance. The implementation of these recommendations should assure continued compliance with the Council's statutory duties in relation to local safeguarding arrangements; improved partnership working and better outcomes for people who use services.

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

- 8.1 There are no direct HR implications.

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

9.1 The Safeguarding Adults Board is a partnership board and has representation from Children's Services. Children's Services were involved in the Peer Review and in the Development Day

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

10.1 The proposals in this report support the Council to comply with legal obligations encompassed in the:

- Human Rights Act (1998), to treat everyone equally with fairness dignity and respect with a focus on those who are disadvantaged as a result of disability and
- Equality Act (2010) to legally protect people from discrimination in the wider society.

## **11. Implications for CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions and Climate Change**

11.1 Wellbeing and independence are relevant to carbon and other climate change impacts. People with care and support needs may be more vulnerable to extreme heat, whether due to old age or ill health, because of social isolation or because they live in a care home. Climate change will become increasingly relevant to the wellbeing of people living in Rotherham, as the average UK summer temperature increases.

11.2 By promoting people's independence and helping people to remain at home for as long as possible, the strategy will have an unknown impact on some sources of greenhouse gas emissions. For example, if more people stay healthy and well at home, or if more people choose home care, then there may be increased greenhouse gas emissions from transport and domestic energy use, across the Borough of Rotherham: with a corresponding decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, from care homes' energy use.

11.3 More research is needed to understand the relative carbon impact of different models of care and support, to ensure the Council can achieve its vision for adult social care and safeguarding adults in Rotherham, while also achieving its Net Zero 2030 and Net Zero 2040 climate change goals.

## **12. Implications for Partners**

12.1 The Action Plan has been designed to complement wider strategic plans for Rotherham including the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This approach ensures opportunities to align and harness existing strategic approaches through a system-wide partnership response.

## **13. Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 There is a risk that the plan may not be delivered in a timely manner. This risk will be monitored by the Independent Chair of the Board and the Executive Group.

## Accountable Officer(s)

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Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.
Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)		Click here to enter a date.
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)		Click here to enter a date.
The Strategic Director with responsibility for this report	Please select the relevant Strategic Director	Click here to enter a date.
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