

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Lives Select Committee – 29th October 2024

Report Title

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2023-24

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)

Jackie Scantlebury Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Manager
01709 254863 or Jackie.scantlebury@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The Care Act 2014 states that all Safeguarding Adult Boards (SAB) must produce an annual report to promote its profile with the public and other local multi-agency partnerships as well as the profile of safeguarding adults in its area.

The 2023 – 2024 Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report therefore summarises the work of the Board and its subgroups to enhance the profile of safeguarding.

The report includes contributions from all strategic partners, highlights positive partnership working and provides a range of customer stories that evidence good safeguarding practice.

A summary of safeguarding performance is included in the report.

Recommendations

That Improving Lives Select Commission:

1. Consider the report.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Report 2023-24

This appendix is the final version of the report, no changes will be made to the content of the report. The communication and design team are working on developing the

report in a PDF that is compliant with accessibility requirements it will then be published on the RSAB website.

Appendix 2 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Strategic Plan 2022-25

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2023-24

1. Background

- 1.1 The primary objective of the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) 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 senior lead officers and nominated safeguarding leads from within adult social services, criminal justice, health, housing, community safety, and voluntary organisations.

The RSAB has an independent chair who is accountable for the effective delivery 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

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 Care Act 2014 requires all Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs) to produce an annual report. In Rotherham uses the report to evidence what has been achieved by the partnership, includes customer stories, practice improvements, looks forward to the coming year and outlines the plans that are in place to deliver against the RSAB Strategic Plan.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Annual Report 2023/24 looks at what has been delivered by the safeguarding partnership against the strategic plan priorities for the year.

Priority 1

Commission a Peer Review of the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board.

Action

A team of inspectors from the Local Government Association (LGA) came to Rotherham in July 2023 and spent three days speaking with safeguarding

partners. The Safeguarding Adults Board provided the inspection team with a full self-assessment and a collection of documents as evidence prior to the inspection.

The Peer Review findings report was presented to the Board in September 2023 and a development day was held in November 2023 with all partners in attendance. The development day focussed on creating an action plan to respond to the Peer Review recommendations.

Priority 2

Reset, Refresh and Retrain and update the partnership by awareness raising, information sharing and training.

Action

The Safeguarding Board worked with partners to ensure that a new training package was available from April 2024. A new prospectus was available from May 2024.

The partnership training needs are continually monitored to ensure demand is being met and new and emerging trends are included in the training offer.

Priority 3

The safeguarding partnership will improve awareness of safeguarding across all communities, especially with those who are isolated, diverse, and underrepresented by reviewing our communication strategy and developing a measurable action plan.

Action

The Safeguarding Adults Board worked with the Council Communications Team to refresh the communications approach for the RSAB.

Rotherham celebrated Safeguarding Awareness Day on 21 June 2024 when safeguarding fold out information cards were distributed across the borough, colleagues handed out information to partners and to members of the public including Rotherham Indoor Market and Rotherham Leisure Centres.

Safeguarding Awareness Week was held in November 2023 and the safeguarding partnerships explored new ways of reaching members of the public with safeguarding messages around fraud and scams. Rotherham United Football Club supported us to reach a wider audience by sharing information via their match day program through the use of a QR code. Using a QR code meant the partnership were able to maximise information shared with residents to raise the profile of safeguarding.

- 2.2 The Safeguarding Adults Board has four subgroups that sit under the Board and the Executive Group. Membership of the sub-groups includes representatives from across the partnership and each of the groups has a work plan that supports delivery of the strategic plan. The annual report captures and references the critical work of the sub-groups.

The annual report enables each of the partners to share a customer story to provide evidence of good safeguarding practice and partnership working. The report also provides assurance that each of the partners are working to the aims of the board by answering one of the following questions:

- How does your organisation make sure that all services have appropriate systems and processes in place to support and safeguard adults effectively?
- How does your organisation make sure that partners, organisations, and communities will work together to prevent abuse from happening?
- How does your organisation ensure the 6 principles of safeguarding are embedded in practice? Making Safeguarding Personal is part of everything we do.

The annual report sets out the aims for the year ahead, highlighting what the partnership will be focused on and what the subgroups will be working to deliver. The focus for 2024/25 will be to:

- Complete delivery of the Peer Review recommendations.
- All sub-groups will develop new work plans for the next 12 months.
- Strengthen the voice of the person in safeguarding.
- Delivering a comprehensive training package.
- Work with Children's Safeguarding to carry out a safeguarding self-assessment with all partners.
- Begin the preparation for a new strategic plan that will guide the board from 2025/28.

Performance information is also included in the annual report to evidence the breadth of safeguarding activities for the reporting period.

The annual report includes details of completed Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) during the period. In 2023/24, SAR Noelle and SAR George were presented to the Safeguarding Adults Board. The review was commissioned to look at two individuals and issues accessing mental health services. Recommendations from the review are published in the annual report.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Improving Lives Select Commission note the Safeguarding Adults Annual Report for 2023-24.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The report was presented and signed off by the Safeguarding Adults Board on 18 September 2024.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The Safeguarding Annual Report will be available electronically via the Safeguarding Boards website, <https://www.rsab.org.uk> from the 1 November 2024.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications.

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 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 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.

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.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 This report supports 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 CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2023/24 will not significantly impact the Council's or area-wide emissions, or otherwise effect progress towards these goals.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Annual Report 2023/24 has been produced collaboratively with partners.
- 12.2 Partners of the board will share across their respective organisations.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Annual Report 2023-24 has no risk associated with it.

Accountable Officer(s)

Ian Spicer

Strategic Director of Adults, Housing & Public Health

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	Name	Date
Chief Executive		Click here to enter a date.
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.
Consultation undertaken with the relevant Cabinet Member	Please select the relevant Cabinet Member	Click here to enter a date.

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Jackie Scantlebury RSAB Manager, Jackie.scantlebury@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.