

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Health Select Commission – 22 January 2026

**Report Title**

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2024/25

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

No

**Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report**

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

**Report Author(s)**

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**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 2024 – 2025 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 Board Annual Report 2024/25

Appendix 2 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2022/25

Appendix 3 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025/28

### **Background Papers**

None

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

None

### **Council Approval Required**

You should refer to [Appendix 9 of the Constitution – Responsibility for Functions](#) – to check whether your recommendations require approval by Council, as well as Cabinet or a committee. You should take advice from Democratic Services if you are not sure.

No

### **Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## **Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2024/2025**

### **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 comprising senior lead officers and nominated safeguarding leads from 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
- Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust
- 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, the report is used to evidence the achievements of the partnership, including customer stories and practice improvements. It also looks forward to the coming year and outlines the plans in place to deliver against the RSAB Strategic Plan.

## **2. Key Issues**

2.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Annual Report 2024/25 looks at what has been delivered over the past year and the past three years against the strategic plan that covered 2022/25. The 2022/25 strategic plan had three strategic aims.

### **1. Back to Basics**

Working with partners to ensure the 6 principles of safeguarding are embedded in practice and ensuring that Making Safeguarding Personal is part of everything we do.

#### **What have we done?**

- Partnership Self-assessment joint process with Children and Young People's Services
- Developed Safeguarding Threshold Guidance to provide a common understanding of 'What is Safeguarding'
- Delivered training that included Professional Curiosity
- Responded to emerging themes and demands highlighted in the performance report
- Initiated training for the workforce delivered by Sheffield Hallam University.
- Self-neglect and Hoarding Thematic Review
- Developed a Self-neglect and Hoarding folding Z-Card to aid reporting
- Worked with Safer Rotherham Partnership to develop a campaign to 'Raise Awareness of Domestic Abuse in Older People'

## **2. Systems, Processes and Performance**

Make sure that all services have appropriate systems and processes in place to support and safeguard Adults effectively.

#### **What have we done?**

- Worked with the Local Authority to develop a New Safeguarding Referral Process.
- Caused Enquiry safeguarding process rolled out across the partnership
- Satisfaction questions added as part of the safeguarding pathway

- Revised the Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) process, added timescales and refreshed all paperwork
- Developed a thematic review process to capture learning from cases that do not meet the Safeguarding Adults Review threshold
- Developed a SAR Multi-Agency Learning Approach to ensure learning is embedded in practice across the Partnership
- Developed the Professional Curiosity training programme for the partnership

### **3. Strengthen Partnership**

Make sure that partners, organisations, and communities will work together to prevent abuse from happening.

#### **What have we done?**

- Commissioned a Local Government Peer Review to ensure all Board partners are working together to provide the best possible outcomes for the people of Rotherham.
- Reviewed the structure of the SAB and its subgroups, updated the membership and governance of meetings
- All Terms of Reference for SAB and its subgroups have been refreshed
- Worked to improve links with all partners
- Delivered Safeguarding Awareness Week with the Children's and Safer Rotherham Partnership every November
- Strengthened the Safeguarding message, using Safeguarding Awareness Week to deliver training and awareness sessions covering a wide range of topics
- Developed a quarterly Safeguarding Newsletter with partner contributions to be shared across all partner organisations

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 subgroups.

The annual report provides partners with an opportunity to share customer stories that highlight strong partnership working and good safeguarding practice.

Performance data for 2024/25 is included in the annual report to evidence the breadth of safeguarding activities for the reporting period.

The report captures work that was completed during 2024/25, including:

## **The Joint Safeguarding Partnership Self-Assessment**

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) and the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (RSCP) held the Joint Partnership Self-Assessment in October 2024. The purpose of this safeguarding self-assessment is for organisations and agencies to provide assurance, through evidence, that they have arrangements in place that reflect the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults.

## **The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Website**

The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Website [www.rsab.org.uk](http://www.rsab.org.uk) has been refreshed and updated to include a page dedicated to 'Professionals'. The RSAB wants to ensure that both professionals and volunteers have easy access to information to support adults at risk or suffering abuse or neglect and their families with care and support needs.

## **Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Quarterly Newsletter**

In July 2024 the RSAB delivered its first Newsletter to all our partners. The Newsletter contains headlines from the most recent Board Meeting and a summary of performance for the previous quarter. Each of our partners contributes to the Newsletter, providing safeguarding news from within their organisations.

## **Safeguarding Awareness Week 2024**

November is the month when we celebrate Safeguarding Awareness Week, the Safeguarding Partnership across Adults, Children's, and the Safer Rotherham Partnership come together to deliver training and awareness sessions on a variety of topics.

2.3 An important action for 2024/25 was to develop a new strategic plan for 2025/28 to ensure the Safeguarding Board had clear objectives for the next three years.

All partners came together in January 2025 to decide on the new strategic aims for the next three years. Five new objectives were agreed by the partnership, and a refreshed strategic plan was developed.

**Strategic Objective 1 - Communication, Engagement, and Voice**  
Improving safeguarding awareness across all citizens, communities, and partner organisations.

**Strategic Objective 2 - Prevention and Early Intervention**  
Developing tools to support practice that promotes open cultures and reduces the risk of abuse and neglect.

**Strategic Objective 3 - Leadership and Partnership**

To promote effective leadership, partnership working, and governance for safeguarding adults, holding partners and agencies to account.

**Strategic Objective 4 - Making Safeguarding Personal**

To make sure that safeguarding practice places adults at the centre and supports them in making their own decisions and outcomes.

**Strategic Objective 5 - Learning and Development**

To identify and share lessons from reviews and audits to drive practice development and learning.

The Safeguarding Adults Strategic Plan 2025/28 will be monitored by Executive Group of the Board and progress will be reported to the quarterly board meetings.

The annual report sets out the focus for the Board and its subgroups for 2024/2025.

- **Voice** - Develop a new subgroup called 'Voice.' This subgroup will work with the voluntary sector and customer-led groups to ensure the SAB hears the thoughts and concerns of the people of Rotherham.
- **Shared Learning** - We will work with Children's Safeguarding and the Safer Rotherham Partnership to develop a Learning Hub. The Learning Hub will be used to share good practice and learning relating to Safeguarding Adult Review, Domestic Homicide Reviews and Serious Case Reviews.
- **Safeguarding Awareness Week 2025** - During 17th and 21st November, the Safeguarding Partnership will come together to deliver a range of awareness and training events to colleagues across Rotherham.
- **Vulnerable Adults Pathway** - We will embed a robust Vulnerable Adults Pathway to support people who may be at risk of harm and abuse who do not meet the safeguarding thresholds but have complex needs.

**3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

3.1 Health Select Commission note the Safeguarding Adults Annual Report for 2024/25.

**4. Consultation on proposal**

4.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2024/25 was signed off by the Board on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

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

5.1 The Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2024/25 will be available electronically via the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board website, <https://www.rsab.org.uk>, from 1 February 2025.

## **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 are 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, which 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 Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board is a partnership board and has representation from Children's Services. The Chair of the Children's Partnership and the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board met regularly, and the Adults and Children's Partnership will work jointly to deliver cross-cutting themes that are identified.

## **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 CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions and Climate Change**

11.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2024/25 will not impact the Council's or area-wide emissions, or otherwise effect progress towards these goals.

11.2 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2024/25 does not contain recommendations/proposals that will increase emissions or reduce emissions.

## **12. Implications for Partners**

12.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2024/25 has been produced with all partners of the board contributing and agreeing on the final content.

12.2 Partners of the board will be asked to share within their own organisations.

## **13. Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2024/25 has a requirement to be published to ensure the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board meets its Statutory Duty under the Care Act 2014

## **14. Accountable Officer(s)**

Ian Spicer

Strategic Director of Adults, Housing & Public Health

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Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive		Click here to enter a date.
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.

Service 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 Executive Director with responsibility for this report	Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	23/12/25
Consultation undertaken with the relevant Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health - Councillor Baker-Rogers	Click here to enter a date.

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*This report is published on the Council's [website](#).*