

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024/25

Protecting adults from abuse and neglect



# INTRODUCTION BY MOIRA WILSON

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Independent Chair



**I am pleased to present Rotherham's Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2024/25.**

Partnership working in Rotherham has remained strong with all partners contributing to the Board to ensure that people in Rotherham are protected and safeguarded. The sub-groups of the board are chaired by representatives from across the partnership. This report demonstrates the commitment of all partners to work together and gives examples of work achieved during the year. Attendance continues to be strong, and I would like to thank all subgroup Chairs and members for their continued involvement.

During 2024/25, partners worked together to refresh and relaunch the Vulnerable Adults Pathway. This multiagency pathway works to ensure some of the most vulnerable adults in Rotherham have access to support to enable them to live their best lives and get help when they need it.

## **This may include people who:**

- Are experiencing ongoing or repeated victimisation.
- Are subject to or involved in anti-social behaviour and/or crime.
- Are believed to be making unwise decisions.
- Are at high-risk of harm, or their behaviour poses a risk to or affects others.
- Have complex needs.
- Are experiencing episodes of severe and repeated self-neglect.

The pathway works by bringing staff together from across different agencies to share issues and find solutions that work for people.

In January 2025, we came together to develop the new Strategic Plan that would provide the Board and its subgroups with their strategic priorities for the next three years. We have identified five key areas to work on over the next three years:

## **Communication, Engagement and Voice**

We will improve safeguarding awareness across all citizens, communities, and partner organisations and ensure that the voice of the person is heard at the Board.

## **Prevention and Early Intervention**

We will develop tools to support practice that promotes open cultures and reduces the risk of abuse and neglect.

# INTRODUCTION BY MOIRA WILSON

## Leadership and Partnership

We will promote effective leadership, partnership working and governance for safeguarding adults, holding partners and agencies to account through the Board and its subgroups

## Making Safeguarding Personal

We will ensure that safeguarding practice places adults at the centre of everything we do and supports them in making their own decisions and outcomes.

## Learning and Development

We will identify and share lessons from reviews and audits to drive practice development and learning and provide training opportunities for staff to develop and learn new skills.

The plan will be delivered through the SAB subgroups and monitored regularly at the Board to ensure we are delivering on our priorities and keeping the plan up to date.

I would like to express my thanks to all Board members and their organisations for their continued support in ensuring that safeguarding is truly everybody's business, working together effectively for the benefit of people in Rotherham, and championing safeguarding during Safeguarding Awareness week each November and equally importantly throughout the year.



# Keeping people safe from abuse is everyone's business

## RECOGNISE • RESPOND • REPORT

The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) works to protect adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect.

The RSAB's primary 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 senior/lead officers and nominated safeguarding leads from within adult social services, criminal justice, health, housing, community safety, and voluntary organisations.

The RSAB coordinates the strategic development of adult safeguarding across Rotherham and ensures the effectiveness of the work undertaken by partner agencies in the area. The Board aims to achieve those objectives whilst supporting individuals in maintaining control over their lives and in making informed choices without coercion.

### Who is at risk?

An adult at risk is someone who is aged 18 or over who:

- Has needs for care and support
- Is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect, and is unable to protect themselves

### What is abuse?

Abuse can be:

- Something that happens once
- Something that happens repeatedly
- A deliberate act
- Something that was unintentional, perhaps due to a lack of understanding
- A crime

Abuse can happen anywhere, at any time and be caused by anyone including

- A partner or relative
- A friend or neighbour
- A paid or volunteer carer
- Other service users
- Someone in a position of trust
- A stranger

### Types of abuse:

#### Physical abuse

Hitting, kicking, punching, kicking, inappropriate restraint

#### Domestic abuse

Psychological, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional abuse by a current or former partner or family member

#### Organisational abuse

Poor treatment in a care setting

#### Financial or material abuse

Theft, fraud, misuse of someone else's finances.

#### Sexual abuse

Being made to take part in a sexual activity without consent

#### Discriminatory abuse

Harassment based on age, gender, sexuality, disability, race or religion

#### Neglect and acts of omission

Failure to provide care or support

#### Psychological and Emotional abuse

Shouting, ridiculing, or bullying

#### Modern slavery

Human trafficking and forced labour

#### Self-neglect

Declines essential care support needs, impacting on their overall wellbeing



To find out more about Adult abuse, please see the RSAB website [www.rsab.org.uk/](http://www.rsab.org.uk/)

# ROOTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REVIEW of 2024/25

## Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2022-25

Over the last three years, the Board's work plan was outlined in the Strategic Plan for 2022-25. The plan had three strategic objectives and set out what developments the board and the subgroups would work on to achieve over the three years.

### Back to Basics

Working with partners to ensure the 6 principles of safeguarding are embedded in practice.

Making Safeguarding Personal is part of everything we do.

### What we have done

- Partnership Self-assessment joint process with Children's
- 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'

## Systems, Processes and Performance

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

### What we have 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

## Strengthen Partnership

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

### What we have 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

# ROOTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REVIEW of 2024/25

- 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

## During 2024/25

### The Joint Safeguarding Partnership Self Assessment

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) and the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (RSCP) started planning early for the Joint Partnership Self-Assessment. 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 board managers worked with the Independent Chairs to develop a new assessment process that would bring all partners together to share their safeguarding arrangements.

The self-assessment partnership day took place in September and each partner agency presented to the panel of Safeguarding Chairs and the Chief Executive of Healthwatch.

Both chairs viewed the day as a most positive and helpful exercise and hoped that colleagues left the day with similar levels of enthusiasm and clarity as to the further actions that they would take, to ensure that our shared safeguarding activity remains focused and responsive to the needs of vulnerable people within Rotherham.

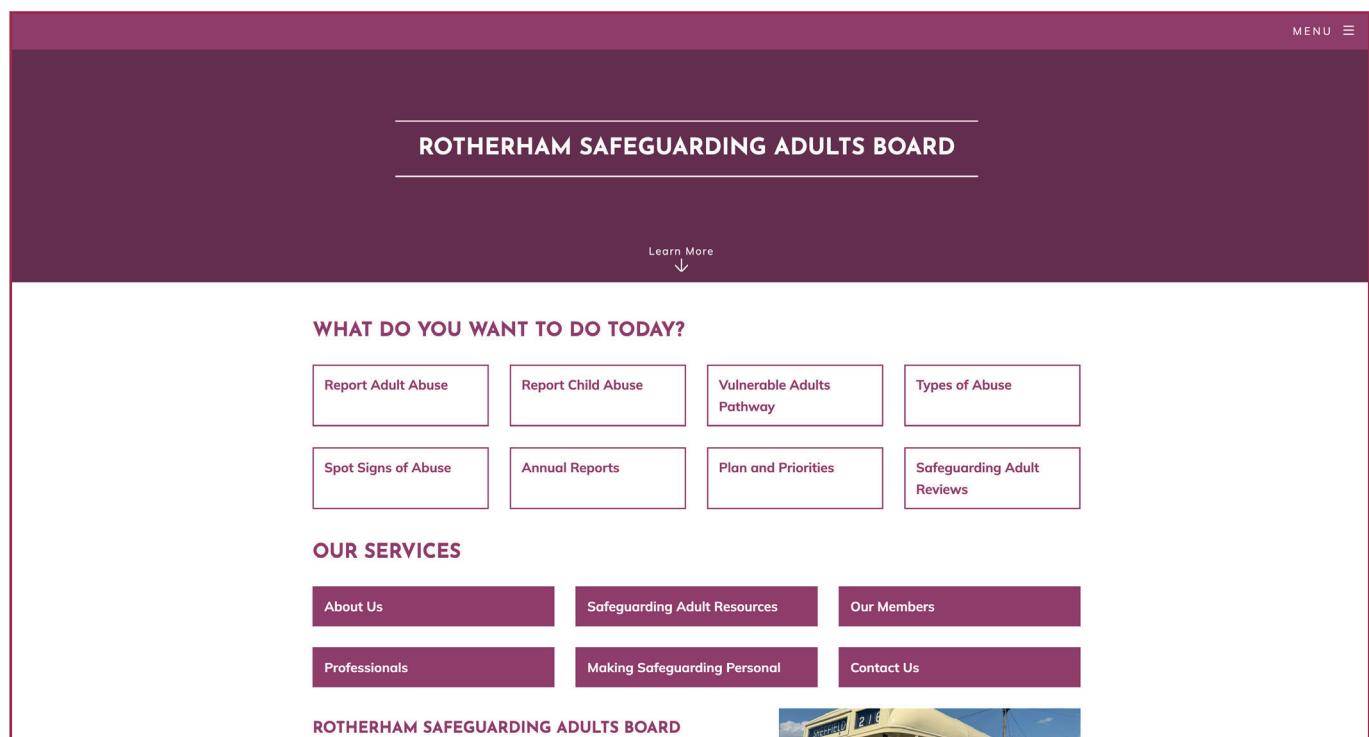


# ROOTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REVIEW of 2024/25

## 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.

We have included links to our partner websites, and we have pages dedicated to the Safer Rotherham Partnership and the Children's Safeguarding Partnership. The website allows users to leave feedback on the site and to request that they are contacted to discuss any issues.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board website. At the top, there is a dark purple header with the text 'ROOTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD' in white. Below the header, there is a 'Learn More' button with a downward arrow. The main content area has a white background. It features a section titled 'WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TODAY?' with eight buttons arranged in two rows of four: 'Report Adult Abuse', 'Report Child Abuse', 'Vulnerable Adults Pathway', 'Types of Abuse' (top row); 'Spot Signs of Abuse', 'Annual Reports', 'Plan and Priorities', 'Safeguarding Adult Reviews' (bottom row). Below this is a section titled 'OUR SERVICES' with five buttons arranged in two rows of three: 'About Us', 'Safeguarding Adult Resources', 'Our Members' (top row); 'Professionals', 'Making Safeguarding Personal', 'Contact Us' (bottom row). At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the text 'ROOTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD' and a small image of a building.

## Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Quarterly Newsletter

In July 2024 the RSAB delivered its first Newsletter to all of 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.

A newsletter will be produced following every Board meeting to ensure important safeguarding messages are shared across the Partnership. The newsletters will also be available on the RSAB website.

[www.rsab.org.uk/professionals/rotherham-safeguarding-adults-board-newsletters](http://www.rsab.org.uk/professionals/rotherham-safeguarding-adults-board-newsletters)

# ROOTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REVIEW of 2024/25

## 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.

The local launch took place at New York Stadium and the theme was self-neglect. Adults focused on the links between mental health and self-neglect, how we can support an individual's practice in working with people who self-neglect or hoard and how we can improve confidence in the use of existing legislation.

Over twenty awareness/training sessions were held over the week including

- Safeguarding in Relation to Homelessness and Rough Sleeping
- What is Cuckooing, How to Spot the Signs & Report Suspected Cases
- Working Together to Prevent Suicides and Saves Lives in Rotherham
- Professional Curiosity
- Counter Corruption Unit – Abuse of Position for a Sexual Purpose



## Domestic Abuse in Older People

During Safeguarding Awareness Week, the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Safer Rotherham Partnership worked closely together to deliver an awareness session on Domestic Abuse in Older People.

This workshop aimed to review a particular case study, to share ideas and best practice, and together as a partnership learn how we can improve our response, if we suspect there is an older person experiencing abuse.

This workshop was attended by over 35 multi agency professionals. Dr Sarah Tatton from Sheffield Hallam University was invited to share her research around challenging unconscious bias and stereotyping victims of domestic abuse. We looked at a case study to unpick how we could look at situations differently and make suggestions to processes that had not already been done.

A full suite of posters was developed and circulated across the borough, they are also available from the RSAB website.

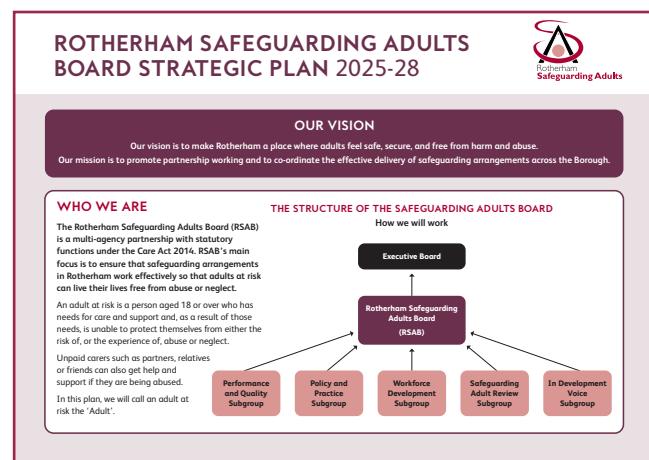
[www.rsab.org.uk/downloads/download/38/abuse-posters-for-professionals](http://www.rsab.org.uk/downloads/download/38/abuse-posters-for-professionals)

# ROOTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REVIEW of 2024/25

## Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Strategic Plan 2025/28

One of the statutory duties of a Safeguarding Adults Board is to develop and publish a strategic plan. The plan must set out how the Board will meet its objectives and how its members and partner agencies will contribute.

A development day was held in January 2025 to bring partners together to agree the safeguarding priorities for the next three years. The development session included workshops to understand what the safeguarding partnership felt were the areas for development, and where, by working together, we could improve services for the people of Rotherham.



Following the development day, the new strategic plan was developed and shared with the partners of the Board. Partners had agreed to five new objectives.

### 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.

# ROOTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REVIEW of 2024/25

The RSAB has four subgroups to ensure the priorities of board are delivered. The Sub-Groups each have a work plan, and during 2024/25 they were able to deliver the following specific pieces of work:

## Performance and Quality Subgroup

<b>Redesign the Safeguarding Partners Self-Assessment process.</b>	Every two years, Adults and Children's safeguarding join together to audit the safeguarding arrangements of their partners. The process has been revised and refreshed to ensure all partners come together to share good practice and celebrate each other's achievements.
<b>Deliver a quarterly Safeguarding Performance Report.</b>	The Safeguarding Adults Board are presented with a quarterly performance report at each meeting. This report is constantly under review to ensure information is presented in an understandable, easy-to-read format. Work continues to bring partnership performance into the report.

## Workforce Development

<b>Procure a three-year training provider to deliver safeguarding training to the Rotherham Partnership</b>	To align with the new strategic plan, the subgroup worked to commission providers that could offer a three-year continuous program of training. Training will be refreshed and updated as needed, and after two years, all training material will be re-evaluated.
<b>Safeguarding Awareness Week 2024</b>	During 18th -22nd November, the Rotherham Safeguarding Partnership delivered a wide range of awareness and training sessions as part of SAW24. The week was a great success with safeguarding information being shared with professionals and the public.

## Policy and Practice

<b>Roll out of the Safeguarding Threshold Guidance to provide a common understanding of 'what is safeguarding'</b>	The Policy and Practice group worked with Commissioning and Provider Services to support the roll out of the threshold document. The Threshold Guidance is to be used across Rotherham to support professionals, partners, and providers to decide on whether to report a safeguarding concern for an adult with care and support needs.
<b>Safeguarding Audit – Refresh the audit process to ensure that all partners are involved.</b>	Safeguarding case file audits have been scheduled for the next 12 months and will be held as a face-to-face meeting where all partners will contribute. An easy-read feedback tool has been agreed across the partnership to highlight good practice, what we are concerned about and what actions are needed.

# ROOTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REVIEW of 2024/25

## Safeguarding Adults Review

Refresh the SAR pathway and update all paperwork	<p>The SAR subgroup held a development day to refresh and revise all SAR paperwork. The terms of reference of the subgroup was revised alongside the referral pathway and all templates involved in the SAR process.</p> <p>A SAR timeline was developed to ensure all SAR's are handled in a timely manner.</p>
Work with Safer Rotherham Partnership to raise awareness of Domestic Abuse in Older People	<p>Following a SAR referral involving an elderly couple and a domestic abuse incident, the SAR subgroup worked with the Safer Rotherham Partnership to develop a campaign that encourages older victims to report abuse and seek support.</p> <p>Additionally, the campaign encouraged bystanders such as carers/ family members/neighbours to challenge their unconscious biases around what a 'typical victim' should look like and recognise signs of abuse in all ages and report it.</p>



# LOOKING FORWARD TO 2025/26

The Safeguarding Adults Board have a new Strategic Plan for 2025 - 2028, this will provide the subgroups with their workplans for the next three years .

The priorities for 2025 – 2026 will be.

## 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. Working with Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR) the SAB will welcome working with Rotherham people to co-produce safeguarding material that supports and informs.

The SAB will recruit an ‘expert by experience’ to become a member of the Board. This person will be the joint chair of the Voice subgroup and will ensure the issues raised and discussed by the group are heard at the Board.

## 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.

Sharing learning and good practice will strengthen the partnership and ensure the Safeguarding workforce are well informed.

## Safeguarding Partners Self Assessment

The Safeguarding Partners Self-assessment will be refreshed during 2026. Adults and Children’s will work together to manage the self-assessment process with our partners. A joint event will be held for partners to showcase their safeguarding arrangements and share good practice.

## 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. For the first time the Partnership will be hosting the Safeguarding Champion Awards. The Safeguarding Champion Awards will recognise adults, children and young people who do an exceptional job at safeguarding the most vulnerable.

## Vulnerable Adults Pathway

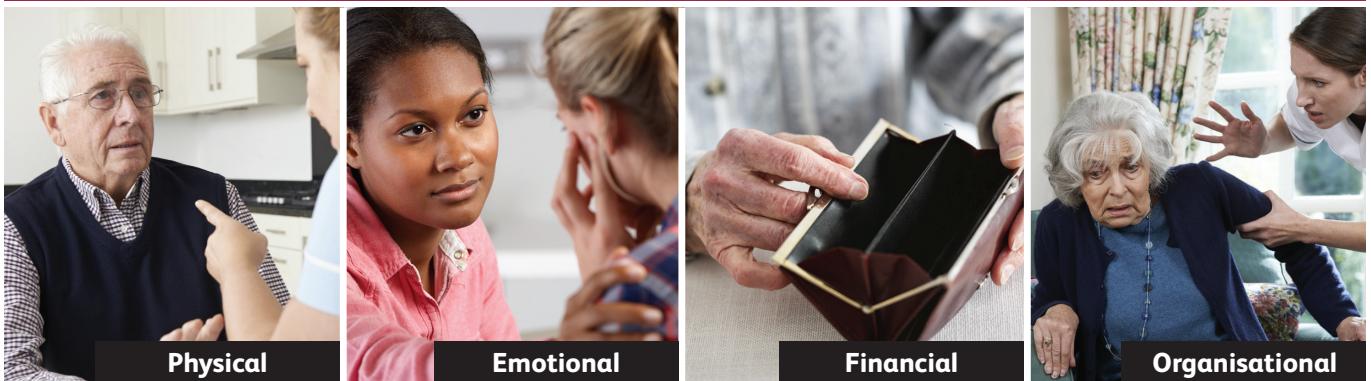
We will embed a robust Vulnerable Adults Pathway to support people who may be at risk of harm and abuse who do not meet the safeguarding thresholds, but have complex needs.

We will further embed the Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CMARAC), Vulnerable Adults Risk Management Meeting (VARMM) and Vulnerable Adults Panel (VAP).

We will work with Housing Services and the Homelessness Team to develop strong links with safeguarding to ensure we are working to support people who are at risk of being homeless and who are suffering homelessness.



## Do you know the signs of adult abuse?



# Recognise • Respond • Report

# ROOTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-28



## OUR VISION

Our vision is to make Rotherham a place where adults feel safe, secure, and free from harm and abuse.

Our mission is to promote partnership working and to co-ordinate the effective delivery of safeguarding arrangements across the Borough.

## WHO WE ARE

The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) is a multi-agency partnership with statutory functions under the Care Act 2014. RSAB's main focus is to ensure that safeguarding arrangements in Rotherham work effectively so that adults at risk can live their lives free from abuse or neglect.

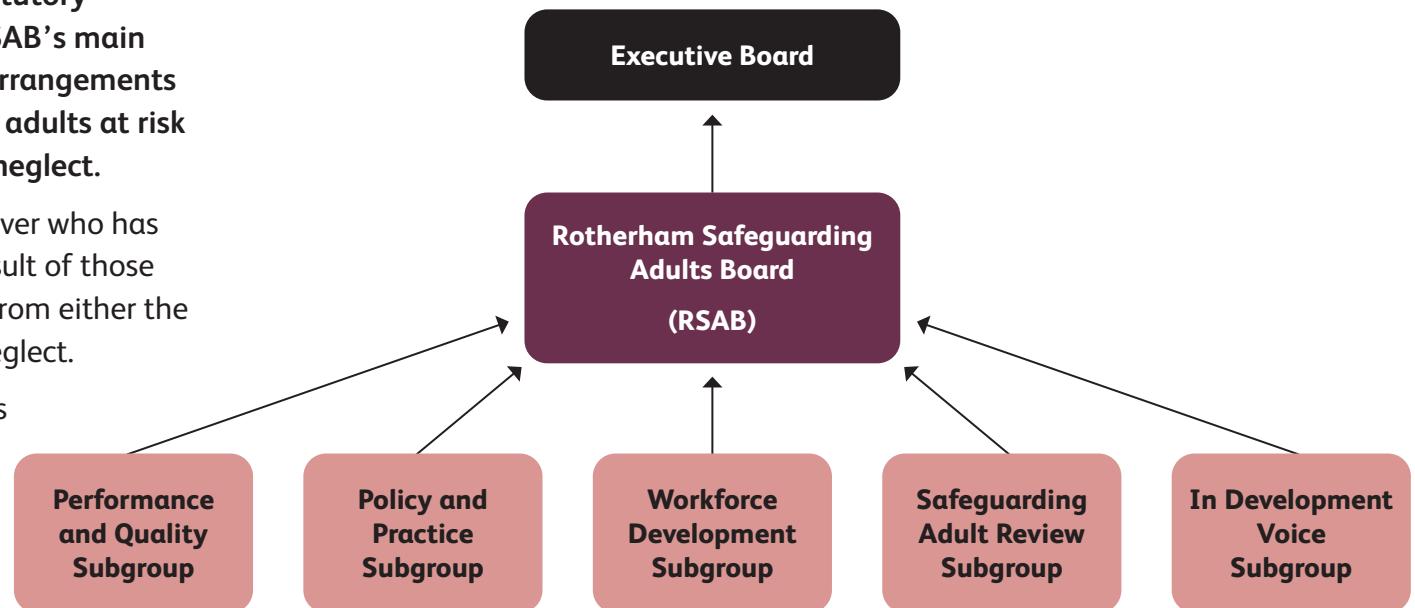
An adult at risk is a person aged 18 or over who has needs for care and support and, as a result of those needs, is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect.

Unpaid carers such as partners, relatives or friends can also get help and support if they are being abused.

In this plan, we will call an adult at risk the 'Adult'.

## THE STRUCTURE OF THE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD

How we will work



## OUR STRATEGIC STATEMENT

### What we plan to do

We will work together with partner organisations and people in our communities so that adults can live their best lives with their wellbeing and rights being supported, safe from abuse and neglect.

Our work will follow the six safeguarding principles, which are: **Empowerment; Protection; Proportionality; Prevention; Partnership and Accountability.**

The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board has identified five strategic objectives that will ensure we can strengthen the current safeguarding offer for Rotherham residents.

*The objectives are;*

1. **Communication, Engagement and Voice**
2. **Prevention and Early Intervention**
3. **Leadership and Partnership**
4. **Making Safeguarding Personal**
5. **Learning and Development**





## **Strategic Objective 1:** Communication, Engagement, and Voice



### **Improving safeguarding awareness across Rotherham for residents, communities and partner organisations.**

- We will work to ensure the residents of Rotherham are heard by the safeguarding partnership.
  - We will work closely with advocacy organisations/providers to ensure the voice of those they work with are heard by the RSAB.
  - We will use videos featuring experts by experience to tell the safeguarding story.
- We will work with communities across Rotherham to promote the work of the RSAB and raise awareness of safeguarding issues.
  - The annual Safeguarding Awareness Week will provide opportunities to interact with the public and the workforce of Rotherham.

- We will develop easy-read safeguarding guides, co-produced with the Rotherham Adults Social Care Always Listening (RASCALs) Co-production Board.
- We will work to ensure that the voices of seldom heard people are heard by the RSAB. We will establish a customer voice subgroup including RASCALs, Healthwatch and Advocacy to support this aim.
  - People from minoritised groups.
  - People at risk of homelessness.
  - People with drug and alcohol issues.



## Strategic Objective 2: Prevention and Early Intervention



### Developing tools to support practice that promotes open cultures and reduces the risk of abuse and neglect.

- We will continue to work closely with the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership to build on and develop support for young people in transition.
  - There will be a focus on Transitional Safeguarding, working with the Principal Social Workers to promote strong working arrangements.
- We will continue to work with the Safer Rotherham Partnership, partners and communities to protect vulnerable adults from issues that include cuckooing, modern-day slavery, hate and mate crime and repeat victims of crime to improve reporting and strengthen joint working to tackle crime.
  - We will form a task and finish group to look at protecting vulnerable adults in Rotherham.
  - We will use our findings to develop an awareness campaign to inform the public.
- 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 who have complex needs.
- We will further embed a vulnerable adults pathway based around putting people at the heart of the process.
- We will further embed the Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CMARAC), Vulnerable Adults Risk Management Meeting (VARMM) and Vulnerable Adults Panel (VAP).
- We will enhance our partnership approach to supporting complex vulnerable people
- We will develop a suite of information, referral criteria and access routes to support CMARAC, VARMM and VAP.
- We will further strengthen our safeguarding practices relating to neglect, self-neglect and hoarding.
  - We will ensure the Self-neglect and hoarding policy is embedded in safeguarding practice
  - We will develop a self-neglect pathway that is easy to navigate
  - We will work with people who are at risk of neglect, self-neglect and hoarding to prevent significant harm from occurring
  - We will ensure learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews and reviews is shared across the partnership to strengthen practice
  - We will develop a partnership approach to supporting neglect



## Strategic Objective 3: Leadership and Partnership



### Promote effective leadership, partnership working and governance for safeguarding adults, which hold partners and agencies to account.

- We will explore the benefits of an Adult Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub.
  - We will work to look at co-location and develop protocols for effective referrals.
  - Further strengthen our adult social care front door to include agencies, which will strengthen our multi-agency response to safeguarding.
- We will continue to develop the RSAB website to provide timely and accurate information and guidance from across the Partnership for the public and professionals.
  - We will work with all partners to ensure the RSAB website is providing quality and useful information.
  - We will update and maintain the RSAB website.
- The RSAB and its partners will continue to work together across the Adult, Children's and Safer Rotherham Partnership Boards.
- We will explore the benefit of a Learning Hub to share good practice and learning relating to Safeguarding Adult Reviews, Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews and Children's Serious Case Reviews.
- We will arrange an annual joint safeguarding conference to share work and learning.
- We will continue to hold a Safeguarding Partners Self-Assessment every two years.
- Adopting a Think Family approach, we will work together across the partnership to fully embed a "Think Family" approach to safeguarding.



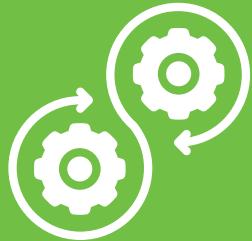
## Strategic Objective 4: Making Safeguarding Personal



**Ensure that safeguarding practice places the adult at the centre of everything we do and supports them in making their own decisions and outcomes.**

- We will review and refresh Making Safeguarding Personal across the safeguarding partnership.
  - We will undertake a Making Safeguarding Personal audit using the Local Government Association toolkit.
- All work will be done with the “so what?” question in mind to understand the difference we are making.
  - Safeguarding will ensure that achievable and proportionate person-centred outcomes are agreed with the person.

- We will strengthen our approach to the application of the Mental Capacity Act and use of Advocacy in safeguarding practices.
- We will seek assurance through auditing of practice that the legal requirements for completing mental capacity assessments are adhered to in safeguarding.
- We will seek assurance through auditing practice that advocacy is being used to support adults who require support and captures the voice of the person within their safeguarding experiences.
- We will develop a suite of information around Deprivation of Liberty information that will inform the RSAB.



## Strategic Objective 5: Learning and Development



### Identify and share learning to drive practice development and improvement.

- Deliver training to staff across the partnership to make sure safeguarding is person-centred and outcome-focused.
- Commission a 3-year training package to ensure the workforce is appropriately skilled.
- We will ensure training evaluation is robust and consider using mystery shoppers to provide feedback.
- Undertake Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) to identify learning, improve practice and prevent similar mistakes from happening again.
  - Embed the Multi-agency Learning Review process.
  - Use thematic reviews to gain learning from Safeguarding.
  - Embed learning from single-agency reviews.

- We will develop a RSAB multi-agency audit process.
  - We will agree an audit tool and schedule a diary of audits each year.
  - We will develop a methodology for partner agencies reporting into the RSAB on audits relevant to safeguarding.
- We will use the professional website page to share the outcomes from learning reviews.
  - We will develop easy-read guides, 7-minute briefings and videos to share learning to ensure it influences and shapes practice.

## HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO THIS?

We will continue to work with our partners to make sure that by 2028 these priorities are achieved. We will develop an action plan that will be monitored by the Safeguarding Adults Board Executive Group and reported to the RSAB for assurance.

# APPENDIX I KEY PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS 2024/25

The partners of the RSAB all have a responsibility to help deliver the priorities that are set out in the strategic plan. Each partner has provided evidence to how they deliver the four priorities of the Board. Here are some examples of the good practice, learning and customer stories that ensure that the Rotherham Safeguarding Partnership is committed to working together to safeguard its citizens and to continue to raise awareness of safeguarding.



## Rotherham Council CUSTOMER STORY

Mr J was referred into safeguarding with concerns around possibly financial abuse, he was also being targeted and harassed by local youths who were throwing stones, objects and eggs at his property. Mr J and his property showed signs of self-neglect, and he was declining an offer of formal support.

Mr J was very anxious, he was struggling with his speech due to experiencing a stroke and was struggling to communicate and converse over the telephone.

Mr J was living in fear, constantly locking himself in his property and sleeping on his chair.

The safeguarding concern had been raised by South Yorkshire Police, following a visit to

Mr J's home, they reported that, the living conditions are minimal with little food in the house. They were concerned that he was spending all his time in his living room with his curtains closed, he had disclosed that he was frightened of people and the children that are running down the side of his house. Mr J was also very unsteady on his feet and officers were concerned that Mr J was living alone with no support.

Before this intervention, Mr J had been offered a package of care but declined. He has always been known for not wanting formal care.

Social workers visited Mr J on several occasions to get to know him and understand his views, aspirations and wishes. They involved other professionals such as housing, police and they were able to involve a financial advocate to

# APPENDIX I

## KEY PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS 2024/25

assist Mr J with managing his money. After building up a good relationship with Mr J they were able to complete a Care Act assessment in accordance with the Care Act 2014.

Communication was key when working with Mr J. He needed patience and time to allow him to express himself. Building a good working relationship with Mr J was essential; he needed people to be honest with him and not make false promises.

Looking at the immediate need, it was identified that Mr J was requiring a care package and Mr J agreed to accept a package of care.

Working in collaboration with Mr J, housing teams, Police, financial advocate and the care provider, Mr J was awarded Medical Priority to move to suitable accommodation. Mr J recently moved to a new location and is feeling safe and happy. He was supported through the moving process and is now settled in his new home. He is more independent now and has made a lot of friends.

He is now sleeping well, happier and is more positive about life in general. Mr J has bought furniture of his own choice and there is a sense of belonging and ownership in his new home. Mr J's mobility has vastly improved, he is going out now and is taking part in activities, and he is visiting the community centre near his home. Mr J has a package of care and has agreed to pay for a private cleaner to help maintain his property. Recently he bought an electric scooter with support from his financial advocate.

# Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust

## CUSTOMER STORY

South Yorkshire Police have attended dementia cafes and community events throughout Rotherham to promote the Herbert Protocol. Families and carers are informed about the Herbert Protocol and the Dementia Tags that are now being used across South Yorkshire.

The Demetia Tag contains a reader that, when scanned by a mobile phone, will display the person's name and contact number to alert someone. The tags are labelled Dementia Safeguarding Scheme.

A member of the public recently found an elderly lady wandering in Rotherham. They saw the tag that the lady was wearing and helped her to the local Police Station, where the tag was scanned. The family were alerted, and the lady was returned home.

South Yorkshire Police will continue to raise awareness of the Dementia Tag system and the Herbert Protocol to help keep are vulnerable adults safe.

# APPENDIX I KEY PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS 2024/25

## Rotherham, Doncaster, and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDaSH)

### CUSTOMER STORY

Fiona is a 66-year-old woman with chronic paranoid schizophrenia, living in a residential care home. When Fiona developed several symptoms of a life-threatening illness, an urgent referral was made to health, but unfortunately, she repeatedly refused investigations due to fixed delusional beliefs and paranoia.

Multi-disciplinary professionals—including community mental health services (RDaSH), acute hospital gynaecology, the care home, and her sister considered the issues of self-neglect and the risks to her physical health. Her capacity to make a decision to undergo investigations under anaesthetic was undertaken.

Despite extensive support (familiar environment, simple language, written easy-read materials, and trusted staff present), Fiona was unable to understand, retain, or weigh the relevant information. She lacked the capacity both to consent to investigations and to participate in litigation.

The team balanced ethical considerations of autonomy, use of restraint, and psychological harm against the high risk of untreated malignancy. Less restrictive options were exhausted. As no attorneys or advance decisions existed, and an urgent investigation was needed, the Acute Trust applied to the Court of Protection for authorisation under 16s MCA 2005 to proceed with investigations under sedation, including conveyance plans that could involve deprivation of liberty.

The Court declared Fiona lacked capacity for the decisions in question and authorised the proposed care, transport, and any necessary restraint, with the proviso that measures used be the minimum necessary and proportionate, and that Fiona's dignity be maintained. They also authorised the deprivation of her liberty and allowed for return to court should further treatment be needed.

On the planned day, pre-medication and sensitive staff engagement allowed Fiona to attend without restraint. She was cooperative and underwent the investigations as planned. Procedures were completed under the order of the order. Afterwards, Fiona reported a positive experience.

Capacity is decision- and time-specific; early assessment and legal advice are crucial to avoid delays.

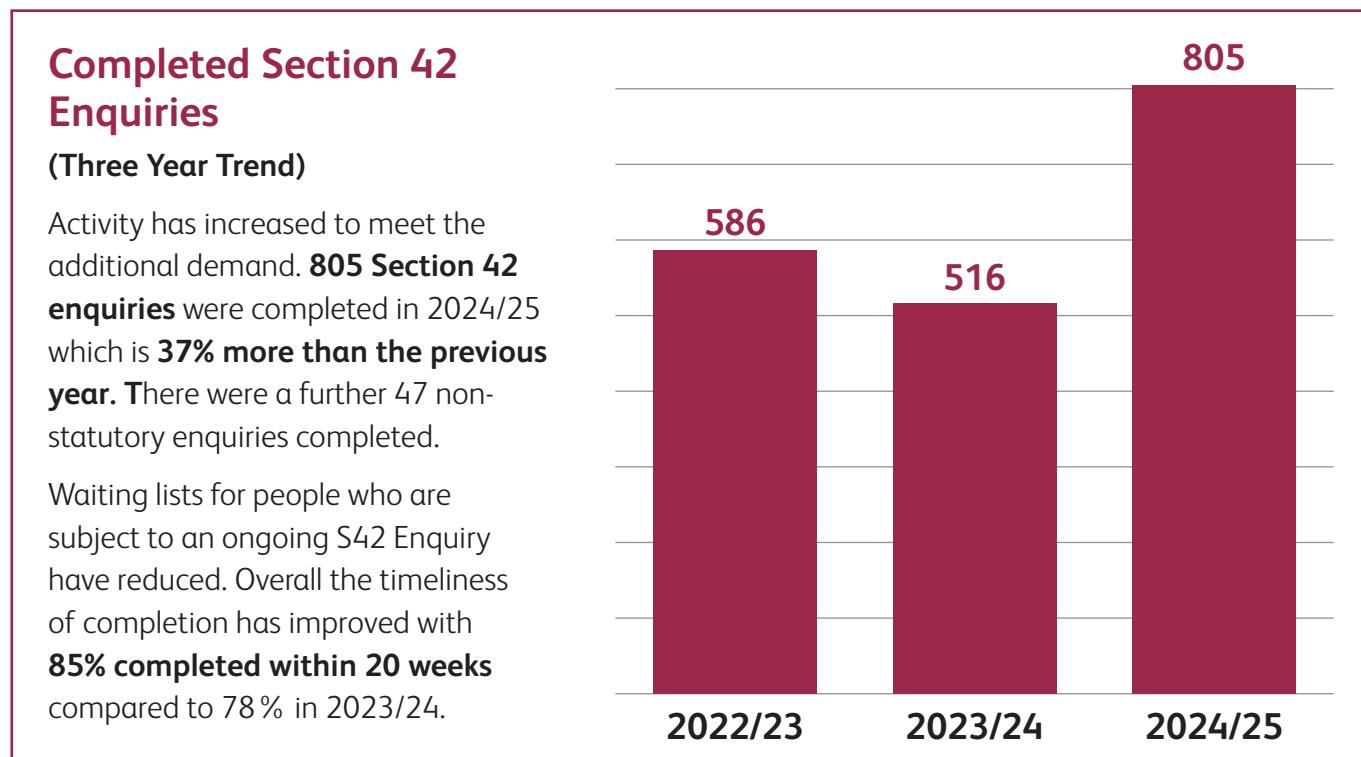
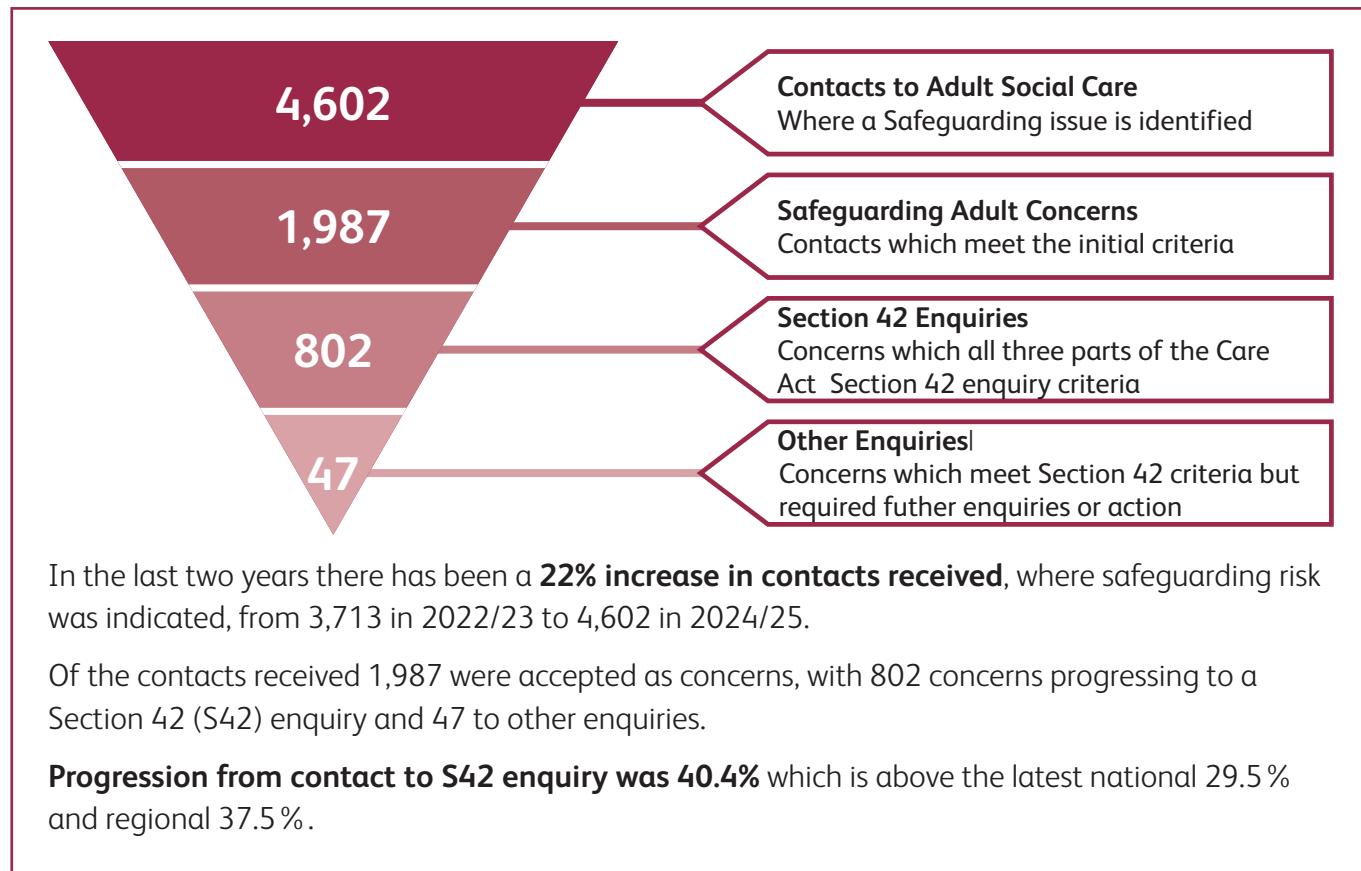
All practicable support steps must be documented; covert or restrictive actions must be ethically justified.

Multi-agency working is vital.

# APPENDIX 2

## KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

Rotherham has a partnership approach to performance and data management to assure that we continue to safeguard adults and prevent future risks.



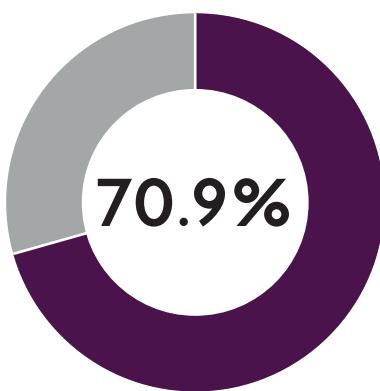
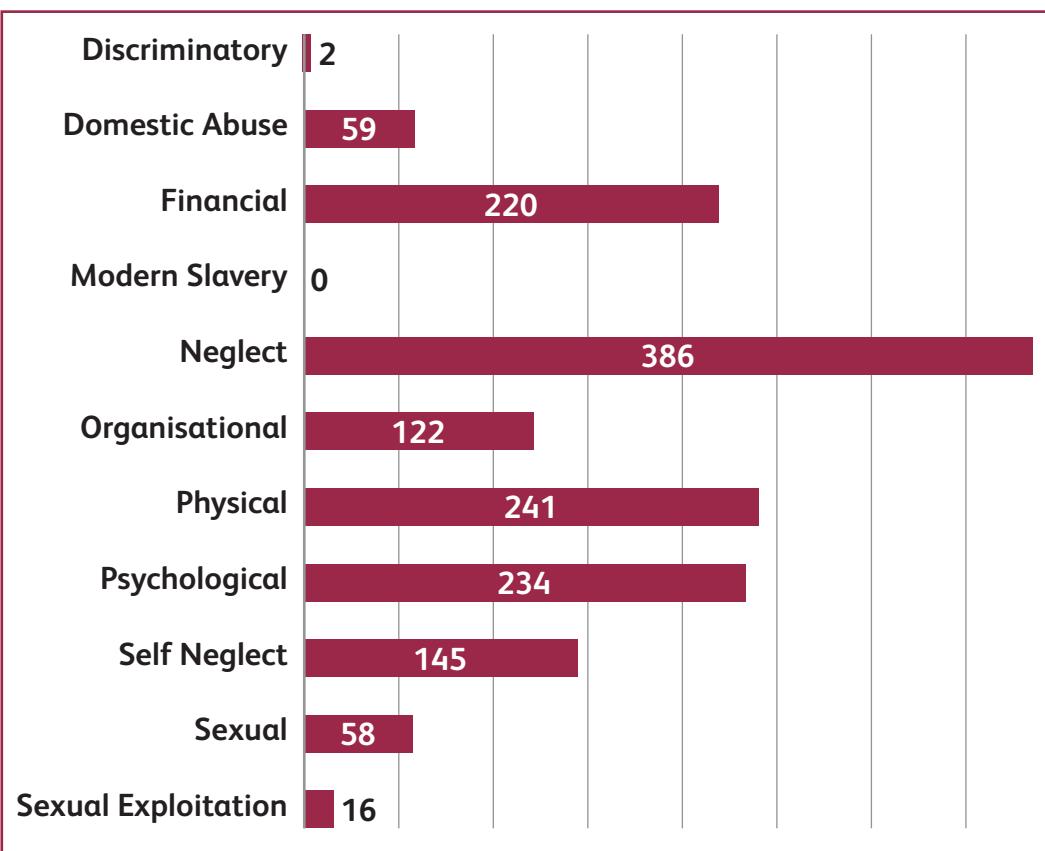
## APPENDIX 2

# KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

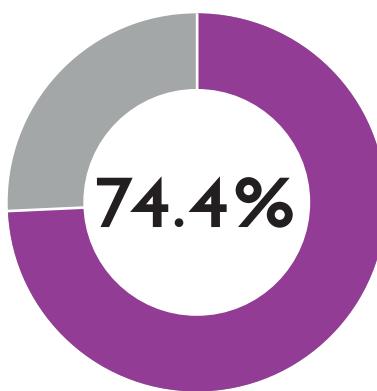
Enquiries can identify an adult has been subject to one or more abuse types.

Our most common abuse type remains consistent. The most significant being **Neglect which was identified in 45.3% of all enquiries.**

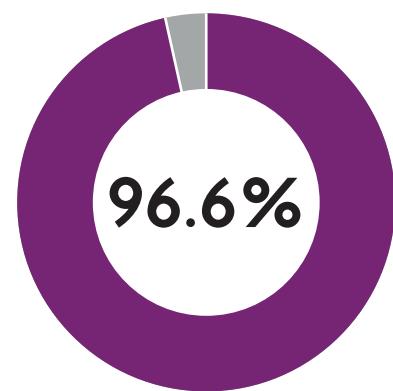
The next most prevalent abuse types are with **Physical (28.3%), Psychological (27.5%), and Financial (25.8%).**



70.9 % of complete S42 Enquiries resulted in **Risk being either removed or reduced.**



More people are being asked their **views and wishes** during an enquiry. A 5 % improvement on last year to 74.4 %.



Of those asked their views and wishes almost 96.6 % felt their **personal outcomes had been fully or partially met.**



## Do you know the signs of adult abuse?



## Recognise • Respond • Report

Rotherham Council 01709 822330

Police non emergency: 101 or emergency: 999

Keeping people safe from abuse is everyone's business

For more information about types of abuse  
[www.rotherham.gov.uk/abuse](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/abuse)



NHS  
Rotherham  
Clinical Commissioning Group

South Yorkshire  
POLICE

Rotherham  
Metropolitan  
Borough Council



The Rotherham  
NHS Foundation Trust



South Yorkshire  
Integrated Care Board



England



Rotherham



healthwatch  
Rotherham



Voluntary  
Action  
Rotherham

South Yorkshire  
POLICE



South Yorkshire  
FIRE & RESCUE



South  
Yorkshire  
Police and Crime  
Commissioner  
Your Voice

Rotherham  
Metropolitan  
Borough Council