

Public Report
Health Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Health Select Committee – 22 January 2025

Report Title

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Strategic Plan 2025 - 2028

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 Care Act 2014 states that all Safeguarding Adult Boards (SAB) must produce a Strategic Plan outlining how they will achieve their objective of helping and protecting adults at risk of abuse or neglect, and how member organisations will contribute to this..

The 2025 – 2028 Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan has been developed through consultation with all members of the Board, including Rotherham Healthwatch and local voluntary organisations.

Recommendations

That the Health Select Committee:

1. Note the development of the 2025 – 2028 Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan.
2. Accept the refreshed Strategic Objectives for 2025 – 2028.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Strategic Plan 2025-28

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 Strategic Plan 2025 - 2028

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.

1.2 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

1.3 The Care Act 2014 requires all Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs) to produce a strategic plan. The strategic plan is a statement of a SAB's vision, objectives, and agreed-upon strategic priorities for the next three years.

The Strategic Plan informs the public about the SAB's plans and commitment to keeping adults safe.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025 -2028 was developed in consultation with all Board members, including the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care. 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.

The partnership agreed to five new strategic priorities;

Strategic Priority 1

Communication, Engagement and Voice

Improving safeguarding awareness across all citizens, communities, and partner organisations.

- We will work to ensure the citizens of Rotherham are heard by the safeguarding partnership.
- We will work with communities across Rotherham to promote the work of the Board and raise awareness of safeguarding issues.
- We will work to ensure that the voices of seldom-heard people are heard by the Board.

Strategic Priority 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.
- We will continue to work with the Safer Rotherham Partnership, partners and communities to protect vulnerable adults including 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 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 strengthen our safeguarding practices relating to neglect, self-neglect and hoarding.

Strategic Priority 3

Leadership and Partnership

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

- We will explore the benefits of an Adult Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.
- We will continue to develop the SAB website to provide timely and accurate information and guidance from across the Partnership for the public and professionals.
- The Board and its partners will continue to work together across the Adult, Children's and Safer Rotherham Partnership Boards.
- Adopting a Think Family approach we will work together across the partnership to fully embed a Think Family approach to safeguarding.

Strategic Priority 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.

- We will review and refresh Making Safeguarding Personal across the safeguarding partnership.
- All work will be done with the “so what?” question in mind. What is the difference we are making.
- We will strengthen our approach to the application of the Mental Capacity Act and use of Advocacy in safeguarding practices.

Strategic Priority 5

Learning and Development

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

- Deliver training to staff across the partnership to make sure safeguarding is person-centred and outcome focused.
- Undertake safeguarding adults reviews (SARs) to identify learning, improve practice and prevent similar mistakes from happening again.
- We will develop a SAB multi-agency audit process.
- We will use the professional website page to share the outcomes from learning reviews.

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.

- Safeguarding Adults Review Subgroup
- Policy and Practice subgroup
- Performance and quality Subgroup
- Workforce Development Subgroup

A new subgroup will be developed to bring the customer voice and experience to the Board.

- Voice Subgroup

A business plan will track the progress made on each of the priorities, and the SAB Executive will monitor all actions quarterly.

Safeguarding Adults Review Subgroup ➔	Rotherham Safeguarding Executive Group ➔	Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board ➔
Policy and Practice Subgroup ➔		
Performance and Quality Subgroup ➔		
Workforce Development Subgroup ➔		
Voice Subgroup ➔		

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Health Select Commission note the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Strategic Plan 2025 – 2028

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The report was presented and signed off by the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board on 16 July 2025.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan will be available electronically via the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board website, <https://www.rsab.org.uk> from the 1 December 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 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 Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board is a partnership board and has representation from Children's Services. The Chair of the Children's Partnership was involved with the development of the new Strategic Plan, and the Adults and Children's Partnership will work jointly to deliver cross-cutting themes that are identified.

The strategic plan has identified areas that will benefit from joint partnership working to ensure that safeguarding adults in Rotherham is always improving and developing ways to ensure services are person-centred.

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 Strategic Plan 2025-28 will not impact the Council's or area-wide emissions, or otherwise effect progress towards these goals.

11.2 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025-28 does not contain recommendations/proposals that will increase emissions or reduce emissions.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Strategic Plan 2025-28 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 Strategic Plan 2025-28 has a requirement to be published to ensure the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board meets its Statutory Duty under the Care Act 2014

Accountable Officer(s)

Ian Spicer

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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.
The Strategic Director with responsibility for this report	Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	18/09/25
Consultation undertaken with the relevant Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health – Councillor Baker-Rogers	22/09/25

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