Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Health Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Health Select Commission – 19 November 2026

Report Title
Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2025/26

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 local area.

The 2025 – 2026 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 practices.

A summary of safeguarding performance is included in the Annual Report.

Recommendations
That Health Select Commission:

Consider the report.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Report 2025-26

Appendix 2 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Strategic Plan 2025-28

Background Papers
The RSAB produce an annual report every year and they are available from the RSAB website. www.rsab.org.uk

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 2025/26

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
- Children and Young People's Partnership
- Cabinet member for Adult Social Care and Health
- Other Council service representatives across housing, community safety and criminal justice

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

2. Key Issues

2.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Annual Report 2025/26 looks at what has been delivered by the safeguarding partnership against the strategic plan.

Voice
Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR) has worked closely with the Board to develop the Voice Subgroup. VAR promoted the work of the Board and the aim to set up a subgroup that would bring together people with lived experience and the voluntary sector to ensure the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board heard their voices.

The first subgroup meeting was held in February 2026, and the group have continued to meet every two months via teams and face to face. The group have chosen to work together to produce a leaflet that can be used by the public to identify self-neglect and hoarding. This will be developed during the end of 2026.

Vulnerable Adults Pathway
On the 1 July 2025 the Vulnerable Adults Pathway was launched in conjunction with agencies from across the partnership.

The purpose of the Vulnerable Adults Pathway is to is to take a multi-agency approach to address the complex needs of identified vulnerable adults, where previous or isolated interventions have not reduced risk to an acceptable level.

The launch consisted of an in-person event at New York Stadium and two virtual sessions, which were well attended by colleagues from across the partnership. Colleagues were invited to learn about the new process, to ask questions and to share their thoughts.

It was a great week or networking and learning opportunities, with the pathway becoming live later in July 2025.

Work continued throughout the year to further embed the Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CMARAC), Vulnerable Adults Risk Management Meeting (VARMM) and Vulnerable Adults Panel (VAP).

Housing
The Board supported ongoing 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 homelessness and who are suffering homelessness.

The joint ministerial letter on homelessness and adult safeguarding was sent in May 2024 by the Ministers for Housing and Homelessness and Social Care to Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) chairs, directors of housing, and directors of adult social care across England. The letter asks that Safeguarding Boards make rough sleeping and homelessness a core strategic priority in local Safeguarding Adults Board plans.

In December 2025, colleagues from the Homeless Team supported a lady with lived experience of homelessness to attend the Safeguarding Adults Board and tell her story. Hearing peoples' experiences firsthand spotlights the joint partnership working it takes to support someone through difficult times.

Safeguarding Awareness Week 2025
Safeguarding Awareness Week 2025 (SAW25) was held between the 17 – 21 November 2025. The week is nationally recognised to raise awareness of all aspects of safeguarding for adults and children.

The official launch was held at New York Stadium, on Monday 17 November 2025, the themed focus was ‘Mental Health and The World We Live In’.

The week was filled with training and awareness sessions that included, Suicide Awareness, Domestic Violence, Complex Lives and the Rotherham Vulnerable Adult Pathway.

New for 2025 was the Safeguarding Champion Awards. This was an excellent opportunity to hear the good news stories and celebrate those heroes across the partnership and community. The Annual Report outlines the award categories and the winners from across the safeguarding adults partnership.

2.2 The Safeguarding Adults Board has five 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 these sub-groups.

The annual report includes a customer story from the each of the partners to provide evidence of good safeguarding practice and partnership working.

The annual report sets out the aims for the year ahead, highlighting what the partnership will be focused on and what the sub-groups will be working to deliver. The focus for 2026/27 will be:

- Refresh and review the Making Safeguarding Personal toolkit, we will look at national learning and adopt good practice to support all colleagues to improve the safeguarding pathway.
- Work with the Homeless Team to deliver a multi-agency partnership event to look at how we safeguard people who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness.
- Further develop and strengthen the role of the Voice subgroup.
- Strengthen the voice of the person in safeguarding.
- The Safeguarding Partners Self-assessment will take place in December 2026. Partners will be asked to complete a self-assessment document following the statutory format covering both adults and children’s arrangements in the following areas. Work with Children’s Safeguarding to carry out a safeguarding self-assessment with all partners.
- Deliver Safeguarding Awareness Week 2026, offering awareness and training sessions across the partnership.

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

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Health Select Commission note the Safeguarding Adults Annual Report for 2025-26

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The report was presented and signed off by Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board on 24 September 2026.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 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.
The Safeguarding Annual Report will be available electronically via the Safeguarding Boards website, https://www.rsab.org.uk from the 1 December 2026.

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) where they meet the criteria.

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

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.

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_2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2025/26 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 2025/26 has been produced collaboratively with partners.

12.2 Partners of the board will share and promote the Annual Report across their respective organisations.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The Rotherham Safeguarding Annual Report 2025/26 has no risks associated with it as publication ensures compliance with our statutory duties.

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

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	Name	Date
The Executive Director with responsibility for this report	Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	09/11/26
Consultation undertaken with the relevant Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health - Councillor Baker-Rogers	09/11/26

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This report is published on the Council's website.