ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

Protecting adults from abuse and neglect



Rotherham
Safeguarding Adults

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council

INTRODUCTION BY MOIRA WILSON

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Independent Chair



I am pleased to present the Rotherham Safeguarding Annual Report for 2025/26.

An Annual Report gives us the opportunity to look back on what the Safeguarding Adults Board has achieved in the past year and look forward to the year ahead. This report demonstrates the strong Rotherham partnership and the continued commitment from all our partners to improve safeguarding standards for all our residents. As a safeguarding partnership we work together to ensure that adults who may be at risk of abuse or neglect are protected and safeguarded.

The Board and its sub-groups work together to deliver on the strategic aims that are agreed in the Strategic Plan 2025/28. This report gives examples of work achieved during the year and also sets out what we plan to deliver during 2026/27. Subgroups chairs are from across the partnership and attendance at all meetings continues to be strong.

Safeguarding Awareness Week 2025 was held in November, and we began the week with a launch event that focused on mental health and sharing intelligence. The week was full of online and face to face awareness and training events, including a safeguarding workshop with provider services from across Rotherham. The highlight of Safeguarding Awareness Week was the Safeguarding Champion Awards, this was the chance to recognise and celebrate adults and children from across Rotherham who go above and beyond to safeguard the most vulnerable people in our community.

The Voice Subgroup was established and in February 2026, and with the help from Voluntary Action Rotherham we hosted an online meeting with over twenty attendees from agencies that support vulnerable people across Rotherham. The subgroup will focus on how we share awareness with residents of Rotherham on safeguarding issues and will ensure that members of the board hear the voice of people effected and involved in safeguarding.

Looking forward, we aim to ensure that we continue to strengthen our partnership and together we will work across Rotherham to keep people safe and at the centre of all our safeguarding work.

Once again, I would like to thank all partners for their continued support and look forward to continuing to work together.

INTRODUCTIONS



I am proud to be a member of the Rotherham Safeguarding Board, having the opportunity to work in partnership across Rotherham, delivering services and support to those residents that require it. This annual report provides a record and insight into what the Board has been working on and what it wants to do more of. I am really pleased to see progress in making sure we hear directly from residents who need safeguarding support and intervention to help shape the work of the board and service delivery now and in the future.

Ian Spicer
Executive Director Adult Care, Housing & Public Health



Partnership working in Rotherham is key to ensuring people across Rotherham are safeguarded. Our strong partnership approach ensures that any concerns can be quickly identified and the right support provided to the individual relevant agencies. I am proud of the work the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) has completed this year and look forward to the opportunities for further strengthening this approach in the coming year'

C/Supt Andy Wright
Rotherham District Commander



As a strategic executive partner representing the ICB I am fully committed to safeguarding adults and promoting their wellbeing across all aspects of our work. As an active partner in the safeguarding system, we support the priorities and objectives of the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB), working collaboratively with partner agencies to prevent abuse and neglect, protect those most at risk, and ensure adults are supported to live safe, independent, and fulfilling lives.

We are committed to embedding a culture where safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Through effective governance, staff training, learning from reviews and incidents, and a person-centred approach that reflects the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal, we strive to ensure that the voices, wishes, and outcomes of individuals remain at the heart of all safeguarding activity. Working together with RSAB and our local partners, we will continue to strengthen safeguarding practice and improve outcomes for the people of Rotherham.

Mr Alun Windle (RNA) Adv Dip, MA
Deputy Chief Nurse SYICB, Director of Nursing (Sheffield & Barnsley)

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 form 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 form 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/**

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.

The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025/28 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.

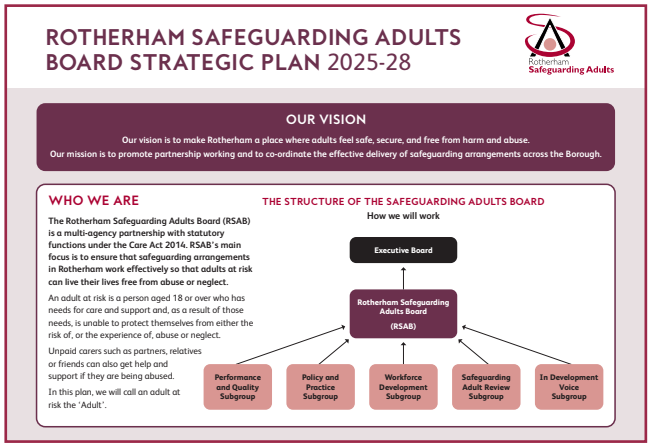
- We will work to ensure the citizens of Rotherham are heard by the safeguarding partnership.
- We will work with communities across Rotherham to promote the work of the Board and raise awareness of safeguarding issues.
- We will work to ensure that the voices of seldom-heard people are heard by the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

ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REVIEW of 2025/26



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.

A detailed action plan tracks the progress of each of the priorities and provides an update to the Executive and full Safeguarding Board.



Progress made during 2025/26

Voice

Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR) 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 will continue to meet bi-monthly.

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 of 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).

Working with the Homeless Team

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.

In December 2025, our 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 puts a spotlight on 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 and 21 November 2025, this week is a nationally recognised week 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.

ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REVIEW of 2025/26

The award categories were:

- **Making a Difference**
  Winner – The Blossom Midwives Team
  This will recognise the impact an individual or team has had on an adult or child by safeguarding, listening, and ensuring safety of others.
- **Community Guardian**
  Winner – Alan Cryer
  Those that act as the 'ears and eyes' of their neighbourhood, reporting issues and working with relevant professionals.
- **Open Door**
  Winner – JADE Youth and Community Centre
  A safe space where an individual or team has created a welcoming space which is often a physical location to provide that sense of safety and security.
- **The Young Carer**
  Winner – Lee Edwards
  The recognition of the contributions in which young people provide care and support needs to their family members. A selfless dedicated carer.
- **The Safeguarding Campaigner**
  Winner – SYP Dementia Tag Team
  Someone who will advocate for the protection of a vulnerable individual, particularly in children and adults from abuse, risk or neglect.





- **Children's Champion**
  Winner – Marianna Lackova
  A young individual who has shown courage and bravery to safeguard another person or young person. A child who advocates for others.
- **The Everyday Safeguarder Adults**
  Winner – Michael Quinn
  The Everyday Safeguarder Children
  Winner – Les Elvin
  An individual of team who demonstrates their commitment to safeguarding everyday. One award for Children's and one for Adults.
- **The Safeguarding Adults Independent Chair Award**
  Winner – Janet Evans
  This award will be given by Moira Wilson who will award an individual or team for their dedication.
- **The Safeguarding Children's Independent Chair Award**
  Winner – Lindsay Wootton-Ashforth
  This award will be given by Darren Downs who will award an individual or team for their dedication.

ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REVIEW of 2025/26

The RSAB has five subgroups to ensure the priorities of board are delivered. The Sub-Groups each have a work plan and during 2025/26 they were able to deliver the following specific pieces of work:

Performance and Quality Subgroup

Deliver a quarterly Safeguarding Performance Report	The Safeguarding Adults Board are presented with a quarterly performance report at each meeting. This report is continually under review to ensure that information is presented in an understandable and easy-to-read format.
Develop a Partnership Performance on a page template	The Performance and Quality subgroup have worked with our partners to develop a template to capture performance data from all key partners. The template will be in use from Quarter 1 2026/27 performance reporting and will provide further assurance to the SAB. Data reporting will include, training, what is working well, areas of success/good practice and areas for improvement.

Workforce Development

Manage and quality assure the three-year training package to deliver safeguarding training to the Rotherham Partnership	The Workforce Development Subgroup has ensured that the training on offer to the Partnership has been assessed and quality assured. The subgroup monitor attendance figures and the number of attendee cancelations to ensure the partnership are accessing the training on offer.
Spiritual and Ritual Abuse Training session	In March 2026 the Board invited Jordon Alexander to deliver an awareness session around Spiritual and Ritual Abuse. Over the past six years, the UK has recorded a 46 % increase in the reporting of spiritual and ritual abuse (SARA) in children alone, with Rotherham and South Yorkshire being one of the highest areas in the UK for this form of abuse.

Policy and Practice

Development and rollout of a multi-agency audit tool to make the audit process more streamline	The subgroup supported two Partnership Audits. • Access to service via the Adult Care Front Door • Financial Abuse and Cuckooing Attendees from all key partners came together to carry out the case file audits. Outcomes were reported to the SAB and recommendations were made.
Review and update key policies and procedures	The Policy and Practice subgroup have begun the refresh of key policies. The Self-neglect and Hoarding Policy and the RSAB Escalation Policy are under review, this will be followed by the Threshold Guidance and the Caused Enquiry Process throughout 2026.

ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REVIEW of 2025/26

Safeguarding Adults Review

During 2025/26 the Safeguarding Adults Review subgroup received 25 cases to consider for a SAR	The SAR subgroup have received more referrals during 2025/26 than the previous 3 years combined (25 in total). This has resulted in monthly meetings and when needed, roundtable discussions to ensure we have all interested parties involved in the decision making.
The SAR subgroup has commissioned two SARs during 2025/26	Two SARs have been agreed and independent authors to carry out the reviews have been commissioned. The SAR process for each of the cases will carry over into 2026/27 and will be reported in the 2026/27 Annual Report.

Voice and Co-production

The First Voice subgroup was held in January 2026	Meetings with over 30 voluntary organisations were hosted by Voluntary Action Rotherham in 2025. The groups discussed the remit of the Voice subgroup and planned for the year ahead. All interested groups were invited to the first official subgroup meeting in January 2026.
Terms of Reference and Workplan developed	The Voice subgroup have developed their Terms of Reference and booked their meetings for 2026. The group will meet bi-monthly and will hold every other meeting face to face at different venues across Rotherham.



Safeguarding Adults Board

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2026/27

The Safeguarding Adults Board will continue to work on and deliver the priorities of the Strategic Plan for 2025/28.

Making Safeguarding Personal

During 2026/27 the focus of the subgroups will be around the Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) priority. Partnership audits will assess the compliance MSP and how it has been applied throughout the safeguarding process, have peoples outcomes been met and has the voice of the person been heard throughout the process.

Refresh and review the MSP toolkit, we will look at national learning and adopt good practice to support all colleagues to improve the safeguarding pathway.

Homelessness

Working with the Homeless Team we will hold a multi-agency partnership event to look at how we safeguard people who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness. Raising awareness of the Vulnerable Adults Pathway and the referral process, the support and services that are available from the Homeless Team and all partnership teams that support the homeless.

Safeguarding Children's and Adults Partnership Self Assessment

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.

- Policies, Procedures & Thresholds
- Early Help & Prevention
- Multi-agency Training
- Safe & Confident Workforce
- Systemic Practice & the Daily Lived Experience of Children
- Learning & Priorities

A separate Check and Challenge Event will be held in December 2026. This will be a good opportunity to bring Children's and Adults Safeguarding Partners together to share valuable information, learning and good practice.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2026/27

Safeguarding Awareness Week 2026

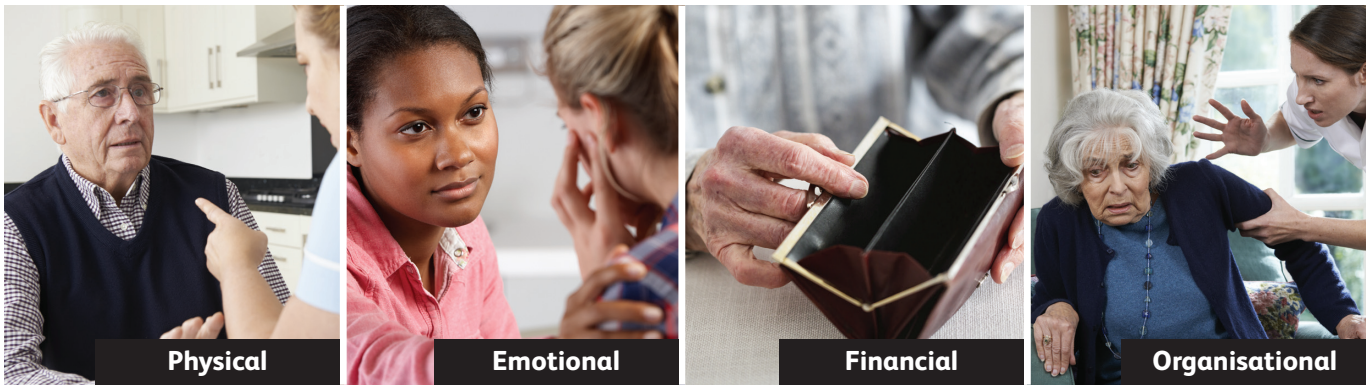
During 16 and 20 November, the Safeguarding Partnership will come together to deliver a range of awareness and training events to colleagues across Rotherham. The week will begin with a Partnership Safeguarding Conference that will focus on the Think Family agenda and the week will end with the Safeguarding Champions Awards that recognise people who go above and beyond their everyday role to safeguard the most vulnerable in our society.

Voice and Co-production

The Voice subgroup will build on their strong start and will work to provide the SAB with a member with lived experience, the person will be the joint chair of the subgroup and will represent the group at the Board. The Voice subgroup will take an active role in SAW26 and all events organised by the SAB.



Do you know the signs of adult abuse?



Recognise • Respond • Report

APPENDIX I
KEY PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS 2025/26

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 Borough Metropolitan Council

CUSTOMER STORY

In early 2026, a worrying situation began to unfold in the life of Mrs A. A trusted and valued member of her community, Mrs A had always managed her affairs independently. However, unknown to her, she had become vulnerable to financial exploitation by someone she knew.

The first alarm was raised in January 2026 when a concerned friend from London contacted safeguarding services. The friend reported that Mrs A had lent around £22,000 to an acquaintance and that a further £10,000 appeared to have been taken without her permission. These reports suggested that Mrs A might be the victim of financial abuse, prompting immediate concern for her wellbeing and financial security.

As enquiries began, professionals worked closely with Mrs A to understand what had happened. During a visit at the end of February, she was supported to attend her banks and review her accounts. What they discovered was alarming. Numerous large transactions had been made, many of which Mrs A did not recognise and could not remember authorising. Further investigation revealed that an online banking facility had been set up on her Post Office account, something Mrs A had been completely unaware of.

Recognising the seriousness of the situation, Mrs A was supported to contact each of her financial institutions. Together, they requested account statements, reported concerns about the transactions, and began piecing together a picture of what had occurred. At the same time, contact was made with her solicitor, who confirmed that advice had previously been provided and agreed to continue exploring ways to strengthen safeguards around Mrs A's finances.

The matter was escalated to South Yorkshire Police, and a meeting was arranged with an Anti-Fraud Officer. Mrs A attended and was supported throughout the process. The police involvement marked a significant turning point. As evidence was reviewed and concerns became clearer, the bank agreed to reimburse the money while continuing its investigation.

For Mrs A, the outcome brought enormous relief. Following the combined efforts of safeguarding professionals, legal representatives, fraud investigators, and the police, approximately £169,000 was returned to her accounts. Although investigations continued, the immediate financial harm had been rectified, restoring security and stability to Mrs A's life

This case highlights the importance of vigilance, partnership working, and early intervention in safeguarding adults at risk. Through the persistence of professionals and the support provided to Mrs A, a potentially devastating case of financial abuse was recognised, investigated, and successfully addressed, ensuring that she regained control of her finances and was protected from further exploitation.

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KEY PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS 2025/26

Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust

CUSTOMER STORY

A pregnant woman experiencing domestic abuse was identified as high risk and discussed at Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), with safeguarding processes put in place for both her and the unborn baby. Escalating concerns regarding the partner's violent behaviours led to police involvement and MAPPA management.

A coordinated multi-agency plan was established to support the woman throughout pregnancy, labour, and the postnatal period. This included measures to maintain her safety during hospital admission, alongside compassionate, trauma-informed care. Following the birth, she was supported in relocating to safe accommodation outside the area.

Professionals across health, police, and wider partners maintained regular communication at key points of care, enabling responsive risk management and continuity of support. The approach reflected a holistic "Think Family" model, addressing the safety and wellbeing of the unborn child, the ongoing needs of the mother, and consideration of the partner's mental health and substance misuse risks.

A coordinated multi-agency plan supported the woman through labour and the postnatal period, including safety planning, compassionate hospital care, and subsequent relocation to safe accommodation.

Daily communication between partners ensured timely risk management and continuity of care.

South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)

HOW WE WORK

As one of the Executive Partners of the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board we are proud to support the continued development of services that improve outcomes for adults across Rotherham.

The safeguarding landscape continues to evolve in response to increasing demand, greater complexity of need, and sustained pressures on public services. Against this backdrop, the commitment, professionalism, and resilience demonstrated by colleagues across health, social care, policing, housing, and the voluntary and community sector have remained exemplary. Through effective leadership, robust governance, and strong partnership working, the Board has maintained strategic oversight of safeguarding arrangements and provided assurance regarding the effectiveness of local systems to protect adults with care and support needs.

As we progress through 2026, public services continue to operate within a challenging financial environment. At the same time, there is an increasing emphasis on prevention, early intervention, personalised care, and integrated working across organisational boundaries. These developments present important opportunities to strengthen collaboration, maximise the impact of available resources, and deliver services that are responsive, sustainable, and centred on the needs of adults, their families, and carers.

Our commitment to safeguarding adults from abuse and neglect, promoting wellbeing, and supporting people to live safe, independent, and fulfilling lives remains unwavering. It is essential that we continue to identify and respond

APPENDIX I
KEY PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS 2025/26

to risks at the earliest opportunity, ensuring that safeguarding practice is proportionate, effective, and focused on achieving positive outcomes. Achieving this requires a whole-system approach, underpinned by shared responsibility, professional curiosity, and a collective determination to place the voice and experiences of adults at the centre of all that we do. The principles of Making Safeguarding Personal remain fundamental to this ambition.

The work of the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board continues to demonstrate the value of strong partnership arrangements, constructive challenge, independent scrutiny, and a commitment to continuous learning and improvement. Through our assurance activity, performance oversight, Safeguarding Adults Reviews, and engagement with practitioners, providers, and local communities, we continue to strengthen safeguarding arrangements and promote a culture in which safeguarding is recognised as everybody's responsibility.

Whilst significant challenges remain, there is also much to be proud of. The progress achieved across the partnership reflects the dedication and expertise of organisations and individuals who work tirelessly to protect adults and improve outcomes. By maintaining a clear focus on prevention, wellbeing, and person-centred practice, and by continuing to work collectively across agencies and with our communities, we can build on these achievements, respond effectively to emerging risks, and make a lasting positive difference to the safety, independence, wellbeing, and quality of life of adults across Rotherham.



South Yorkshire Police

CUSTOMER STORY

In July 2025, concerns were raised for a vulnerable female, suffering with dementia. She was discussed at Police Thrive due to her being a repeat confused caller. This female was not open to services at that time, but it was established that she lived with her son and that her daughter also provided regular support. The Safer Neighborhood Sargent made her daughter aware of the frequent calls, and she said the family were considering their options for further support. This lady was discussed again in February 2026 and was again found to be not open to any support services. SNS highlighted the concerns via the Vulnerability Pathway with ASC and requested that her case was re-assessed. A subsequent safeguarding S42 enquiry was opened and the lady's needs were assessed and addressed under the Care Act. The Adult Social Care Community Team are now fully aware of the concerns, and discussions were also held at the High Intensity User Group, so further support could be put in place to reduce the demand on services.

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KEY PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS 2025/26

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

CUSTOMER STORY

Mr A is a gentleman in his early 20s with diagnosis of psychosis, autism, depression and anxiety. He has been open to RDaSH services on and off since 2020 and is currently open to a Community Mental Health Team. Mr A experiences visual and auditory hallucinations. He also reports that he experiences meltdowns as a result of his neurodiversity. During an appointment with his lead professional, Mr A reported that during a meltdown, his mum grabbed him, swore at him and pinned him to the floor. His adult brother then came and punched him in the face, resulting in a cut and swollen lip. Mr A also reported historical incidents of abuse from the wider family including his sister holding a knife to him and his mum locking him in his room and not allowing him to leave.

A DASH was completed after multiple attempts as Mr A found it difficult to open up and the team wanted to allow Mr A a space that felt safe and comfortable to be able to give as much information as possible. Mr A was clear that he felt frightened but did not want a police report to be made because he felt this may escalate the risk of further incidents or abuse. Mr A's lead professional was also concerned that there would be an increased risk of him harming himself if his wishes for a police report to not be made were not taken seriously.

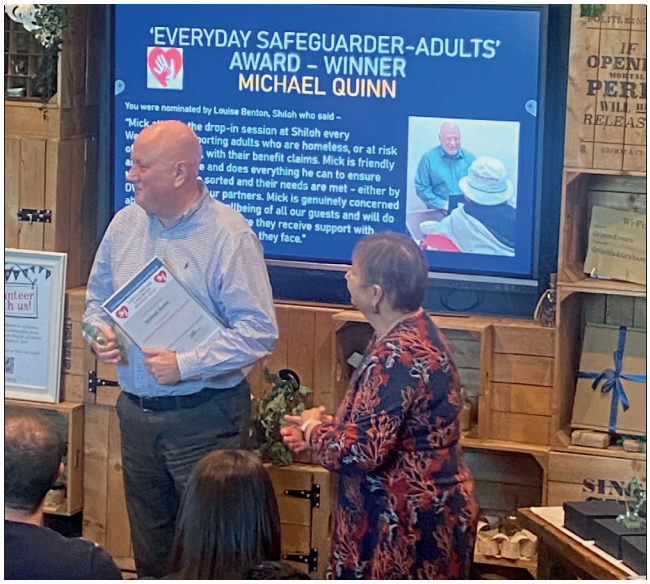
The lead professional discussed the DASH outcome with the team manager and they both agreed it should be rated as high risk given the significant incidents of assault. They then met with the Trust Safeguarding Team to further discuss due to concerns of overriding consent and making a police report as this would likely increase risk.

Mr A's lead professional also explored a Care Act assessment with Mr A, which he consented to and was keen to look at alternative accommodation and a carer's assessment was also discussed with mum.

Unfortunately, before the MARAC took place, Hopian reached out to Mr A which he found distressing. However, this was further discussed in MARAC with an agreed plan for the CMHT to encourage Mr A's engagement with Hopian if and when he was ready. The police agreed to manage the disclosures using a "trauma informed response" which was in line with Mr A's wishes and negated any potential of increasing the risk to himself.

The most positive outcome was that by agencies collaborating, Mr A was able to sign for supported accommodation on the same day that the MARAC took place, with the move taking place within a couple of weeks. Mr A was very happy with his new property.

After the move, Mr A reported he felt safe and denied any further abuse or assaults from family. Support from the CMHT continued.



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KEY PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS 2025/26



South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (SYFR)

CUSTOMER STORY

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (SYFR) received a referral for a home fire safety visit. Hoarding level 5-9 on the clutter index rating, concerns regarding living environment, blocked exits and mobility were identified. SYFR referred to adult social care and the high-risk coordinator for SYFR carried out a further joint visit with housing and social care. The occupier was reluctant to receive support and engage with services and declined care providers to help with personal care.

A safeguarding referral was submitted and SYFR carried out further joint visits to assess fire risks and reiterate fire safety advice. The property had a clean and clear and a new referral was made by housing due to hoarding levels increasing again.

SYFR revisited in 2021 and closed as they had done everything reasonably practicable in helping to reduce fire risks.

SYFR attended several cooking post incidents from 2022 to 2025. Fire risks remained and the level of hoarding significantly increased. SYFR requested and attended multi agency meetings and submitted further safeguarding referrals. Care providers were put in place and this increased as and when required for further support. Occupier was now engaging with partner agencies and allowed a joint visit from SYFR and social care. The high-risk coordinator for Rotherham submitted a sharing of information form, which was cascaded to partner agencies.

Following the last visit from SYFR, an email was sent to housing requesting an update as to what support was in place to help reduce the hoarding levels. A further clean and clear was due to be completed, this was completed in 2025. The occupier also agreed to submit an application for supported living due to care and support need. This occupier now receives full-time care and has engaged well with services to reduce/mitigate fire risks. The occupier now lives safely with full support in place following a multi-agency approach.

APPENDIX I
KEY PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS 2025/26

Rotherham Voluntary and Community Sector

The Mental Health Community Connectors support people in Rotherham living with severe mental illness (SMI) in partnership with NHS Primary Care teams, RDaSH and Voluntary Sector organisations. The Community Connectors are out in local neighbourhoods every day, meeting people one-to-one – helping them regain their confidence, overcome barriers to accessing support and get involved in their community.

The service empowers people to build healthier lives – through enabling participation in a range of activities – both one to one or in small groups, as well as education, services and clinical offers such as screening, vaccinations and annual health checks.

The Mental Health Community Connectors support patients for up to 6 months. During the year 2025/26 65 % of patients received support for up to 3 months, 33 % of patients received support for 3-4 months, and 2 % of patients received support for 6 months. This shows that the majority of patients are requiring one-to-one support for up to 3 months and by that point have developed the independence to access the community independently, often as a result of participation in the micro-commissioned Voluntary Sector provision.



APPENDIX 2
KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

Safeguarding Annual Performance: 2025-26 – Data Recieved

Safeguarding Adults Review – (SAR)

A Safeguarding Adults Review must be carried out if:

- An adult dies (including death by suicide) and abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor in their death. In such circumstances the SAB should always conduct a review into the involvement of agencies and professionals associated with the vulnerable adult.
- An adult has sustained a potentially life-threatening injury through abuse or neglect, serious sexual abuse, or sustained serious and permanent impairment of health or development through abuse or neglect, and the case gives rise to concerns about the way in which local professionals and services work together to safeguard vulnerable adults.
- Serious abuse takes place in an institution or when multiple abusers are involved, the same principles of review apply. Such reviews are, however, likely to be more complex, on a larger scale, and may require more time. Terms of reference need to be carefully constructed to explore the issues relevant to each specific case.

The SAR is commissioned by the SAB and all partners who have had involvement with the subject of the enquiry will be required to participate in the review. The results of the review are published by the SAB in the form of a final report.

Number of SARs Commissioned 2025-26
3 SAR were commissioned in 2025/26.

Number of SARs Completed 2025-26
0 SAR was completed in 2025/26



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.



Demand continues to increase year-on-year. Since there has been a **42% increase in contacts received,** where safeguarding risk was indicated, from 3,989 in 2023/24 to 5,669 in 2024/25.

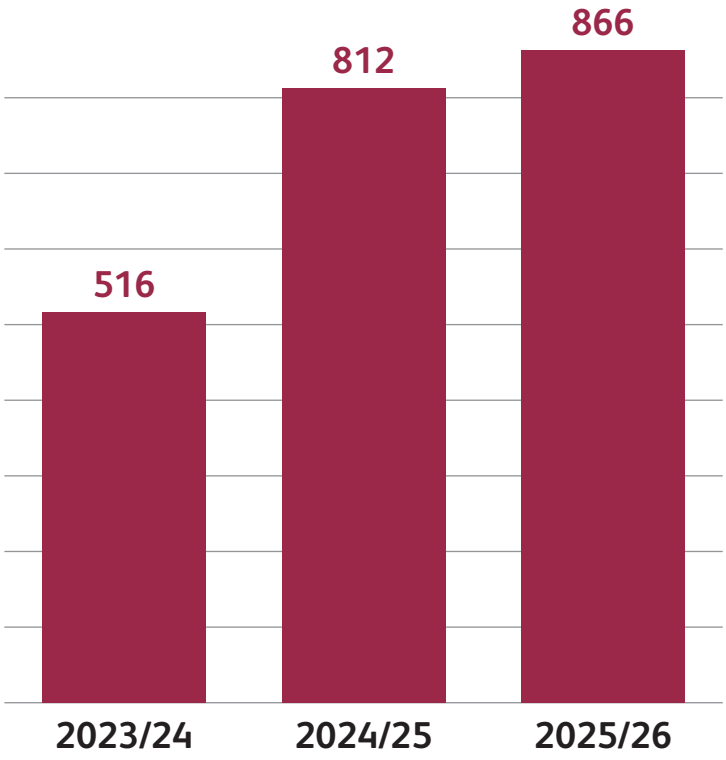
Of the contacts received 2,164 were accepted as concerns, with 1,066 concerns progressing to an enquiry. This is 68.7% higher than the enquiries commencing two years ago.

Progression from contact to S42 enquiry was 49.3% which is above the latest national figure of 30.5% and the regional average of 38.7%.

Completed Section 42 Enquiries
(Three Year Trend)

Activity has increased to meet the additional demand. **866 Section 42 enquiries** were completed in 2025/26 which is **68% more** than in 2023/24. There were a further **47 non-statutory enquiries** completed.

Waiting lists for people who are subject to an ongoing S42 Enquiry are effectively managed. Despite the higher demand the timeliness of completion has improved. **80.4% were completed within the local standard of 80 working days** compared to 75.3% in 2024/25.



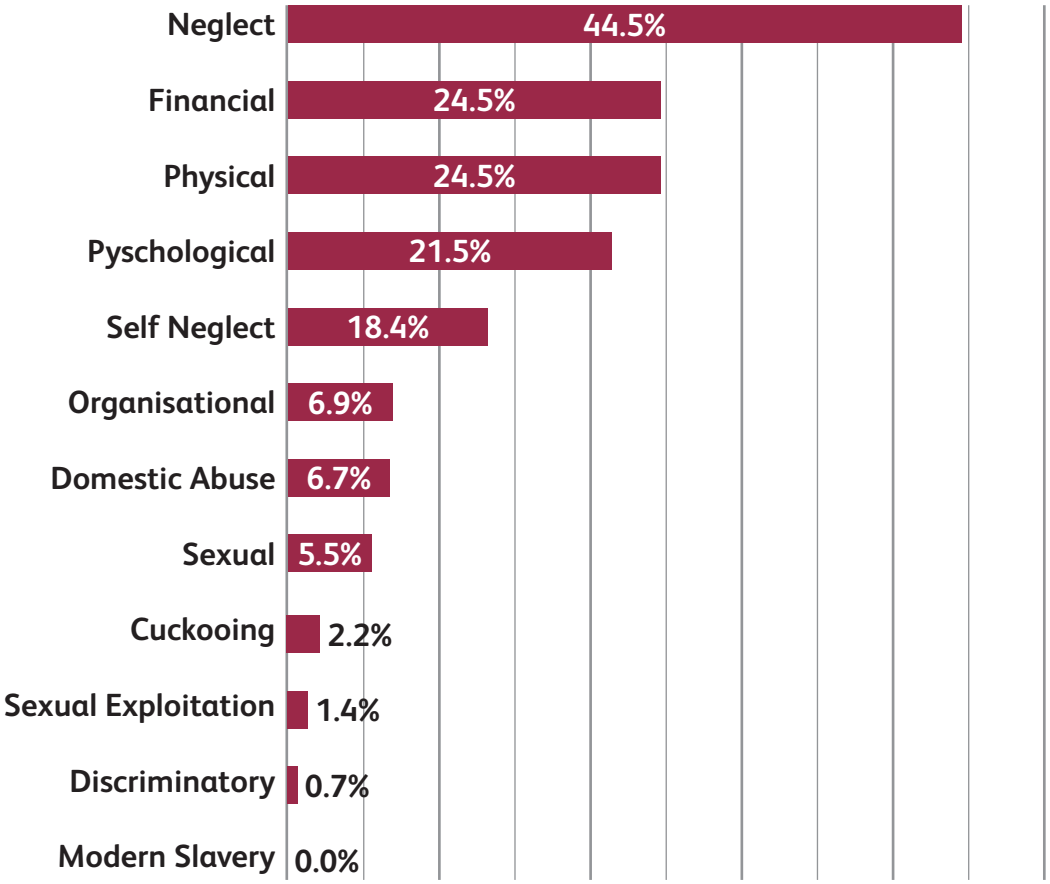
APPENDIX 2
KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

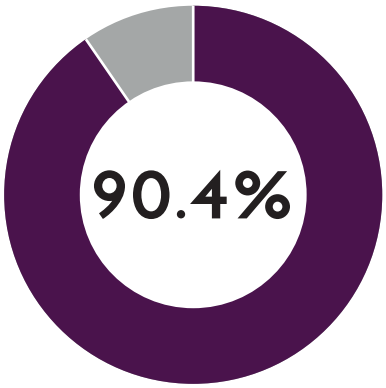
Enquiries may identify that an adult has been subjected to one or more types of abuse. The most commonly identified abuse types remain consistent with previous years.

Neglect continues to be the most prevalent, identified in 44.5 % of all enquiries. This was followed by financial abuse (24.5 %), physical abuse (24.5 %), psychological abuse (21.5 %), and self-neglect (18.4 %).

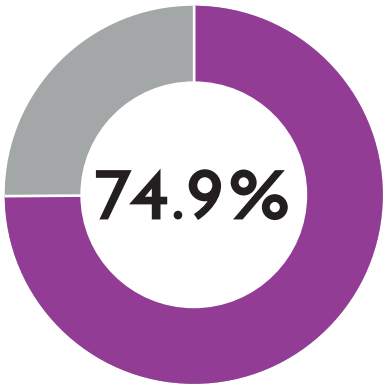
Percentage of Section 42 Enquiries by identified abuse type

Some enquiries may involve multiple types of abuse.



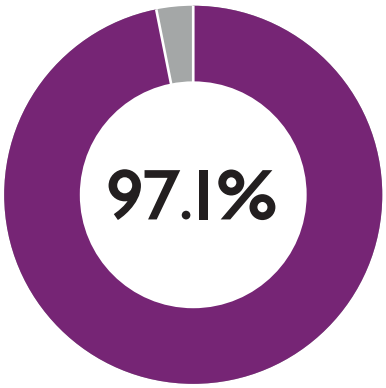


90.4 % of complete S42 Enquiries resulted in **Risk being either removed or reduced.**



More people are being **asked their views and wishes** during an enquiry.

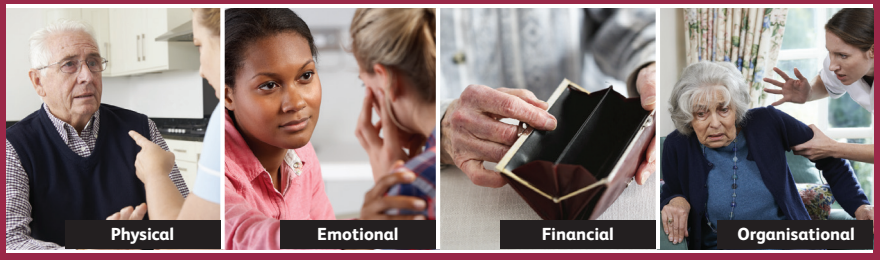
A 5 % improvement on last year to 74.4 %.



Of those asked their views and wishes almost 97.1 % 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

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults
NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group
South Yorkshire POLICE
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

NHS The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
NHS England
NHS Rotherham
Rotherham age UK
healthwatch Rotherham
National Probation Service
CROSS ROADS CARE Rotherham
Voluntary Action Rotherham
South Yorkshire POLICE
South Yorkshire FIRE & RESCUE
carerstrust a Network Partner
RDaSH leading the way with care
South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner Your Voice
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council