

Health Select Commission

Thursday 19 November 2026

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board

Annual Report 2025-2026

Moira Wilson

RSAB Independent Chair

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025-2028 Priorities

OUR VISION

Making Rotherham a place where adults feel safe, secure and free from harm and abuse.

OUR MISSION

To promote partnership working and to coordinate the effective delivery of safeguarding arrangements across the borough.

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.

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults

Progress in 2025 - 2026

VOICE

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

The first Voice subgroup meeting took place in February 2026, and the group have continued to meet bi-monthly.

Continuous work is ongoing to bring an individual with lived experience to the RSAB.



A Lived Experience Board Member helps the RSAB by sharing their personal experiences and views as someone from the local community.



Their role is to speak up, offer ideas, and help influence positive changes in how adults are kept safe in Rotherham.



By bringing a unique perspective, they help make sure the Board's work reflects real life experiences and meets the needs of the people it serves.

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults

Progress in 2025 - 2026

VULNERABLE ADULTS PATHWAY

On 01 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 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.

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).

CMARAC

This forum supports vulnerable adults who have mental capacity, are experiencing ongoing or repeated victimisation, and are subject to or involved in anti-social behaviour and/or crime.

VARMM

Referrals are agreed via the Partnership Triage Meeting or CMARAC. Escalation to VARMM occurs when the level of complexity and or risk requires more in depth problem solving or if the vulnerable adult is at risk of serious harm or death.

VAP

The VAP provides strategic oversight of the Vulnerable Adults Pathway, including the CMARAC and VARMM platforms. A referral to the VAP occurs when commissioning or resource decisions are needed.

Rotherham
Safeguarding Adults

Activity in 2025 - 2026



SAFEGUARDING AWARENESS WEEK 2025

November is the month in which 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.

In 2025 we launched the Safeguarding Champion Awards. These awards celebrated the unsung hero's from across Rotherham who go above and beyond to safeguard their community.

"Her dedication has significantly contributed to the growth and development of the In Care Voice community, and we are immensely proud of the leader, advocate and inspiration that she is!"

"Many of our more complex customers regularly attend his pharmacy, and he has consistently gone above and beyond in looking out for their wellbeing."

"He selflessly dedicates his time and energy before and after school, and during weekdays to care and protect his sister."

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults

Performance Data 2025 - 2026

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 3989 in 2023-2024 to 5,669 in 2026-2026.

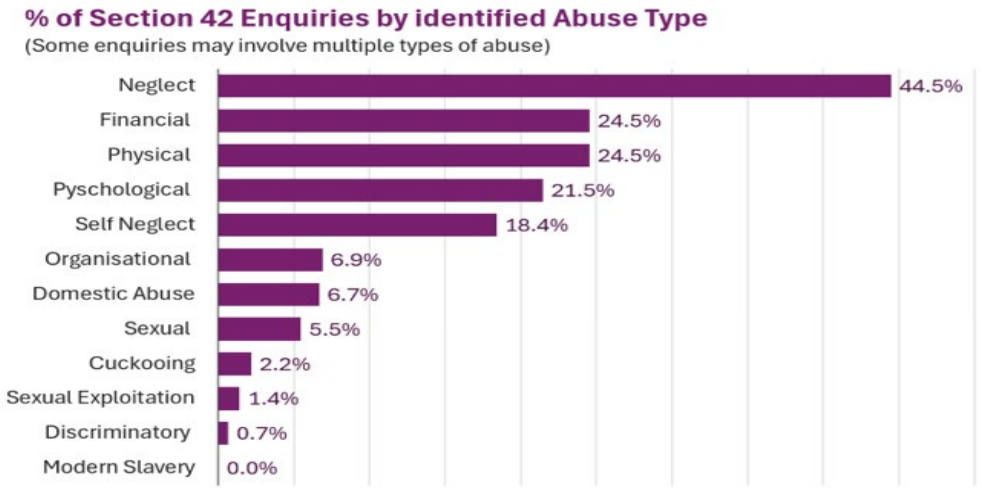
Of the contacts received 2,164 were accepted as concerns, with 1066 concerns progressing to an enquiry. This is 68.7% higher than the enquiries commencing two years ago.

Progression from contact to Section 42 enquiry was 49.3% which is above the latest national figure of 30.5% and the regional average of 38.7%.

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

Our most common abuse type remains consistent. The highest being Neglect which was identified in 44.5% of all enquiries.

The next most prevalent abuse types are with Financial (24.5%), Physical (24.5%), Psychological (21.5%) and Self-Neglect (18.4%)



Rotherham Safeguarding Adults

Planning for 2026-2027

THE JOINT SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP SELF ASSESSMENT

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) and the Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (RSCP) will host the Joint Partnership Self-Assessment in December 2026.

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 both children and adults.



NHS Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust

South Yorkshire FIRE & RESCUE

NHS The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust

South Yorkshire POLICE

NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults

Planning for 2026-2027



VOICE SUBGROUP

A workshop will be held in January 2027 to understand how ‘Safeguarding Works’. We will look at what happens when a Safeguarding referral is made and what the referrer and person being referred into the service should expect.

This was requested by the members of the Voice subgroup, to help everyone understand what ‘Safeguarding’ is.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

We will continue to 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 from homelessness.

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults

Planning for 2026-2027

SAFEGUARDING AWARENESS WEEK 2026

Safeguarding Awareness Week 2026

Course Calendar

DATE	TIME	COURSE TITLE	COURSE DESCRIPTION
16 November	10:00-10:30 ONLINE	Stand Up to Harassment – Bystander Intervention	The Suzy Lamplugh Trust presents Stand Up to Harassment - Bystander Intervention This active bystander intervention training is designed to empower delegates to be active bystanders when they see harassment taking place, without putting their own personal safety at risk, focusing on the 5 Ds of bystander intervention, which was originally pioneered by Right To Be.
16 November	13:00-16:30 NY STADIUM	Safeguarding Awareness Week 2026 – Partnership Launch Event	Join the Rotherham Safeguarding Partnership to launch SAW26 at New York Stadium, featuring the Collingwood Theatre Company. Safeguarding Awareness Week 2026 will be launched on Monday, 16th November at 1pm, the event will be held at New York Stadium, and we would like to see managers and practitioners from across the partnership. Collingwood Theatre Company will be showcasing a bespoke piece that will focus on Think Family and Professional Curiosity. The Rotherham Foundation Trust will be talking about how Think Family works in their trust and the difference it makes to the people who use their service. We will also hear about the Families First Programme and the work of the Complex Lives Team.
17 November	10:00 – 11:00 ONLINE	RSCP Learning from Audit	Explore the learning from RSCP audit activity, which examines how partners work together to support children and families.
17 November	11:00 – 12:00 ONLINE	Introduction to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking	Join colleagues from Community Safety to learn about the Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking including how to spot the signs and report The session is aimed at front line workers who may have little knowledge of the subject. It will explain what Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking is, how to 'spot the signs' and how to report concerns.
17 November	15:30 – 16:30 ONLINE	The Rise of Online Misogyny	This training session explores the rise of online misogyny and incel culture, and how harmful beliefs are normalised across the online space This training session explores the rise of online misogyny and incel culture, and how harmful beliefs are normalised across the online spaces young people use every day. We will explore how these narratives affect young people, as well as the tactics used to spread and reinforce them. The session will also provide practical strategies for recognising, challenging and responding to harmful attitudes and behaviours, helping staff support young people to navigate online spaces and build healthier, more respectful relationships.
18 November	10:00 – 10:45 ONLINE	An Introduction to Probation	How the Probation Service works with Veronika Balkovska, Senior Probation Officer. This training session, led by a Senior Probation Officer, will cover the following topics: • What Probation Service staff do and don't do (misconceptions)

During Monday 16 November – Friday 20 November 2026, the Safeguarding Partnership will come together to deliver a range of awareness and training events to colleagues across Rotherham.

The launch event will be held on the afternoon of Monday 16 November 2026 and will be focusing on Professional Curiosity and Think Family. We will be holding the second Safeguarding Champion Awards that recognise adults, children and young people who do an exceptional job at safeguarding the most vulnerable.



Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025-2028 Progress

Strategic Objective 1

Communication, Engagement, and Voice



Completed

Established the Voice Subgroup

Delivered partnership events for awareness and training (SAW25)

Underway

Recruit a person with lived experience as a member of the SAB

work with homelessness agencies and people at risk of homelessness to capture insights and experiences to inform the safeguarding pathway.

Strategic Objective 2

Prevention and Early Intervention



Completed

Develop and implement a partnership triage meeting to ensure all referrals are discussed and appropriate signposting is included

Develop a suite of information, referral criteria and access routes to support CMARAC, VARMM and VAP and have access for partners on the RSAB Website

Embed a vulnerable adults pathway based around putting people at the heart of the process

Underway

We will work with people who are at risk of neglect, self-neglect and hoarding to prevent significant harm from occurring. This will be done by identifying people via the VARM, VAP, CMARAC process

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2025-2028 Progress

Strategic Objective 3

Leadership and Partnership



Completed

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

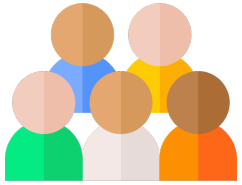
The Board and its partners will continue to work together across the Adult, Children's and Safer Rotherham Partnership Boards. Monthly meetings held to discuss cross cutting topics and share learning

Underway

RSAB will explore the benefits of an Adult Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

Strategic Objective 4

Making Safeguarding Personal



This objective will be the focus of work during 2027

Strategic Objective 5

Learning and Development



Completed

Commission a 3-year training package to ensure continuous provision

We will ensure training evaluation is robust and consider using mystery shoppers to provide feedback

We will agree an audit tool and schedule a programme of audits each year

Underway

Use thematic reviews to gain learning from Safeguarding via workshops, 7-minute briefings and the RSAB newsletter

Embed the multi-agency learning review process



Thank you
for your time
and engagement.