

People of Rotherham are able to live a life free from harm where all organisations and communities

- Keeping people safe from abuse is everyone's business
- Work together to prevent abuse
- Knows what to do when abuse happens



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2021/22

# INTRODUCTION BY MOIRA WILSON

Rotherham Safeguarding Adults  
Board Independent Chair



**I am pleased to present the Annual Report for 2021/22. This report demonstrates the strong partnership commitment during an extremely challenging time to ensure that the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board and the subgroups has**

**carried on and our strategic plan has progressed. 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 sub-groups of the Board are attended and chaired by representatives from across the partnership. This report 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 involvement.

Training is vitally important to ensure the development of all colleagues, and to continue to improve safeguarding practice. We were pleased to re-launch all safeguarding training in April 2021, on a virtual platform. We will continue to offer a mixture of face to face and online training over the coming years.

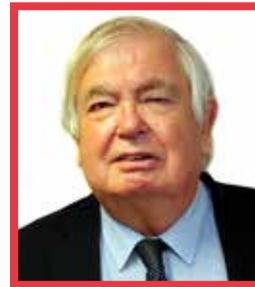
Safeguarding Awareness Week was held in November 2021 and we began with a South Yorkshire Launch event that discussed important issues such as Safe Transitions and Preventing Deaths from Self-neglect. In Rotherham 29 virtual awareness sessions were delivered over the week with 615 registered attendees, the scope of the week was wide reaching and participants included schools, voluntary sector, probation and provider services

Looking forward, the new strategic plan for 2022 - 2025 sets out our new priorities focusing on 'Back to Basics' 'Systems, Processes and Performance', and 'Strengthening Partnerships'. We aim to ensure that we continue to strengthen our partnership working across Rotherham to keep people safe and at the centre of all our safeguarding work. A summary of the plan is included in this report.

Once again, I would like to thank all partners for their continued support and look forward to continuing to work together to delivering our new strategic plan over the next three years.

# MESSAGE FROM Cllr DAVID ROCHE

Chair of the Health and  
Wellbeing Board



**RSAB Annual Report 2021/22 – Cllr Roche. This past year has seen the resilience of all our safeguarding**

**partners to deliver services and ensure the business of Safeguarding the people of Rotherham stays as a top priority through the most challenging of times.**

The Safeguarding Adults Annual Report for 2021/22 provides evidence of the strong partnership working within Rotherham and how by coming together we can deliver the strategic aims of the Board and improve services across Rotherham. Although the majority of meetings were held virtually, there was a commitment by everyone involved to ensure that the work of the Board continued.

As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, I would like to express my thanks to all Safeguarding Adults Board members and the colleagues that attend the subgroups of the Board, it gives me great pleasure to take this opportunity to acknowledge the commitment of all the Board partners.

As we now move into 2022 with a new strategic plan for 2022/25, I look forward to reporting on the progress of the Board and the strong partnership working that will allow us to deliver a service where 'Safeguarding is everyone's business'.

# Keeping people safe from abuse is everyone's business

## RECOGNISE • RESPOND • REPORT

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

The RSAB's 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, rather than operational, partnership made up of senior/lead officers within adult social services, criminal justice, health, housing, community safety, voluntary organisations.

It coordinates the strategic development of adult safeguarding across Rotherham and ensures the effectiveness of the work undertaken by Partner Agencies in the area. The Rotherham Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board ('RSAB') 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, inappropriate restraint.

#### **Domestic violence or abuse**

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

#### **Organisational or institutional 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 or 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.



**Doing nothing is not an option!**

# ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REVIEW of 2021/22

The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) and the subgroups that work with the partnership adapted to the new way of working that allowed the business of the Board to continue and held all meetings in the virtual world. The Board and the Executive Group continued to meet quarterly via teams and attendance was as always very good.

Work pressures continued to be a challenge for many partners as Covid-19 remained a matter of concern and partners were requested to give updates at Board on the how Covid-19 was affecting the day-to-day business in their organisations.

During 2021 the RSAB were able to re-launch their training package, although the sessions were virtual it was really important to get training back on track and available to all our partners. We updated the training prospectus and prioritised courses that were in high demand as well as offering a full training package from Hoarding Disorders UK to increase awareness and skills in dealing with self-neglect and hoarding.

Safeguarding Awareness Week was held across South Yorkshire in November 2021 and started with a South Yorkshire launch for the adults and children's safeguarding partnership that included guest speakers who delivered keynote speeches on self-neglect and hoarding and safe transitions. In Rotherham the partnership was offered training via 29 online sessions ranging from the 'Role of the Advocate' to 'Safeguarding Vulnerable Drinkers' and 615 attendees from across all organisations registered for training. Safeguarding Awareness Week 21 was a great success, and we look to offering a bigger and better range of events during SAW22.

Safeguarding partners from the Adults and Children's partnership were invited to take part in the Safeguarding Self-assessment process, partners completed their online self-assessment

and then the Independent Chair/Scrutineer of the Safeguarding Boards held virtual challenge sessions to discuss safeguarding arrangements. Later in the year a survey was completed by partners on how the self-assessment process could improve and how the Safeguarding Boards could develop a more meaningful challenge. Changes will be made to the process and a new way of gaining assurance from our partners will be developed.

The SAR subgroup and the Board signed off the Safeguarding Adults Review named 'The Painter and His Son' and the report was published in November 2021. Recommendations made by the independent author will be turned into actions and will be progressed by the partnership, changes to practice and policy will be made where needed and learning shared and embedded.



## Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board – Aspiring to be the Best that we can be Strategic Plan 2019 to 2022

Our Strategic Priorities	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
<p><b>PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION</b></p> <p>Working with partners to develop preventative strategies that work to reduce the risk of abuse and neglect.</p>	<p>Continue to strengthen links and work closely with all partners to provide assurance that the preventative strategies are effective via self-assessment and joint learning events.</p>	<p>Joined up partnership working to target areas of service to improve awareness and guidance for service users and staff.</p>	<p>Develop methods of sharing and embedding learning for reviews and lessons learnt.</p>
<p><b>MAKING SAFEGUARDING PERSONAL</b></p> <p>Continue to develop and assess the effectiveness of MSP, ensuring a high quality, personalised safeguarding response as the norm in Rotherham.</p>	<p>Ensure that all partners are working with the Making Safeguarding Personal agenda and delivering a person centred approach to safeguarding with appropriate use of advocacy.</p>	<p>Ensure training and learning materials, guides and toolkits are available to partners to fully support Making Safeguarding Personal agenda.</p>	<p>Work with national guidance to measure the effectiveness and impact of MSP to ensure Rotherham are 'getting it right'.</p>
<p><b>QUALITY ASSURANCE</b></p> <p>Ensure the quality of Safeguarding within Rotherham is timely and proportionate and individual's outcomes are realistically achieved.</p>	<p>Continue to develop a robust audit programme and capture intelligence data to shape service provision.</p>	<p>Monitor and assure the governance and effectiveness of the Adult Safeguarding Board.</p>	<p>Commission a Peer Review of the Rotherham Safeguarding Board.</p>
<p><b>SERVICE USER ENGAGEMENT</b></p> <p>Full and real user involvement across all service groups. Bring the voice of the service user to the Board.</p>	<p>Develop ways of gaining the views of people who have experienced and worked with the safeguarding service.</p>	<p>Ensure RSAB's Communication Strategy is relevant, up to date and effective and has community involvement.</p>	<p>Engage with networking events across the borough and South Yorkshire to share and learn from peers.</p>

## The priorities for the Board for 2021/22 were:

Priority	Resulting Action
<p>Develop methods of sharing and embedding learning for reviews and lessons learnt.</p>	<p>The SAR subgroup have changed the way they work with SAR authors and now they work with the author to develop recommendations and learning points to ensure that understanding and buy-in by all partners is evident from the beginning of the process.</p> <p>7-minute briefings will now be part of the SAR process, this will ensure that an easy read synopsis of each SAR will be available to be shared across the partnership and workforce to raise awareness and promote learning.</p> <p>Changes have been made to the Self-neglect and Hoarding Policy following recommendations made in the SAR 'The Painter and His Son'</p> <p>Self-neglect is now included in CMARAC/VAP/VARM process.</p> <p>Training package commissioned from Hoarding Disorders UK is available to all safeguarding partners.</p>
<p>Work with national guidance to measure the effectiveness and impact of MSP to ensure Rotherham are 'getting it right'.</p>	<p>The Performance and Quality subgroup carried out safeguarding case file audits from across the partnership to assess the use of 'Making Safeguarding Personal' (MSP). Results from the audit showed that MSP was understood across all services however the recording and evidence of use was sometimes missing.</p> <p>A 7-minute briefing was produced on Making Safeguarding Personal; this was shared across the partnership.</p>
<p>Commission a Peer Review of the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board.</p>	<p>Partners have now agreed that the Local Government Association will carry out a peer review and dates have been agreed for June 2023.</p> <p>Between March and May 2021, the partners of the SAB were required to update their joint safeguarding self-assessment. Virtual challenge discussions were held with the independent Chairs of the Adults Board and the Children's Partnership and the strategic leads for safeguarding in partner organisations.</p>
<p>Engage with networking events across the borough and South Yorkshire to share and learn from peers.</p>	<p>During 2021/22 customer engagement events were still very limited due to the effects of Covid-19. Networking events via teams were still happening and the Board manager was able to attend to ensure engagement with local and national partners.</p> <p>In May 2021 the PLTC event organised by the CCG invited the Board manager to present to GP's and Health Colleagues on learning gained from Safeguarding Adults Reviews involving self-neglect.</p> <p>Every Board meeting begins with a 'customer story' - partners take turns in providing a customer focused story to evidence good partnership working and that customer outcomes are being achieved.</p>

**The Safeguarding Adults Board has four subgroups to ensure the priorities of Board are delivered. The Sub-Groups each have a work plan and during 2021/22 they were able to deliver the following specific pieces of work:**

### Performance and Quality Subgroup

Priority	Resulting Action
Provide assurance to the RSAB that partners have embedded Making Safeguarding Personal and consider MCA and Advocacy during safeguarding.	Agencies were asked to provide evidence of internal audits where Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) had been considered. Partners presented audit findings to the Performance and Quality subgroup throughout the year and subgroup updates to Board provided assurance to members.  Information was requested from the commissioned advocacy service that evidenced increased referrals.
Evaluate the joint self-assessment process with Children's safeguarding.  Examine the effectiveness of the electronic systems used and the quality of the questions asked.	Following the safeguarding self-assessment that was completed in June 2021 the Performance and Quality subgroup surveyed partners involved in the assessment process to gain opinion on how the process should move forward. Feedback informed the adults and children's safeguarding partnership on how future self-assessment should be carried out. The next self-assessment process will be held during July- October 2022.

### Workforce Development

Priority	Resulting Action
Deliver a new training prospectus that highlights all training on offer to the safeguarding partnership.	The Workforce Development group reviewed the prospectus and refreshed and brought all information up to date.
Work with the adult and children's safeguarding partnership to deliver Safeguarding Awareness Week 2021.	29 Online awareness sessions delivered over five days 615 registered attendees Wide reaching involvement (Schools, voluntary Sector, Probation, Contractors)  Four South Yorkshire events including a South Yorkshire launch event.

## Policy and Practice

Priority	Resulting Action
Develop a Making Safeguarding Personal, satisfaction style questionnaire that will be developed using the MSP outcomes framework, ensure the survey is in an easy read version format.	<p>The group worked with Absolute Advocacy Rotherham to design the questionnaire. People with lived experience supported and checked the work to ensure the document was easy to read and appropriate.</p> <p>A guide to MSP Principles of Engagement was also produced in an easy read format.</p>
Ensure the Customer Voice is a prominent factor during Safeguarding Awareness Week. Encourage the Safeguarding Adults Partnership include the Voice of the Adult during their Awareness and Training Sessions	<p>All presentations delivered during SAW22 were asked to include the voice of the service user.</p> <p>All partners or the RSAB were asked to share customer stories with the group, these stories are used to start every Board meeting to highlight good practice and to ensure the customer is the focus of all meetings.</p>

## Safeguarding Adults Review

Priority	Resulting Action
The SAR subgroup commissioned one SAR's during 20/21 and one SAR named The Painter and his Son was published November 2021.	<p>The Painter and his Son was completed and signed off by the RSAB in November 2021, the report was published on the RSAB website in November 2021 and the report was shared across the partnership for learning purposes.</p> <p>This SAR looked at issues of self-neglect and complex lives and how professional curiosity is a key skill for front line workers.</p>

**The Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board will continue to meet on a quarterly basis and meetings will allow virtual and face to face attendance. The executive group and all four of the subgroups will also continue with business as usual and meet regularly to ensure the work of the Board continues throughout 2022/23.**

In April 2022 the Board held a development day to bring partners together to look back over the last three years strategic plan and to look forward to the three years ahead. Partners worked together to develop three new strategic aims to steer the Board on to 2025. Conversations captured during the day highlighted the following priorities for the SAB:

- Strengthen its leadership role- make safeguarding everyone's business, not just staff.
- Promote the SAB – who we are and what we do.
- Make the SAB meaningful to the frontline. Visibility.
- Strengthen the voice of lived experience in the SAB.
- Describe the impact our partnership is making. You said: we did'.
- Improve communication with front line and community and dissemination of key learning and messages.
- Reset, revamp and reboot the SAB.
- How can we work differently together as a collective?
- Refocus the subgroups for key messages. Sharing learning.
- Focus on prevention, take a wider view of safeguarding and risk.
- Early intervention and support are key plus a multi-agency approach.
- Look at transitional safeguarding, LAC and care leavers, street-based lives, homelessness.
- Good performance data to measure impact. Ask for evidence from partners. Qualitative as well as quantitative information.
- Learning from practice/learning from SARs.
- Appreciative Enquiry, learning from what has been done well.
- Use trauma informed approaches.
- Review multi agency forums – are they working together efficiently?
- Work between partners to identify who is best placed to support the person.
- Clear thresholds with consistent application. Recognising vulnerabilities.
- Self-neglect we need to be more inclusive in s42 enquiries.

Following the development day a new strategic plan has been agreed by the SAB and this will feed into all of the subgroups to develop their workplans for the next three years.

# ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-25



## ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-25

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.

### Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board – Who we are

The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is a multi-agency partnership which has statutory functions under the Care Act 2014. The main focus of the SAB is to ensure that in Rotherham safeguarding arrangements work effectively so that Adults at risk are able to 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'.

### 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 the best lives they can 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.

### How are we going to do this?

We are going to work on three areas of equal importance, which will be our priorities. We will continue to work with our partners to make sure that by 2025 these priorities are achieved.

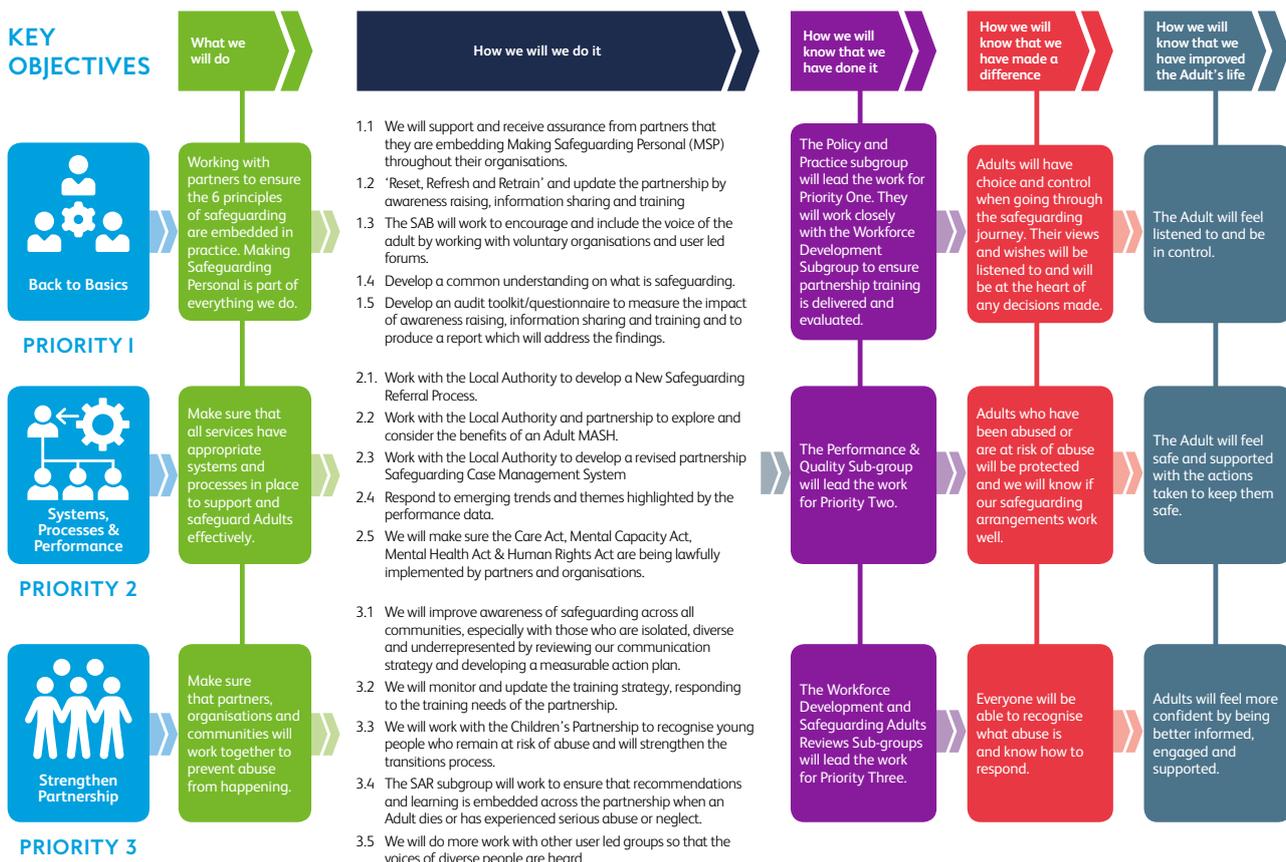
### How will we know if we have achieved our priorities?

We will measure our progress and achievements through our Delivery Plan which will be updated every three months and presented to the Safeguarding Adults Board.

### The Structure of the Safeguarding Adults Board – How we will work

- Board with an Independent Chair
- Executive Group groups
- Workforce and development Subgroup
- Performance & Quality Sub-group
- Policy and Practice Sub-group
- Safeguarding Adults Reviews Sub-group
- Task Groups (working)

## KEY OBJECTIVES



## KEY PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS 2021/2022

The partners of the Safeguarding Board 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

#### Making Safeguarding Personal

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) training has been secured for all partnership members and RMBC are ensuring all workers are able to access training. Recording the wishes and outcomes of all persons involved in a safeguarding concern is necessary to ensure we are capturing the principles of MSP. RMBC data cleansing and validation continues to highlight the cases where there are no outcomes recorded or no risk identified.

Safeguarding systems will be refreshed and redesigned during 2022 and mandatory fields will be included in the design to ensure no safeguarding case can continue with out outcomes being recorded.

A safeguarding concern was received from our colleagues in Children's services, during a visit to a family where children were the subject of concern the social worker became aware of an adult in the home who was a relative of the family. The concerns were about Adult G who is a young man with a learning disability and raised issues of possible financial abuse. Adult G appeared to be in old dirty clothing and had a lack of personal items, investigations by children's social teams found that Adult G's benefits were paid directly to the family member and they believed the money was being used to pay off family debt.

Adult social care tried to engage but G agreed that he did not want contact with Adult Social Care without the family being present. Children's social work teams monitored the situation until after a few months the family asked G to leave the home. At this point G started to engage with Adult Social Care, this was in part due to the perseverance/commitment from Adult Social Care over a number of months. G was supported to stop the family from accessing his finances and he was supported to gain access to his own finances. G was able to express what was important to him (having access to his own money and having a girlfriend). G also disclosed historical physical abuse from the family which he was supported to report to the police.

## Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust: Prevention and Early Intervention

TRFT have introduced a 'Think Family' strategy which spans children and adult safeguarding. This encourages our staff to understand the unique circumstances of their patient and consider the strengths and resources within the context of the patient's family and social circumstances. This supports partnership working with our patients.

Our staff are able to identify and support those adults with vulnerabilities, and those at risk of abuse or neglect.

The TRFT Adult Safeguarding Team review all safeguarding concerns raised to ensure that a Think Family approach has been taken. Any missed opportunities are followed up with the referring Practitioner and are supported by the Safeguarding Team as action learning.

P was diagnosed around the age of 11 yrs old with Asperger's, and now at the age of 60 years, struggles with his physical and mental health. His elderly mother is unable to be as involved in providing care as she was before.

Due to intensive support from a variety of TRFT staff, P has been supported to access health care and address the health issues, which in turn, has improved his mental health.

Specialised plans were agreed in partnership with him and his carers to access services, which served to reduce his anxiety about treatment.

Reasonable adjustments were made to accommodate P's stay in hospital and the Urgent Care Team showed great leadership and compassion for his complex case.

P is now engaging with healthcare in the community and is happy to accept help and support.





## **SY ICB Rotherham Safeguarding Team (Formerly NHS Rotherham CCG)**

### **Quality Assurance**

NHS SY ICB Rotherham Safeguarding Team provides assurance, challenge, and support to ensure that the organisation is fulfilling its statutory safeguarding responsibilities and that safeguarding is fundamental to all that we do. This is achieved via a variety of assurance mechanisms including the NHS standard contract quality schedules and safeguarding and quality assurance and improvement work.

The most significant areas in 2021/22 for safeguarding have been impacts from Covid-19. This year has taught us that together we are stronger, and this supports us in protecting the wellbeing of the people of Rotherham. Support was sought from Healthwatch to gather information about the impact of Covid on how Rotherham people access services, this has been fed into relevant contracting discussions.

NHS SY ICB has continued its commitment to safeguarding and will continue to do so going

forward as the SY ICB continues to develop. Prior to the July changes, working closely across South Yorkshire the NHS Rotherham CCG Safeguarding Team collaborated to ensure implanting of safeguarding requirements and reviewing policies and procedures in readiness for transfer to the SY ICB.

The Domestic Abuse Bill became legislation on the 29th April 2021. NHS SY ICB has continued to support the Safer Rotherham Partnership working as partner, reviewing its Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2027 and continued collaborative working.

In May 2021 NHS Rotherham CCG hosted an online Safeguarding learning event. The theme was “A Life-Long Legacy”, covering safeguarding of people in need throughout different life stages and the legacy that “harm” at any stage in a persons life can leave them, and their families, dealing with. A total of 902 people registered to attend the online event, with representation from GP practices, hospital and community staff, mental health staff and social care professionals amongst the attendees. Going forward a further event is planned during 2022.

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

### Making Safeguarding Personal

MSP continues to be a priority for all safeguarding interventions within the Trust. Staff are educated to ensure that they endeavour to put the person at the centre of everything they do from a safeguarding perspective, e.g communicating with the person in a way they can understand, respecting and promoting their autonomy and ensuring that they participate in decisions about their lives. We have continued to ensure that our safeguarding interventions incorporate the six principles and are structured using a “rights based” approach.

MSP has been added to the S1 safeguarding template to ensure it is an integral part of any safeguarding discussion.

MSP is a key theme within our safeguarding training.

“I really feel like you listened to my concerns and got the right people around the table which was something I was not able to do”.





## South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (SYFR):

### Customer Engagement

Community days and events are held on fire stations and we also attend community groups at their venue. We have an Equality & Inclusion Strategy and by using the cultural and diversity calendar we aim to ensure that we access all community groups.

We receive feedback via our customer services complaints (which are investigated) or compliments (published in our weekly bulletin).

Further to recommendations from an IMR, SYFR created a High Fire Risk Case Management Tool using a Problem-Solving Model and decision log. The tool can be used for Audit, Supervision or as a Practitioner Checklist and enables us to consider risk and contributing factors, what is working well and what are the challenges. A key thread throughout is consideration of the wishes and feelings of the person/s we are concerned about and the importance of speaking to them directly and asking them for their views.

### A Government White Paper:

Reforming our Fire & Rescue Services is currently out for consultation of Fire & Rescue. The vision is to see excellence in Prevention & Protection (to match Emergency Response) by the use of research, data and evaluation and improvement cycles. A specific example is the work undertaken by SYFR Business Fire Safety in terms of reducing the risks identified as a result of the tragic fire at Grenfell. This impacts on both private households and public buildings where adults with care and support needs may live or visit.

## South Yorkshire Police:

### Prevention and Early Intervention

The public of Rotherham can expect an officer to their aid for an emergency call out within 15 mins, some within one hour depending on the risk assessed and all others within eight hours. Officers are all trained in the organisations complete victim care (CVC) and will deal effectively with safeguarding completing partner referrals, utilising the vulnerability assessment framework (VAF) as mandated by the college of policing. This seeks to train officers to spot the signs of someone who is vulnerable. Early intervention is key, and officers will take robust action towards perpetrators of domestic violence (DV) for example.

Rotherham have referral mechanisms in place for DV, i.e. CEASE programme through REMEDI and Rotherham have increased their Domestic Violence Protection Notices which seek to protect the victim from a perpetrator should evidential difficulties be apparent.

Response times are monitored daily with 80% minimum being a benchmark for attendance within the agreed times.

In 51% of cases Rotherham make arrests as part of domestic abuse investigations.

Recording of domestic abuse including safeguarding risk assessment forms, this is monitored daily, and Rotherham has its own DA unit who have a team of officers to investigate these cases. All cases are reviewed by a dedicated Evidence Review Officer (ERO) who are independent to the investigation and ensure the best outcome for the victim.

Recently a case was brought into Rotherham Safer Neighbourhood Services around a vulnerable person who was suspected to be financially exploited by another adult within the locality he lived. The vulnerable person had complex needs and was subject to a section 42 adult safeguarding review. Joint working between partners allowed swift re-housing, initially into emergency accommodation to remove the person from the ongoing risk of the perpetrator taking over the victims property but he was also rehoused long term elsewhere within the borough to prevent further exploitation. A joint lead investigation uncovered that the perpetrator had done similar to other vulnerable persons and they too were identified and safeguarded. The perpetrator was subject to a full police investigation and a civil injunction will be applied for in court to protect the perpetrator from targeting his next victim.

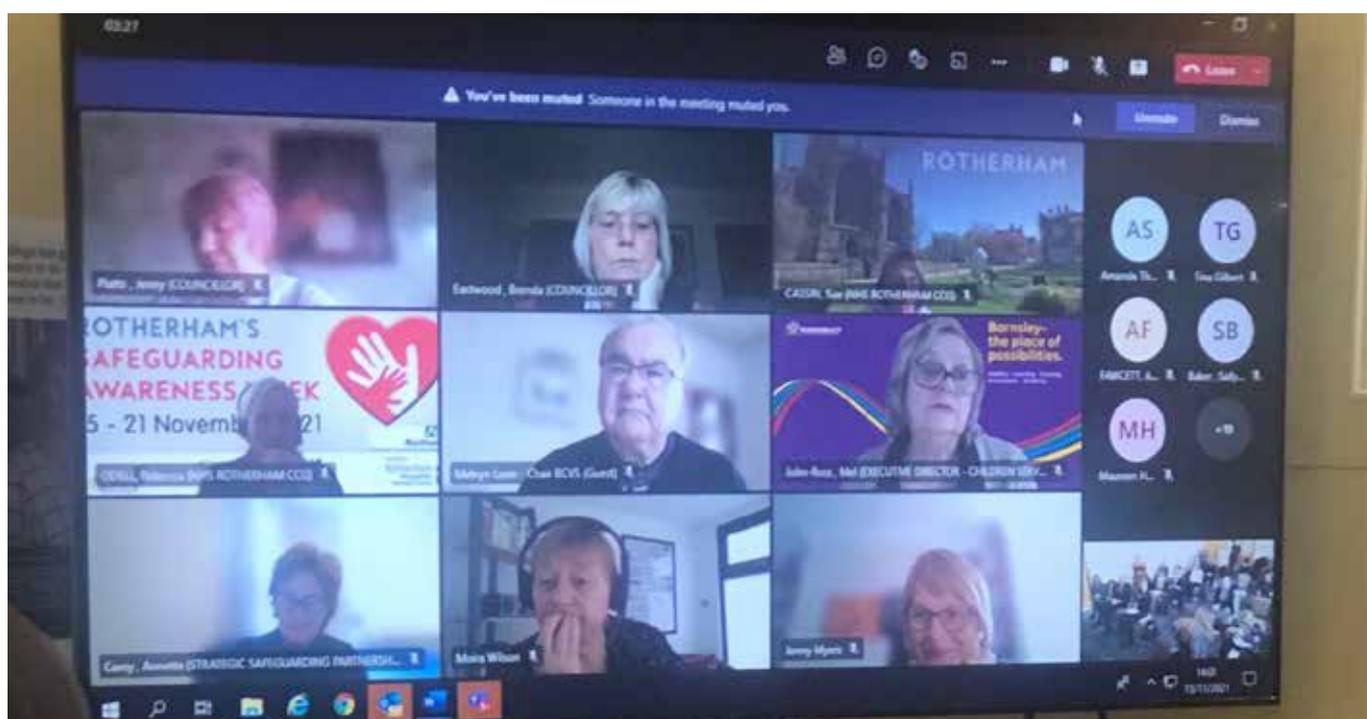
## Rotherham Voluntary and Community Sector:

The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS), through the Adult Services Consortium, has continued to show its commitment to Adult Safeguarding across the Borough by contributing to the work of the Adult Safeguarding Board via its nominated representatives.

The nominated representative, who is the Chief Executive of Age UK Rotherham, attends the Safeguarding Adults Board to provide a voluntary and community sector perspective on developments. They also provide a liaison function between the wider sector and the Board to keep VCS organisations updated on safeguarding issues and encourage and support their contribution to this important area of work.



**RECOGNISE · RESPOND · REPORT**



## KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

### A Concern

A Concern is a feeling of anxiety or worry that a Vulnerable Adult may have been, is or might be, a victim of abuse. An alert may arise as a result of a disclosure, an incident, or other signs or indicators.

A total of **3,713** concerns were reported through the new Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC).

Each concern is looked at and the three-point test is applied.

The safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
- Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect
- As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

If the concern does not meet the criteria of the three point test the case may be signposted to a different team such as the complex lives team or maybe a care assessment is needed. We will always ensure the person is safe and not in any danger.

**3,713 Safeguarding Concerns were received in 2021-22**

### Section 42 Enquiry

The Care Act 2014 (Section 42) requires that each local authority must make enquiries, or cause others to do so, if it believes an adult is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect. An enquiry should establish whether any action needs to be taken to prevent or stop abuse or neglect, and if so, by whom.

‘Safeguarding adults’ is the name given to the multi-agency response used to protect adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect. When an allegation about abuse or neglect has been made, an enquiry is undertaken to find out what, if anything, has happened.

At any point during this investigation a case can exit the safeguarding process.

The subject of the investigation must be aware and, in most cases, agree to the safeguarding enquiry unless they are unable to or a crime has been committed.

**520 Section 42 enquiries began 2021-22**

### Decision Making Meeting (DMM)

The DMM will bring all relevant people together to ensure that, if the enquiry continues, the right questions will be asked of the right people. The voice of the person at risk of harm must be heard. Plan the way forward, look at who is best placed to investigate the concern.

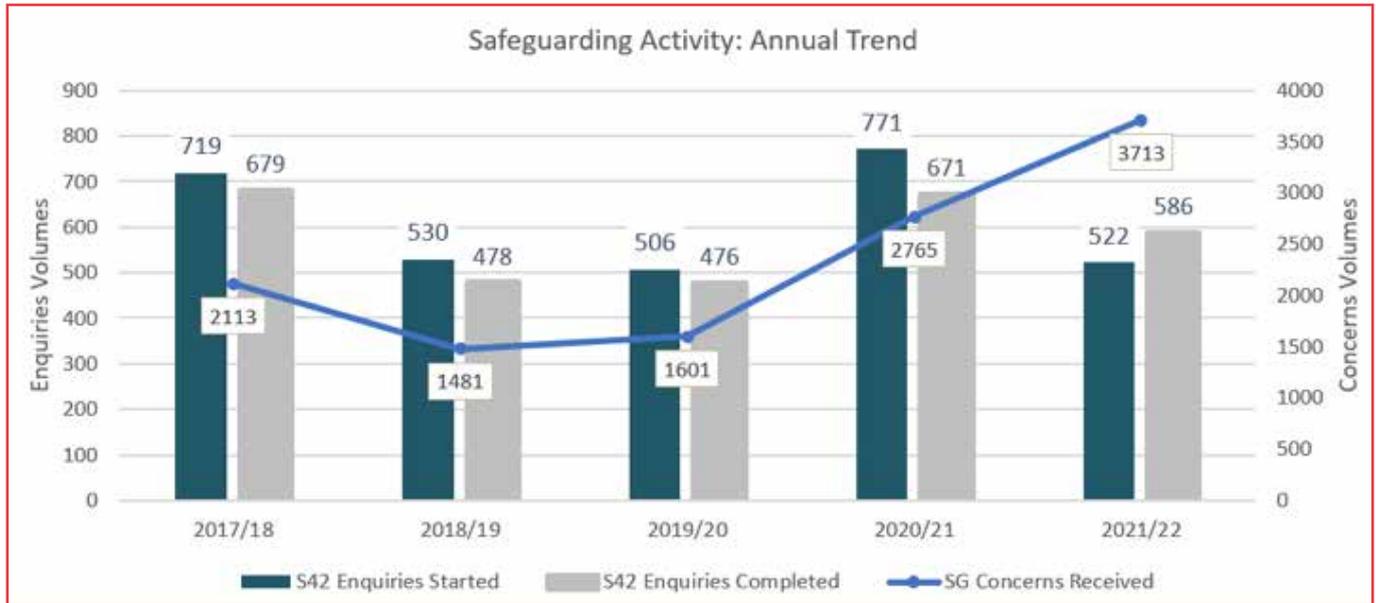
This meeting may be held virtually, to ensure it happens in a timely manner.

### Outcomes Meeting

The Outcome meeting will bring all interested parties together including the individual if they wish to attend. Support from friends, advocacy or family is also encouraged. The voice of the person at risk of harm must be heard throughout the meeting and they must be given the opportunity to tell their story.

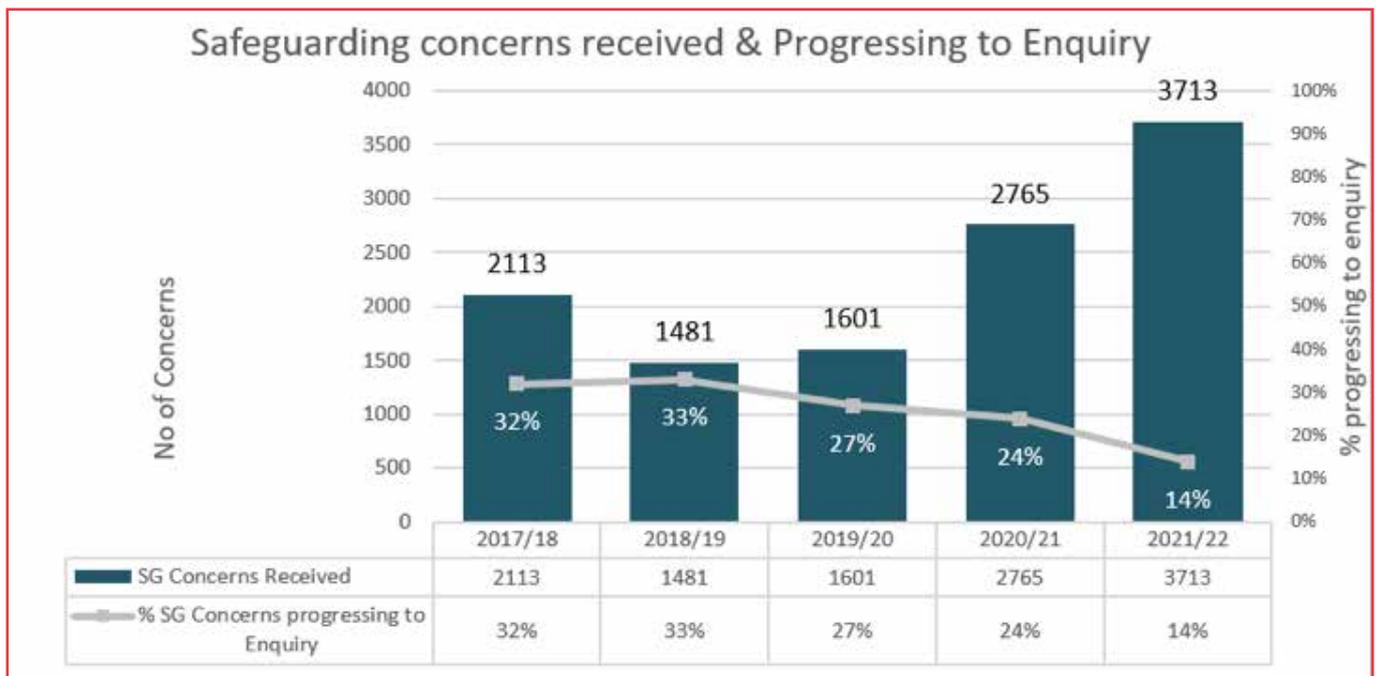
The meeting will bring the investigation to a conclusion and recommendations must be agreed by all interested parties and timescales and expectations clearly identified.

## Safeguarding Annual Performance: 2021-22

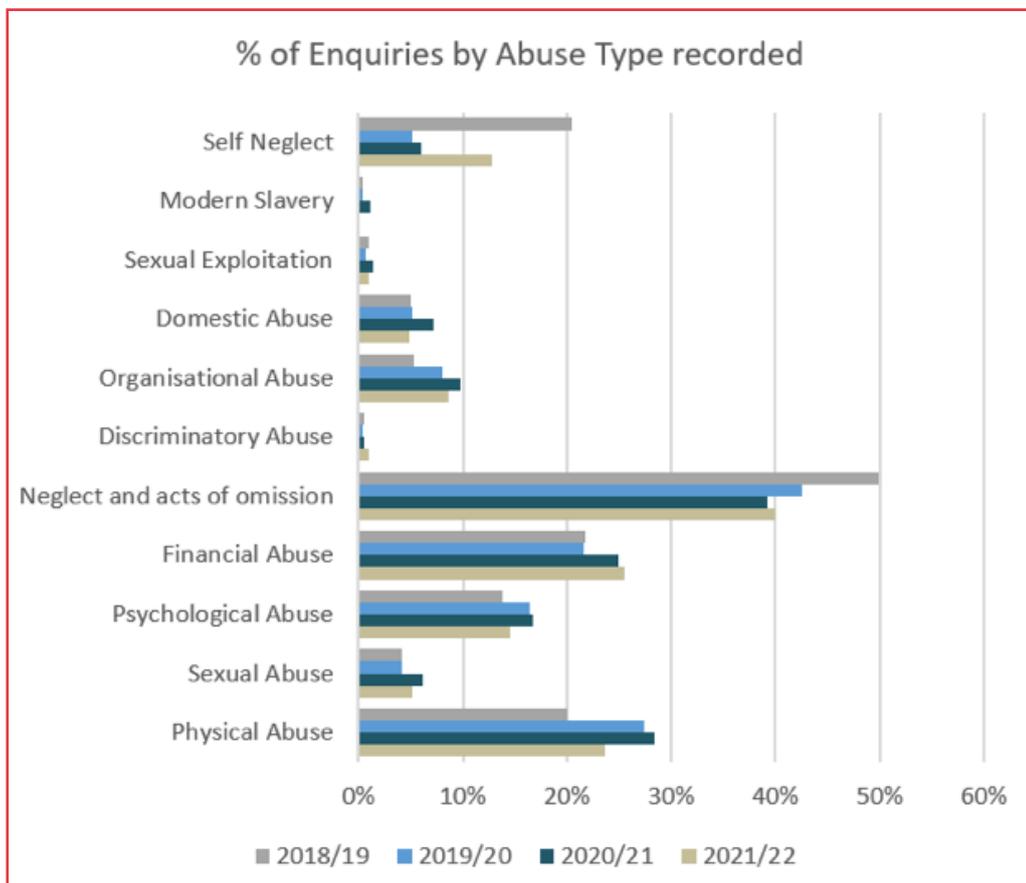


2021/22 continues to see a significant increase in safeguarding concerns with 3,713 concerns reported. This equates to 948 more concerns or 34% more than seen in the previous year. This has more than doubled the numbers of concerns reported in 2019/20 reporting year when at 1601.

There was a decrease in the number of Section 42 enquiries completed in 2021/22 (586 enquiries) a reduction of 13% from the 671 enquiries completed in 2020/21.



Although volume of concerns are high progression rates remain low. Only 14% of concerns are progressing to enquiry as compared to 24% 2020/21 and 27% in 2019/20. Of those not progressing almost eight in every 10 (79%) are closed with no action following initial investigation, (3,183 concerns of the total 3,713 not progressing).



Proportion of enquiries by abuse type*	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22 Rank (1=highest)
Physical Abuse	20%	27%	28%	24%	3
Sexual Abuse	4%	4%	6%	5%	7
Psychological Abuse	14%	16%	17%	15%	4
Financial Abuse	22%	22%	25%	25%	2
Neglect and acts of omission	50%	43%	39%	40%	1
Discriminatory Abuse	1%	0%	1%	1%	9
Organisational Abuse	5%	8%	10%	9%	6
Domestic Abuse	5%	5%	7%	5%	8
Sexual Exploitation	1%	1%	1%	1%	9
Modern Slavery	0%	0%	1%	0%	11
Self Neglect	20%	5%	6%	13%	5

The table and chart show the breakdown in types of abuse recorded over the last four years, with neglect and acts of omission being the largest group of recorded incidents.

Neglect (40%), Financial (25%) and Physical abuse (24%) continue to represent the three highest enquiries abuse types reported. In 2021/22, they now show as (40% +1%, 26% +0% and 24% -4% respectively). The fall in physical abuse from 28% to 24% also changed ranking from 2nd highest to third for first time in three year period. The only other notable change is an increase in 'Self Neglect' enquiries which has increased to more than double last year's rate of 6% at 13%.

Neglect and acts of omission covers concerns including:

- Failure to provide or allow access to food, shelter, clothing, heating, stimulation and activity, personal or medical care
- Providing care in a way that the person dislikes
- Failure to administer medication as prescribed
- Refusal of access to visitors
- Not taking account of individuals' cultural, religious or ethnic needs
- Not taking account of educational, social and recreational needs
- Ignoring or isolating the person
- Preventing the person from making their own decisions
- Preventing access to glasses, hearing aids, dentures, etc.
- Failure to ensure privacy and dignity



## 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 2021-2022

1 SAR was commissioned in 2021/22.

### Number of SARs Completed 2021-2022

1 SAR was completed in 2021/22 Published November 2021

## The Painter and His Son

Sam and Ben were a father and son who lived together in their own home. Sam had significant health needs and was in receipt of home care several times a day, two carers were needed to care for Sam and Ben would take care of his father at all other times. Concerns had been ongoing regarding the bed that Sam spent all his time in because of these concerns Ben requested that all care for his father should stop, and he would become the sole carer.

Sam's body was found late at night on the 24th April after district nurses became concerned that Ben had cancelled his father's vitamin B12 injection. Community nursing staff entered the house with the police. Sam appeared to have been dead for many weeks. Ben had last used a blood glucose measurement for his father's diabetes on 17th February, six weeks of unused medication was found in the house. There was evidence that he had continued to try to feed and care for his father.

In the weeks and months following Sam's death Ben was visited by a number of professionals. Two Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPS) from the mental health service attended alongside a social worker and a community matron who knew Ben from past involvement. The mental health assessment concluded that Ben showed no evidence of a mental health disorder. It acknowledged that the "situation which was strange and bizarre in nature requires a sensitive approach to engage the patient and build a trusting relationship which would enable a more robust assessment and help formulate a plan of action."

A social worker and the community matron offered Ben various options. In conversation Ben would say 'yes' to everything, but on

deeper questioning had no idea as to where to start or what to do. He was offered support from Environmental Health to remove soiled furniture from the bedroom and to inspect the cooker and bathroom, support to purchase a new door and a referral to Age UK for help with arranging the funeral plan and finances. Ben was also offered respite at another location whilst the property was made clean and safe to live in. Ben said he would prefer to sort things out himself.

Ben did not attend his father's funeral in July. After difficulties in contacting Ben social workers made an unannounced visit on the 8th August. Ben was shaking again, he looked unkempt his hair was long and he was unshaven. He had not cleaned the boxes out of the property.

Ben said he no longer needed adult social care's support for anything else and agreed that the social workers would end their involvement. The social workers' observations about Ben's appearance and behavior were reported back to the GP for information.

During this time a SAR referral was received, and an independent author began the review process.

Ben's body was found by the police in April 2020 after a neighbour was concerned that she had not seen him for some time. He had been dead for some months. His body was very decomposed and the cause of his death could not be ascertained. There were however no signs that Ben's death was violent, and the attending police officers found no suspicious circumstances in the house relating to Ben's death.

The decision was taken by the Safeguarding Adults Review subgroup that the death of Ben should be included in the SAR for his father.

## Recommendations

- Where agencies have made their own recommendations in their review of Sam and Ben, Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board should seek assurance that action plans are underway and outcomes are impact assessed within those organisations.
- Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board should seek assurance that named agencies have addressed the recommendations in items 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5 below.
- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Adult Social Care is recommended to complete a strategy to enable the fulfilment of its statutory duties under sections 9, 11 and 10 of the Care Act 2014. Any Reviewing Strategy and supporting procedures is to contain mechanisms to identify people most in need of review in accordance with the Statutory Care and Support Guidance.
- NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council are recommended to ensure that Autism Awareness training is available to and taken up by all frontline staff, including those in commissioned services. They are also recommended to ensure that routes for Autism related advice and support for practitioners working with people who do or may have ASD are identified and readily available.
- NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group and interested GPs are recommended to explore how proactive approaches to monitoring patients or carers at risk of disengagement can be utilised in a busy practice environment.

**These recommendations are for ‘all RSAB Partners’ and may need to be reported back to RSAB via subgroups or task and finish groups.**

- All SAB partners are recommended to explore the confidence of their frontline staff and managers in using the provisions of the MCA 2005 and their understanding of the benefits to the person of using this legislation. Depending on the outcome of this exploration a multi-agency MCA awareness event may be useful.
- All relevant SAB partners are recommended to review their frontline practitioners and manager’s understanding of the implication of making an ‘unwise decision’ and their confidence in exploring and responding to a range of explanations for unwise decision making. The outcome of the partner’s review may contribute to a strategy to support ‘Professional Curiosity’ in the workforce. (see recommendation 10). Partners are recommended to ensure that Policies and procedures do not mislead practitioners in understanding the implications of a person making an ‘unwise decision’.
- All SAB partners are recommended to ensure that both they and commissioned services understand how to communicate constructively with concerned family or friends in the light of the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 and when to involve managers for assistance.

**Recommendations for RSAB**

- RSAB is recommended to attend to the nature of collaborative safeguarding partnerships in Rotherham. The RSAB will be supported in this work by the LGA suggested multi-agency framework on ‘Understanding what constitutes a safeguarding concern and how to support effective outcomes’ (2020) . Particular attention should be paid to
  - a. leaders supporting practical opportunities for frontline practitioners to share information, work together, to undertake risk sharing and problem solving.
  - b. parity of esteem between organisations, including those who are commissioned.
- RSAB is recommended to take steps to promote the development of ‘professional curiosity’ in all partners. The Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board (2020) guidance is a good starting point in implementing this recommendation.
- RSAB is recommended to review its’ Multi Agency Policy for Self-Neglect and Hoarding in the light of the findings of this SAR.

The recommendations will be developed into an action plan that will be monitored by the Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) subgroup until the action plan is completed. All completed action plans are reported back to the Board.

# APPENDIX 3 ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ATTENDANCE

Date of Safeguarding Adults Board Meeting (excludes e-learning)

	May 2021	August 2021	November 2021	February 2022
South Yorkshire Police	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Rotherham Foundation Trust	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group	✓	✓	✓	✓
RMBC Director of Social Services	✓	✓	✓	✓
South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue	✓	✓	✓	✓
RDaSH	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rotherham Council Services	✓	✓	✓	✓
Healthwatch	Apologies	✓	Apologies	✓
Voluntary Sector	Apologies	Apologies	✓	Apologies
National Probation Service	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cabinet Member for Adults Services	Apologies	✓	✓	✓

Rotherham Council's Cabinet Member for Adults Services supports the work the Safeguarding Adults Board with a visible presence at events and discussions throughout the year and is provided with monthly updates on all safeguarding adults' issues as well as the work of the Board.



## 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)

