



Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board

Newsletter

Edition: January 2025

Welcome

Welcome to the January 2025 edition of the Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) newsletter. The newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis to keep the workforce across the partnership informed of developments.

The RSAB are dedicated to protecting adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect. Our objective is clear, to ensure that local safeguarding arrangements and partnerships are effective in protecting adults at risk of or who are experiencing neglect and abuse. To achieve this, we must ensure that everyone works to safeguard vulnerable adults in our community.



If there is something you would like to see featured in any future editions, please let us know.

Getting in touch...

Website: www.rsab.org.uk

Email: RSAB@rotherham.gov.uk

The Foundation of the RSAB

INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF THE ROTHERHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD (RSAB)

LOCAL AUTHORITY (RMBC)

INTEGRATED CARE BOARD (ICB)

POLICE (SOUTH YORKSHIRE)

Rotherham NHS
Foundation Trust

RDaSH

South Yorkshire
Fire and Rescue

Probation
Service

Voluntary &
Community
Sector

RMBC Cabinet
Member for
Health and Social
Care

Performance & Quality
Joint Chairs
Head of Safeguarding (RMBC)
Safer Neighbourhood Services
(SNS) Inspector (SYP)

Policy and Practice
Joint Chairs
Principal Social Worker (RMBC)
Named Nurse for
Safeguarding (TRFT)

Workforce Development
Joint Chairs
Head of Safeguarding (RDaSH)
Deputy Designated Professional
for Safeguarding (ICB)

Safeguarding Adult Reviews
Joint Chairs
Assistant Director ASC (RMBC)
Head of Safeguarding (TRFT)

Who to Contact?

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SAFEGUARDING PERFORMANCE



Safeguarding Concerns

The volume of contacts where a potential safeguarding risk is indicated has increased with 3,475 for 2024/2025 YTD. This equates to a monthly average of 386.1 compared to 335.5 in the previous year. Of these contacts received 1,524 (43.9%) were accepted as Safeguarding Concerns and were subject to initial enquiries. A slight improvement of 1.7% compared to 42% acceptance rate last year. The four most frequent recorded abuse types remain consistent 46.6% neglect, 29.9% physical abuse, 16.8% psychological abuse, and 15.2% financial & material concerns.

Completed Enquiries

Up to Quarter 3 of 2024/2025 there have been 636 Section 42 Enquiries and 31 non-statutory enquiry completions. Year-to-date data shows that Neglect remains the most common abuse type, with it being present in over half of concluded enquiries (54.4%). This was 38.9% in Q1. There are 86 (19%) concluded enquiries with no risk outcomes. These are being investigated, and figures may be updated in future reports.

Abuse Categories

The top 3 abuse categories for completed enquiries remain consistent, Neglect 45.3%, Psychological 28%, and Physical 27%

Repeat Concerns

The 3,475 safeguarding contacts received in 2024/25 related to 2,363 individual adults, with 717 individuals being subject to more than one contact. The maximum number of contacts in the previous month for an individual has reduced slightly from 4 to 3, and in the previous 3 months 2 individuals were subject to 5 repeat contacts.

A detailed report of the repeat concerns is sent to the service for investigation to aid in prevention where possible.

Welcome Robyn!

Hello, my name is Robyn and I'm the new Vulnerable Adults Professional Lead for RMBC.

I'm a qualified Social Worker and have worked across both children and adult services in Derbyshire, Doncaster and Rotherham. My most recent role was as Safeguarding Manager for Rotherham Alcohol and Drug Service.

The focus of my current role will be the ongoing review of the Vulnerable Adult Risk Management Model, ensuring the delivery of robust and collaborative interventions to support those at risk in the community. This is an area which I am incredibly passionate about and I'm excited to continue working with colleagues across the partnership to achieve positive outcomes for the most vulnerable adults in Rotherham.





me, you, us
safeguarding is everyone's responsibility



Safeguarding Partner Updates

- Rotherham Council
- The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
- Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust
- NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
- South Yorkshire Police
- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- Healthwatch Rotherham

Rotherham Council: Adult Social Care

Rotherham Adult Threshold Guidance

The Rotherham Adult Threshold Guidance is now available to support professionals, partners, and providers in safeguarding decisions for adults with care and support needs.

Key Points

- **Purpose:** Helps determine when to report a safeguarding concern, differentiate quality-of-care issues, and consider alternative actions.
- **Guidance Only:** Use alongside professional judgment, the South Yorkshire Principles of Safeguarding, and your agency's policies.
- **Not a Substitute:** Follow internal policies, address staff issues, and use disciplinary procedures as needed.

Resolving Disagreements

- **Internal Disputes:** Use your organisation's escalation guidance.
- **Inter-Agency Disputes:** Refer to RSAB's escalation guidance.

This document promotes consistency and collaboration in safeguarding across Rotherham.

The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (TRFT)

During 16 days of action, we held our first sexual safety training for leaders and managers- this focuses on patient and staff safety and includes active bystander training to support safe intervention. Posters are now visible in many parts of the Trust.

TRFT safeguarding team are working with the People/HR Team on improving support for staff experiencing mental health difficulties and participated in the suicide symposium last month. A personal story was shared with all staff as part of suicide prevention day to help raise awareness of this issue.

The Think Family training for TRFT has been updated. This is a full day of case study-based learning, enabling staff to complete level 2 & 3 adults and children safeguarding training.

Proud news- Suicide prevention day

It shouldn't be scary to have a conversation about Suicide!

Every year on 10 September, organisations and communities around the world come together to raise awareness about how we can work together to create a world where fewer people die by suicide.

Sometimes, the hardest words to say are the most important. That's why we wanted to take a moment to honour World Suicide Prevention Day and do our bit to break the stigma surrounding mental health and suicide. As we know, talking openly about difficult feelings, including suicidal thoughts, can be a lifeline.

A recent poll by the Samaritans revealed that while most people feel comfortable discussing mental health with loved ones, many still hesitate to address the sensitive topic of suicide. This is a troubling statistic. By encouraging open conversations, we can empower individuals to seek help and support when they need it most.

We want to continue challenging the misconceptions and fear that often hinders honest conversations about suicide. As we continue to break down the stigma surrounding suicide, it's essential to hear from those who have been personally affected.

Gemma Cross, Head of Safeguarding, has shared her story, offering invaluable insights into the far-reaching impact of suicide. Her story serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of compassion, understanding, and seeking help when needed.

"I haven't always talked about mental health and suicide prevention, in fact, for many years I found it easier to be silent. I found the awkward silence, averted eyes or people's opinions on the subject too much."

"In 2006 my husband unexpectedly died by suicide. There, I said it out loud, my darling husband and father to our gorgeous babies decided we were all better off without him. 18 years later it still breaks my heart that I didn't notice any signs, or ask the right questions."

"Back in 2006 it was a very different time, we didn't have social media's #Suicidontaboo, and men's mental health wasn't something I'd ever heard talked about by anyone. When he died I not only had to navigate my own grief and look after the children who were 1 and 3 at the time, but had to face judgemental and stigmatised comments from just about everyone I met. There was no bake sale or charity football match like there were for the person who was buried next to Matt."

"For years we didn't talk about suicide and would allow new people in our lives to think he'd died in an accident."

"It was an ordinary Thursday. Matt cooked tea, we put the children to bed and then we fell asleep watching TV. I was woken about 3 in the morning by the police. They asked me loads of questions before eventually saying he had been hit by a train and had been pronounced dead at the scene. I was on my own in the middle of the night."

"The judgement started straight away with a comment from the police officer about it being a very selfish action. In the days that followed I faced many comments from complete strangers, people who didn't know me felt they could ask me things like did I know it was going to happen or did I know why he had done it. I didn't know anything, which just made everything worse as people made it up."

IF YOU'VE BEEN AFFECTED BY SUICIDE, AMPARO CAN HELP

Practical and emotional support for children, young people and adults bereaved by suicide in South Yorkshire

- Free practical and emotional support to all ages following a suicide - support can now include free counselling for children, young people and adults
- Contact from local liaison workers within 24 hours of a referral
- Support in liaising with the Police or Coroners, and support with press and media enquiries
- Support at inquest and signposting to local appropriate services
- Anyone recently or historically affected by suicide can be referred

CONTACT US
CALL: 0330 088 9255
VISIT: amparo.org.uk

LISTENING EAR AMPARO

"When I saw my GP for a sick note, he asked if I'd been having an affair. I hadn't. I remember choosing the headstone and being only 25 and not knowing anything about headstones, asked if they could recommend anything, she asked how he died, so when I said suicide, she said it would limit my choice as it was self-inflicted and he had not been 'taken too soon' by illness or accident."

"I felt ashamed and embarrassed and chose something quickly so I could leave. I had to face press enquiries and then realise it at the inquest, which again made front page of the local press."

"Friends chose to stay away as I cried a lot, and they didn't know what to say. I don't think anyone meant to upset me, but somehow they seemed to think that my grief wasn't as bad as the person who'd lost a partner to cancer. Suddenly grief was in a league table and suicide was bottom division."

"Why do I choose to share my story now? As Head of Safeguarding and Vulnerabilities, I want to help create a culture where there is no shame in having mental ill health and asking for help. I choose to use my experiences to help make me a better person, showing empathy and understanding whilst helping to reassure people that there is hope, and things do get better."

"My life is happy and filled with love, but my heart's forever a different shape."

Although World Suicide Prevention Day has been gone, conversations shouldn't stop. It's important to remember that talking about suicide doesn't encourage people to do it, but it can normalise talking about it which reduces stigma for people like Gemma seeking support. Here are some resources to help:

ZSA Suicide Awareness Training	South Yorkshire Amparo	Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide
Take 20 minutes to help start a conversation that saves a life	Provides support to anyone bereaved by suicide	Provides peer support for adults bereaved by suicide

"When they slapped my backside, they probably didn't realise they'd assaulted me."

If someone's crossed the line - talk about it.

"I think it was meant to be a joke. They didn't set out to upset me."

If someone's crossed the line - talk about it.

"I was only having a laugh. I'd never deliberately hurt someone."

If someone's crossed the line - talk about it.

"They were just messing around. Someone else would say something if they went too far."

If someone's crossed the line - talk about it.



Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber (RDaSH)

RDaSH have a dedicated Safeguarding Team, made up of a diverse and multi-professional team who provide expert advice, support, supervision, and training to all Trust employees to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities and duties on a wide range of safeguarding issues. The Nursing and Facilities Directorate have recently undergone a reorganisation and once again have a Head of Safeguarding who will be responsible for the operational leadership of the team and representing the Trust at a strategic level.

The team prides itself on ensuring that the person at risk of or suffering neglect, harm or abuse always remains in our 'line of sight', and that we 'hear their voice' and they remain at the centre of all we do.

We have recently reviewed our training packages to ensure that they are up to date to include local and national safeguarding learning and priorities.

2024 raised a number of challenges in respect of the team's reduced capacity, however, we are now once again fully staffed and are proactively working towards the priorities and objectives identified within our 2023/2024 Safeguarding Annual Report.



NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)

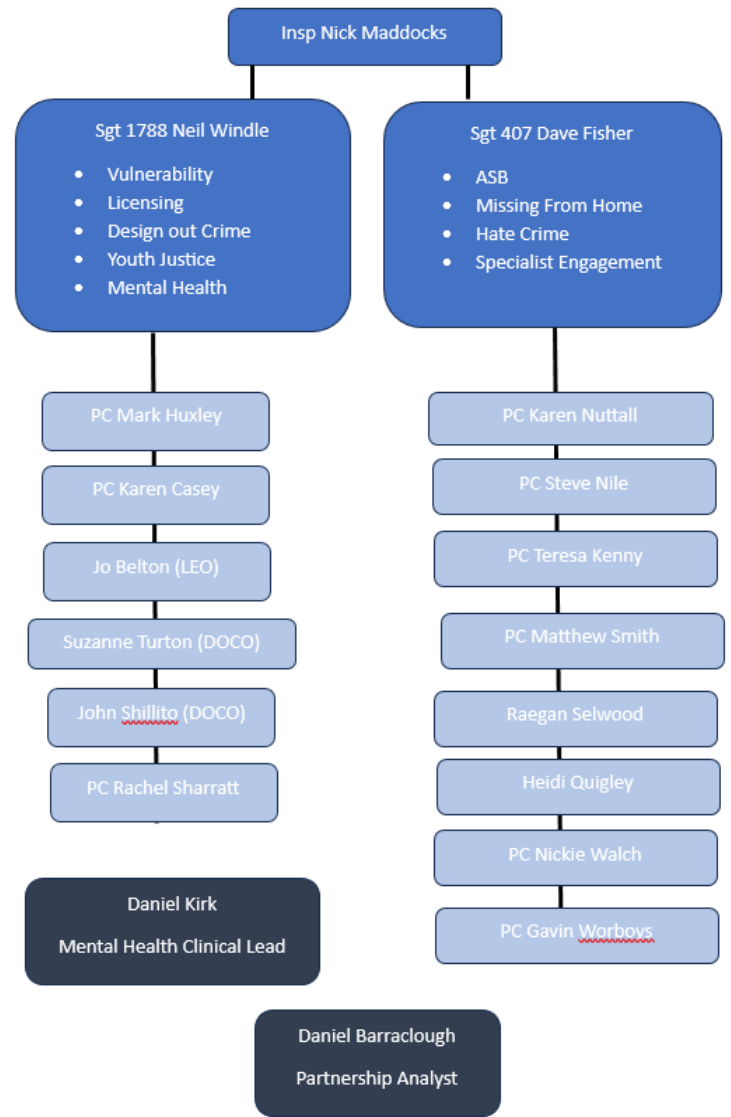
On the 14 November 2024, NHS South Yorkshire ICB supported GP colleagues across Rotherham in facilitating a PLTC Event held at Magna. The event was a huge success that was well attended, with a number of speakers presenting on Safeguarding related topics, with positive feedback received from those who attended. The following week, the ICB also widely promoted Safeguarding Awareness Week and created a number of bite-size training videos for ICB staff to access (which remain accessible), as well as offering drop-in Safeguarding supervision sessions for all ICB staff, and widely promoting the partnership offers available to all staff within the ICB and to GP Practices across Rotherham.

As we move into 2025, as a core member of the Rotherham SAB, the ICB remains fully committed to our partnership working with all agencies across Rotherham as a strategic health leader. The ICB also continues to make steady progress in the co-design work across the whole ICB system in developing new operating models for our statutory Safeguarding responsibilities, with the continued focus of maintaining the importance of the primacy of place.

Based at Riverside House and pan Rotherham policing district our aim within Safer Neighbourhood Services is to assist our colleagues across the partnership to reduce demand and create innovative ways of problem solving using the full spectrum of partnership knowledge and powers (statutory and non-statutory) to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour, safeguard the vulnerable and achieve excellent victim service.



We hope this article will assist colleagues to better understand our roles and processes and increase the working knowledge of the team can provide a better more holistic service to the communities we serve.



Licensing
Working in partnership with key stakeholders, we have delivered 10 joint action plans in recent months. These have been for a variety of reasons including failed test purchase of which we have had 6 failures from 2 test purchase exercises involving our cadets from community safety and ASB colleagues although primarily due to poor management and ASB.

Designing Out Crime (DOC)
Over recent months the DOC officers based in Rotherham have done several Environmental Visual Audit reports on various areas such as the Rotherham Interchange, Minister, and Town Centre to encourage collaborative work and to improve public safety by increasing lighting levels, removing shrubbery reviewing and increasing existing CCTV. We have visited 12 Places of worship under the Home Office Places of worship security funding scheme to protect people whilst they are at worship and in their community centres, we have commented on the planning application for the construction of a day care centre and disabled living facilities for a development in Canklow. In addition to these several care homes have been visited to give advice on security measures that are required and invited the managers of all Care Homes to a security presentation.

Missing From Home
Rotherham missing team have concentrated their prevention work over the past couple of months in and around vulnerable adults specifically those with diagnosed Dementia and Alzheimer's. We have visited Dementia Cafes throughout Rotherham where we have discussed the benefits of The Herbert Protocol with family members and carers in the community which has allowed us to meet those suffering from this disease. We filled out copies and coded Dementia Tags. The cafes were held at Thurcroft, Brampton, Dalton, Maltby, and Brinsworth. All details obtained have then subsequently been recorded on police systems.

To date, 56 Herbert Protocols have been filled out and generated onto police systems along with 40 Tags being coded and delivered. The Tags are a choice. Training has also been delivered to NHS professionals, Hand in Hand (Salvation Army) and Making Space Dementia Support Groups around the benefits of The Herbert Protocol and how this can be a useful tool when the Police are dealing with a missing person with Dementia. Input was also delivered at a Dementia Conference held at Hellaby Hall Hotel in October where the Missing Team had a stall and were able to discuss The Herbert Protocol in depth with attendees.

A positive intervention which was attributed to the Protocol recently was that of a local Rotherham man. A Herbert Protocol was sent out to his wife however she had to report her husband missing before this was received. Fortunately, he was located, and the Officer dealing was able to sit and fill out the paperwork with her then sending this onto us so that his record could be updated accordingly. He was then reported missing again however on the second occasion, we had all the relevant information at hand to allow officers to locate him.

In terms of the success of The Dementia Tags, we can look to a positive intervention with a local Rotherham female. She was located by Rawmarsh Officers with a Dementia Tag about her person however they did not know what this was or what to do with it. She was found not far from her home address and safely returned. The Missing Team undertook training with Rawmarsh Neighbourhoods around the Tag, what it consists of should they come across anybody in future with one attached to them. When systems are checked as part of daily business, anybody that indicates Dementia or a concern of, has their family member or reporting person contacted and the protocol will be discussed and offered.



Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board Training

The table summarises bookings and places still available to book on a range of Safeguarding Adults training courses . Those courses below 10 delegates would benefit from an increase.

Rotherham Borough Council staff should book training via YourHR.

Colleagues from partner agencies should book places using the new booking form <https://forms.office.com/e/cP9CSpzPRs>

Please visit the below link to view the full Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board prospectus. <https://www.rsab.org.uk/downloads/file/80/rsab-training-prospectus>

Learning activity	Start date	Start time	End date	End time	Booked	Availability	Supplier
RSAB - Undertaking Enquiries and Making Safeguarding Personal (RMBC)	09/01/2025	09:30	10/01/2025	16:30	9	5	Premier Partnership
RSAB - Safeguarding Adults: Housing Partners (RMBC)	14/01/2025	08:30	14/01/2025	10:00	3	17	Aspect Training
RSAB - Hoarding and Self Neglect: Level 2 (RMBC)	14/01/2025	09:30	14/01/2025	12:30	20	0	Aspect Training
RSAB - Hoarding and Self Neglect: Level 3 (RMBC)	15/01/2025	09:30	15/01/2025	12:30	9	11	Aspect Training
RSAB - Safeguarding Adults: Housing Partners (RMBC)	16/01/2025	08:30	16/01/2025	10:00	13	7	Aspect Training
RSAB - Safeguarding Adults Raising a Concern (RMBC)	16/01/2025	09:30	16/01/2025	12:30	20	0	Skills UK
RSAB - Safeguarding Adults Manager Training (RMBC)	20/01/2025	09:30	20/01/2025	16:30	3	9	Premier Partnership
RSAB - Safeguarding Adults: Housing Partners (RMBC)	21/01/2025	08:30	21/01/2025	10:00	7	13	Aspect Training
RSAB - Safeguarding Adults Raising a Concern (RMBC)	29/01/2025	09:30	29/01/2025	12:30	20	0	Skills UK
RSAB - Trafficking and Modern Slavery (RMBC)	04/02/2025	09:30	04/02/2025	12:30	2	18	Aspect Training
RSAB - Chairing Complex Meetings (RMBC)	06/02/2025	09:30	06/02/2025	16:30	2	18	Premier Partnership
RSAB - Safeguarding Adults Raising a Concern (RMBC)	06/02/2025	13:30	06/02/2025	16:30	19	1	Skills UK
RSAB - Safeguarding Adults: Housing Partners (RMBC)	11/02/2025	08:30	11/02/2025	10:00	1	19	Aspect Training
RSAB - Safeguarding Adults: Housing Partners (RMBC)	12/02/2025	14:30	12/02/2025	16:00	3	17	Aspect Training
RSAB - Safeguarding Adults: Housing Partners (RMBC)	25/02/2025	14:30	25/02/2025	16:00	2	18	Aspect Training
RSAB - Safeguarding Adults: Housing Partners (RMBC)	06/03/2025	08:30	06/03/2025	10:00	0	20	Aspect Training
RSAB - Safeguarding Adults: Housing Partners (RMBC)	11/03/2025	08:30	11/03/2025	10:00	0	20	Aspect Training
RSAB - Hoarding and Self Neglect: Level 2 (RMBC)	12/03/2025	09:30	12/03/2025	12:30	9	11	Aspect Training
RSAB - Safeguarding Adults: Housing Partners (RMBC)	12/03/2025	08:30	12/03/2025	10:00	10	10	Aspect Training
RSAB - Provider Service Manager Roles in Safeguarding Adults (RMBC)	12/03/2025	09:30	12/03/2025	16:30	5	15	Aspect Training
RSAB - Safeguarding Adults Raising a Concern (RMBC)	13/03/2025	09:30	13/03/2025	12:30	18	2	Skills UK
RSAB - Hoarding and Self Neglect: Level 3 (RMBC)	19/03/2025	09:30	19/03/2025	12:30	5	15	Aspect Training
RSAB - Trafficking and Modern Slavery (RMBC)	26/03/2025	09:30	26/03/2025	12:30	3	17	Aspect Training
RSAB - Undertaking Enquiries and Making Safeguarding Personal (RMBC)	05/06/2025	09:30	06/06/2025	16:30	0	14	Premier Partnership



**South Yorkshire
FIRE & RESCUE**



South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue

Our prevention work over the last 15 years has helped to reduce accidental house fires to historically low levels. But in common with most other Fire & Rescue Services over recent years have seen a slight increase in fatal incidents.

We are committed to making South Yorkshire Safer & Stronger and have a duty to promote fire safety, particularly to those who are the most vulnerable or experience barriers in accessing our services, but we know we cannot tackle fire safety issues alone.

Analysis of each incident has found common factors involved in almost all our recent fire deaths, such as hoarding, social isolation, substance misuse and mental health problems. For reasons such as these, many house fire victims were already known to at least one other agency. Sadly, in most cases, South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue was not one of these agencies.

Most of these deaths could have been prevented but we need your help.

As part of our continued support for Safeguarding Awareness Week, SYFR are again this year offering a number of open sessions of our Safer South Yorkshire Referral Training delivered via MS Teams for any current and potential referral partners.

Thank you all for your continued support of our work to make South Yorkshire Safer & Stronger

Useful Contacts

Peter Jones – Partnership Officer (Sheffield/Barnsley) E: pjones@syfire.gov.uk

Nichola Rodgers – Partnership Officer (Doncaster/Rotherham) E: njrodgers@syfire.gov.uk

General referral and training enquiries – safe&well@syfire.gov.uk



Healthwatch Rotherham

Our upcoming project involves engaging with young people aged 16-25 to find out barriers to their emotional wellbeing to make recommendations for improvements to relevant services. We are combining this with work with young people with SEND to hear about their experiences and identify what is working and not working for them.

We have carried out an Enter & View on 2 GP surgeries this year and have another one planned for January. The visits have come off the back of feedback that we have heard from the public.

As part of our enquiries function, we have helped to coordinate multiple agency support to several vulnerable members of our community by signposting and liaising with numerous services.