

RBSCP / RBSAB end of year e-newsletter – December 2023

Welcome,

On behalf of Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adults Board (RBSAB) and Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership (RBSCP) welcome to the 10th edition of our joint e-newsletter (December 2023)

RBSAB
ROCHDALE BOROUGH
SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD

RBSCP 
ROCHDALE BOROUGH
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

We publish this shortened edition of our e-newsletter at the end of a year when we lost a valued colleague and friend- Sean Roebuck RBSCP/SAB development officer who died suddenly earlier in the year. Sean is greatly missed by the team and across partners of the RBSCP and RBSAB. One of his main work responsibilities was the newsletter which is why this edition is slightly delayed.

We hope you will take the opportunity to read and follow up on the headlines of our work in the last half of 2023. As always there is more to read on [Our website](#). This contains lots of safeguarding information and details of local support relating to children, young people and vulnerable adults, their families and carers and the practitioners and volunteers who work with them.

You can also get involved and follow key safeguarding messages and campaigns through our social media channels and through our partners' channels too:

- [RBSCP Facebook](#)
- [RBSCP Twitter](#) (now known as X)
- [Rochdale Safeguarding Partnership YouTube](#)

Our key message is that safeguarding really is everyone's business and it is a responsibility that we all share here in Rochdale. Safeguarding means protecting a child's and vulnerable adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about working together to support children, young people and vulnerable adults to make decisions about the risks they face in their own lives, and protecting those who lack the capacity to make these decisions.

If you have any concerns that a child or an adult with care and support needs is being abused or is at risk of abuse, please do report such concerns by contacting children's social care on [0300 303 0440](tel:03003030440) or adult social care on [0300 303 8886](tel:03003038886).

We hope you will continue to find this a useful resource and hopefully we will return to a more detailed newsletter in spring 2024. If you have any comments, suggestions or your agency would like to submit an article to be included in a future edition, please contact us on rbsb.admin@rochdale.gov.uk.

Annual Report & Strategic Priorities

[Rochdale Safeguarding Partnership Board - Annual Report](#)

In 2023 Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Board & Partnership has been diligently working towards completing its statutory obligations, notably the annual safeguarding report and the identification of strategic safeguarding priorities. This comprehensive effort is a testament to the commitment to the shared vision of safeguarding by local partners such as the police, local authority and NHS ICB HMR.

The annual safeguarding report serves as a cornerstone in assessing the effectiveness of safeguarding measures within a community. The Safeguarding Board & Partnership, in accordance with statutory requirements, diligently compiles and analyses information to present a comprehensive overview of the safeguarding landscape. This report is not merely a regulatory obligation; it is a dynamic document that reflects the ongoing commitment to improving safeguarding practices and addressing emerging challenges.

The report highlighted areas of safeguarding success and areas requiring attention. It provides a platform for transparency and accountability, ensuring that the community is informed about the efforts being made to protect its members. Additionally, the annual report may showcase the partnership's collaborative initiatives, community engagement, and the impact of preventative measures implemented throughout the year.

Beyond the annual report, the Safeguarding Board & Partnership also focused on setting strategic safeguarding priorities. These priorities are strategic goals and objectives aimed at proactively addressing potential risks and challenges within the community. They go beyond reactive measures and emphasize a forward-looking approach to safeguarding.

Identifying strategic safeguarding priorities involved a consultation with relevant stakeholders, including local authorities, healthcare professionals, educators, and community leaders. By collaboratively determining these priorities, the Safeguarding Partnership ensures a holistic understanding of the challenges facing the community and tailors its efforts to address them effectively.

These priorities may encompass a range of issues such as child protection, adult wellbeing, domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health, and online safety. The goal is to create a roadmap for preventive action, allocate resources strategically, and foster a culture of vigilance and responsibility to safeguarding.

The completion of statutory work by the Safeguarding Board & Partnership is not a bureaucratic exercise but a vital commitment to the safety and well-being of local people in the borough of Rochdale.

Both the Annual Report for 2022/23 and the Strategic Priorities can be viewed on our website, www.rochdalesafeguarding.com

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews 2023

[Rochdale Safeguarding Partnership Board – Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews](#)

During 2023, RBSCP received four CSPR referrals, two of which were screened and none were commissioned. Work continued on CSPRs received during 2022 with five reports being completed and signed off by the partnership, due to ongoing proceedings, these reports have not yet been published.

Abuse and neglect were re-occurring themes throughout the reports. Dog Safety, interfamilial sexual abuse, substance misuse and a consideration of ACEs were also themes.

As Child Sexual Abuse has been a theme in eleven recent Rapid Review referrals/CSPRs, a thematic review of 'the Professional Response to concerns about Child Sexual Abuse based on recent local serious incident notifications and Serious Case Reviews/Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews' has been commissioned, completed and signed off by the partnership.

Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) 2023

[Rochdale Safeguarding Partnership Board - Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Audits](#)

During 2023, RBSAB received four SAR referrals, which were screened with one SAR being commissioned (one to be screened before end of December 2023). Work continued on SARs received during 2022 with four being completed and three reports with extended learning briefs being published on RBSB's website [Rochdale Safeguarding Partnership Board - Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Audits](#) Although self-neglect was a recurring theme, authors were asked to also include other areas of abuse/neglect including discriminatory abuse, acts of omission, weight management (bariatric care), consideration of ACEs.

However as self-neglect has been a theme in nine recent SARs, in 2024 a thematic review is being commissioned by RBSAB to focus on this and Team Around the Adult.

Rochdale Safeguarding Adult Board – Safeguarding Adults Week

Rochdale's annual Safeguarding Adults Week took place 20th - 26th November 2023 with a theme of safeguarding adults is everyone's business. The week focused on sharing key safeguarding information to practitioners working with vulnerable adults and residents across the borough of Rochdale.

The week provided key opportunities for public and practitioners to engage in a variety of key adult safeguarding themes and to highlight help and support available locally. Themes include information on how to stay safe online, safeguarding mental wellbeing, information to prevent self-neglect, and how to protect people from adult grooming.

Everyone was reminded of the safeguarding adult's board's role, in helping to create safer cultures through the multi-agency procedures and policies it has in place for practitioners, volunteers, services and partner agencies in the borough.

Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Board & Partnership and Synthesia Technology

In the ever-evolving landscape of safeguarding, effective communication is paramount to ensuring the safety and well-being of individuals. The Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Board & Partnership has embraced new technology in 2023 to enhance their communication of safeguarding messages. Synthesia, is a platform that uses artificial intelligence to generate lifelike video content. Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Board & Partnership has utilised Synthesia to create compelling safeguarding messages and deliver transformative learning experiences to both residents and practitioners in the local area.

Synthesia allows users to create videos featuring realistic avatars delivering scripted messages. This revolutionary technology has been harnessed by the Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Board & Partnership to engage audiences in a more dynamic and personalized manner. The use of avatars not only enhances the visual appeal of the messages but also caters to diverse learning styles and preferences.

The RBSCP & RBSAB recognises the importance of continuous learning for practitioners involved in safeguarding and to provide guidance and information to local people. Synthesia has become a tool for creating training modules and informational videos which provide clear and concise information.

The Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Board & Partnership's integration of Synthesia into their communication strategy exemplifies a forward-thinking approach to safeguarding. By harnessing the power of artificial intelligence, they have transformed the way information is disseminated, ensuring that crucial messages reach and resonate with the diverse population of Rochdale. As technology continues to evolve, the innovative use of tools like Synthesia demonstrates the potential for safeguarding boards and partnerships to adapt and enhance their communication and engagement strategies for the benefit of the communities they serve.

Our new videos will appear on [rochdalesafeguarding.com](https://www.rochdalesafeguarding.com) and our [YouTube channel](#).

Violence against Women and Girls Training

The RBSCP and RBSAB commissioned VAWG training at the request of the Executive Statutory Partners. The training was delivered by Joanne Douglas Workforce Development and Training Officer (Violence against Women and Girls) Community Safety Team from Newcastle BC.

Rochdale is one of the first Safeguarding Board and Partnership's to run this training.

The aim of the trainer was not only to reduce the harms caused by perpetrators of Violence Against Women and Girls but to ensure a consistent standard of support across Rochdale for those subjected to VAWG by improving the knowledge, understanding and skills of the workforce across the Borough of Rochdale.

The train has been developed via a train the trainer model and will be delivered by multi-agency partners.

The RBSCP and RBSAB have delivered four pilot training sessions to GMP (Rochdale Division) successfully and there are plans in progress to run multi-agencies session throughout 2024 please keep a look out on the [Rochdale Safeguarding Partnership Board - Training Arrangement](#)

Warm Welcome Spaces

[Warm Welcome Spaces | Rochdale Borough Council](#)

Warm Welcome Spaces in the borough of Rochdale are places where local people can gather for free in a warm, safe and welcoming place, and enjoy a free drink, activities and access to other services.

All venues will offer free hot and cold drinks, activities and advice. Some venues will offer additional services such as free Wi-Fi. All Warm Welcome Spaces will be heated, safe, friendly and neutral places where you can comfortably spend time reading, studying or chatting with others. We won't ask why you need a Warm Welcome Space.



We wish you a
***MERRY
CHRISTMAS***

and a happy New Year

RBSAB

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