

Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership

2023/24 Yearly Report



ROCHDALE BOROUGH
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

July 2024

RBSCP Executive reviewed: 12th
September 2024

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RBSCP Independent Chair and Scrutineer

2023 to 2024 continued to be another busy year for the RBSCP with a key area of activity being our response to the changes to multi agency safeguarding arrangements in the amended Working Together to Safeguard Children. The amended guidance was finally published in December 2023. Leading to that point we enlisted the support of Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme and Department of Education facilitators to help us examine our current arrangements, strengths and areas for development. Through this challenging period of change key decisions were required including new chairing arrangements for the RBSCP, other changes to governance arrangements and leadership, and the connection to RBSAB. I stepped down as the Independent Chair as directed by Working Together and an Independent Scrutineer was to be recruited, to work alongside the statutory partners as a critical friend.

The amended structure will be embedded through the coming year and its effectiveness reported on in the next Yearly Report.

Due to the demands of responding to changing arrangements over the last 12 months multi agency audits were not completed as much as planned. However an exciting concept of "Beyond Green" began to emerge to evidence outcomes and provide assurance, and this work continues.

A thematic review of our response to child sexual abuse was completed examining several referrals. Rochdale continued to be scrutinised for its non-recent response to exploitation in the borough with the Mayor's Review bring published. Multi agency training with a focus on responding to child sexual abuse was a priority across the Partnership with a train the trainer methodology introduced.

I want to thank all colleagues who have been a part of RBSCP during my (almost) five years in role as Independent Chair. The RBSCP commitment to safeguarding the children and young people of Rochdale is unwavering and should be applauded.

Finally I want to thank the Business Unit for their support of me and the wider RBSCP (and RBSAB). It has been a privilege to work alongside this team.

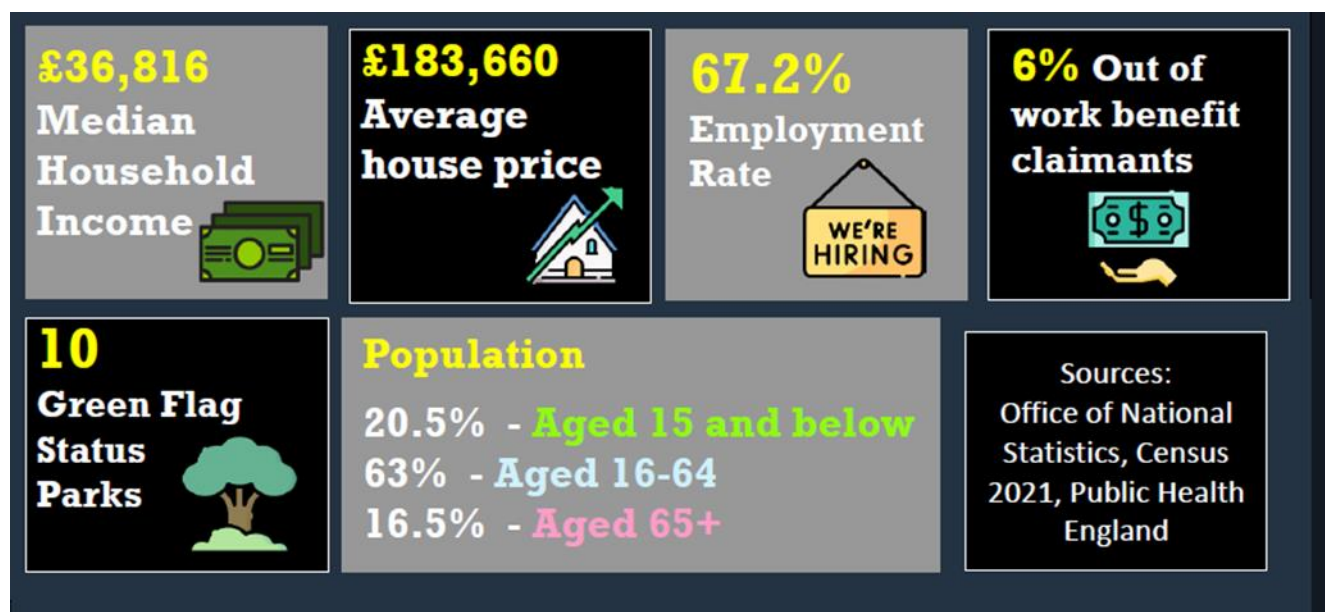
Yours Sincerely,




Amanda Clarke, Independent Chair

Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership (2023/24) and Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adults Board

JNSA Rochdale borough demographics.





Rochdale Borough

Understanding the borough

■ Sept 2023

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Statistics

Summary

In summary Rochdale borough is an ethnically diverse town which in areas is experiencing economic growth and high level investment against a backdrop of deprivation and poverty.

The wards across the borough vary characteristically from affluent rural areas on the edges of the borough to highly deprived ethnically diverse centres.

Rochdale Borough - Census 2021		2011	2021	% Diff
Population	All Persons	211,699	223,773	5.7%
	Males	103,642	109,718	5.9%
	Females	108,057	114,055	5.6%
	Young People (0-19)	56,252	59,299	5.4%
	Older People (65+)	30,816	36,867	19.6%
Households	Households	87,552	90,223	3.1%
	One person	24,183	27,641	14.3%
	One family	53,685	57,288	6.7%
	Other households	5,684	5,294	-6.9%
Ethnicity	White	172,874	165,485	-4.3%
	Mixed	3,569	5,284	48.1%
	Asian or Asian British	31,630	41,406	30.9%
	Black or Black British	2770	7,927	186.2%
	Other	856	3,669	328.6%
Country of Birth	Born in UK	188,084	189,122	0.6%
	Born elsewhere	23,615	34,651	46.7%
Religion	Christian	128,186	104,841	-18.2%
	Muslim	29,426	42,121	43.1%
	Other	1,762	2,095	18.9%
	No religion OR religion not stated	52,325	74,715	42.8%
Housing Tenure	Owns outright/mortgage	54,149	54,377	0.4%
	Socially or privately rented	31,803	35,318	11.1%
Economic Activity	Economically Active	101,424	101,069	-0.4%
	Economically Inactive	65,492	73,878	12.8%
	Unemployed (inc. students)	10,259	6,610	-35.6%
Census 2021	Response Rate	93%	97%	4.3%

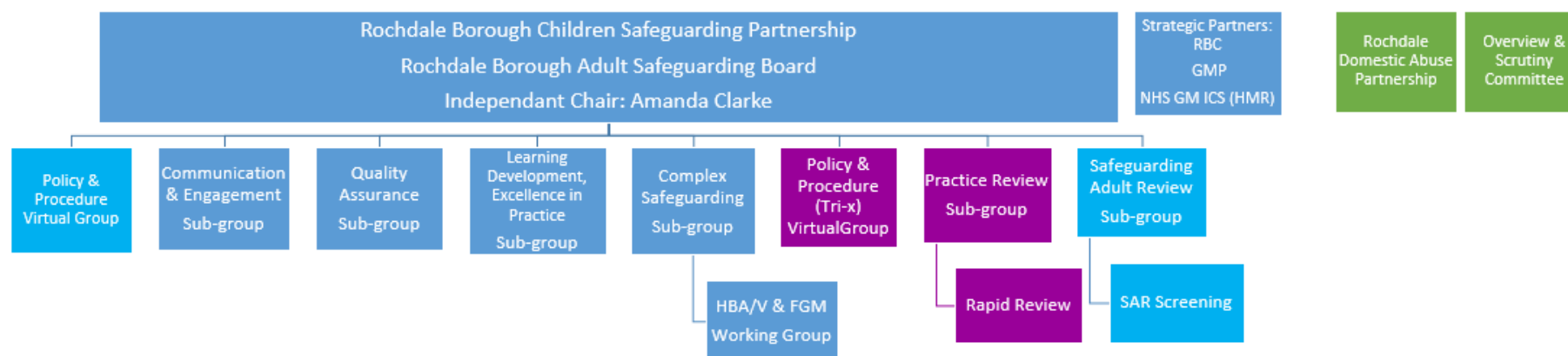
The Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership

The Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership (RBSCP) derives from legislative requirements which are explained in Working Together to Keep Children Safe 2023. Partner members are required to provide assurance to the partnership body of effective safeguarding practice in their local area, working together on shared strategic safeguarding priorities and contributing to the learning found when a child safeguarding practice review (CSPR) occurs.

In 2023/24 the structure of RBSCP was considered joint with RBSAB. Post the release of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, a JTAI inspection and an LGA review focusing on the effectiveness of the safeguarding adult board, safeguarding leaders have made the decision to separate the structure into clearly defined governance and subgroups which will focus assurance activity on different age cohorts. Senior Leaders will still consider all age safeguarding via membership of RBC DASS and Deputy Place Lead within the RBSCP Executive Group. The new structure supported by a revised MASA, a revised independent scrutiny role and a shared vision of child safeguarding will come into effect in 2024/25.

A Business Unit exists to support and facilitate RBSCP strategic activity within the structure below. The Business Unit works with members of the RBSCP to facilitate activity that both assures of, and development of, effective multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and statutory requirements. The Business Unit consists of 1 Business Manager, 2.5 (FTE) Development Officers and 2 Reviewing Officers. This is a temporary business unit structure which was developed due to workforce changes in 2022/23. Plans for a permanent structure is part of a review of RBSCP.

Structures and Sub-Group overview.



RBSCP and RBSAB Funding

The RBSCP is equitably funded by statutory partner organisations. The funding described below was for a joint RBSCP / RBSAB structure in 2023/24. The Business Manager is responsible for ensuring the budget is managed appropriately.

Rochdale Safeguarding Board and Partnership	2023/24
Income	Actual
Starting balance	£81,862
GMCA	£24,300
DfE additional funding	£47,000
NHS ICB GM	£79,816
Education	£42,714
Safeguarding Unit	£79,212
EH&S Contribution	£15,500
RBC Salaries	£287,718

Rochdale Safeguarding Board and Partnership	2023/24
Expenditure	Actual
Adult Safeguarding Reviews	£22,155
Child Safeguarding Reviews	£26,077
Training	£17,541
Independent Chair (RBSCP and RBSAB)	£27,825
Administrative and tools	£33,232
Salaries	£287,718

Continued income ensures RBSCP, supported by the Business Unit will:

- Work together at a multi-agency level, providing strategic support for our key partners in the development of shared understanding and what good safeguarding practice looks like.
- Evidence the good safeguarding practice across the Borough of Rochdale.
- Provide support to single agencies and help shape plans for our safeguarding journey.
- Continue with our current training offer whilst developing new and innovative learning.
- Work with all partners to provide safeguarding support via statutory audit and reporting.
- Ensure quality learning occurs from experienced Reviewers.
- Deliver the message that everyone has the right to live a life free from harm and abuse.
- Engage with residents to ensure their voices are heard.
- Complete all statutory requirements of the Safeguarding Board and Partnership.

RBSCP completed all aspects of 2023/24 statutory requirements by publishing strategic priorities and producing the yearly report. All safeguarding reviews were communicated to governing bodies and completed in a timely manner via the commissioning of independent authors. Learning from reviews has been widely communicated to all partners and publicly via social media messaging. Statutory audits as required by the Education Act, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 and Care Act 2014 were supported as per current business arrangements.

RBSCP Key Decisions 2023/24

The following meetings were attended by high level, statutory RBSCP members. This timeline is to highlight regular partnership planning and decision making activity.

All meetings have been carried out using RBSCP principles of effective partnership working. In the RBSCP, we have shared values and common goals – children and their families are at the centre of everything we do.

- **We show mutual respect, openness, trust and honesty in all of our work**
- **All professionals share information in an appropriate and timely way**
- **We collaborate effectively and take joint responsibility when making decisions and agreeing actions**
- **We have a coordinated approach to interventions**
- **We value respectful challenge**

Minutes from Executive meeting are shared with full RBSCP membership throughout the reporting year. Meeting actions and timelines are recorded to ensure all Executive Group, and other meetings, are tracked, transparent and acted upon.

April 2023

Joint RBSCP/RBSAB Executive meeting. Funding decisions agreed for upcoming year. Information sharing with regards to pertinent ICB, NHS and CSC matters inclusive of Stable Homes Built on Love, ICB structural changes and improvement plans for GMP partnership working.

May 2023

Joint RBSCP/RBSAB Executive meeting. A topic of the effectiveness of implementing training into practice across safeguarding partners was had. Response was several workstreams across agencies were looking into this and results will be reported back. GMP offered a VKPP workshop for partners with regards to draft Working Together updates. A recent CSPR was updated to and decisions made how to progress given a change in case circumstances.

June 2023

RBSCP Members. Members offered feedback on current successes and challenges. CSPR Child E1 report was presented and members agreed to embed learning into practice. The National Review (Op Lemur) was discussed from a local response perspective. The EHASH team provided an update to refreshed processes. An update to the new Child Neglect strategy implementation was discussed.

September 2023

Joint RBSCP / RBSAB Members. GMP's Right Care, Right Person was discussed after a presentation. All members provided an agency update, this included an ICB update with regards to whistleblowing and the Lucy Letby case. Community Safety partners provided an update with regards to Domestic Homicide reviews.

October 2023

Joint RBSCP/RBSAB Executive meeting. The Draft GM Mayor CSE report discussed. Update of CSC activity in light of Stable Homes Built on Love. Local JTAI arrangements discussed based on Manchester inspection call. Decisions regarding the ICB's revised safeguarding model discussed which included consultation with regions DASS and DCS. Decisions made with regards to improving health attendance to strategy meetings. Some multi-agency Early Help model discussions where had in terms of differing local models by some health agencies. Action to investigate decided. Early decisions made in terms of splitting some operational activity, such as annual reports based on anticipated WTG23 update. Decision made to continue virtual meetings within RBSCP with one face2face event each year.

November 2023

VKPP meeting. Perspectives from DfE and the Home Office on how Partnerships can consider their strengths and challenges in light of upcoming Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 release. This was mainly a reflection opportunity for partners to help shape decision making post release of WTG23.

RBSCP Members. All members provided an update on recent successes and challenges including GMP providing assurance of recent good working with the Council of Mosques. Community Safety Partners discussed recent updates to MARAC processes. The Bury, Rochdale and Oldham CDOP report was discussed and theme questions asked via members. The LADO gave a presentation with regards to allegations management. Issues were explored into relation of increased allegation management numbers and work undertaken with schools in terms of agency workers. CSPR Child J1 report was signed off.

December 2023

Joint RBSCP/RBSAB Executive meeting. Members decided to plan a January statutory partner development meeting to discuss the released WTG23 update. This was to ensure key aspects of WTG23 were implemented in Rochdale within prescribed guidance timeframes. Partners agreed the new high level vision of safeguarding priorities. The objectives were to be communicated via the business unit based on CSPR and other evidenced themes. Partners spoke about the Annual report being seen by all single agency governance routes. CSPR J1 learning lessons report was signed off post sign off from RBSCP members and Practice Review Subgroup asked to ensure learning was shared widely.

January 2024

RBSCP Members. All members provided an update on recent successes and challenges including a discussion with members in light of GM Mayors CSE report. CSC offered assurances that services were now very different and learning and been embedded across the board. CSPR G1 was virtually discussed post meeting as author had to send apologies. The Family Safeguarding model was introduced to members via a CSC presentation.

WTG23 Statutory Partner meeting. All local DSP's, their advisors and RBC LSP met and discussions were facilitated by Business Unit members. Strengthened aspects of WTG23 were discussed and interim agreements were that focus should be given to new structural arrangements inclusive of Independent Scrutineer, MASA revisions, Shared Priorities and the Annual Report. Timeframes as provided by WTG23 were agreed to be met.

February 2024

Joint RBSCP/RBSAB Executive meeting. An update was agreed with regards to RBSCP structures in light of WTG23 release. GMP advised the GMP LSP was to visit locally and it was a good opportunity to showcase the work of the Sunrise Team. CSC spoke about operations post the release of GM Mayor CSE report. The EHASH Strategic Board links to RBSCP was discussed. Business Unit QA was to start attending the affiliated group's meeting. The RBSCP Independent Chair submitted formal resignation post change to structure to support WTG23 guidance. CSC offered assurance in light of DfE safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs. The introduction of the Family Safeguarding Model in Rochdale was discussed with partners and the likely implementation date of May 2024. CSPR Child G1 was formally signed off and the Practice Review Subgroup was asked to share learning widely and ensure the embedding of recommendations. The National report of GM Mental Health Trusts was discussed and the ICB stated they will be working with NHS England in investigating findings within GM.

March 2024

WTG23 Statutory Partner meeting. DSP Chair, Alison Kelly of NHS GM ICB, was accepted into role. Revised Independent Scrutiny role recruitment was agreed and requested recruitment occurs by summer 2024. Budget matters were agreed. MASA development was commenced with a completion date of December 2024. Structure arrangements of currently joint RBSCP/RBSAB achieved a new leadership vision. The majority of subgroups and previously joint activities now splitting to ensure effective assurance arrangements focused on each safeguarding cohort by age. Agreed the shared vision of safeguarding moved forwards in that RBSCP Subgroups would achieve guidance as set out in WTG23.

An **Executive** extraordinary meeting was called in **April 2024** post notification of JTAI Inspection with the theme MA response to need and risk. DSP leaders agreed the response and partnership activity for the inspection period.

Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Strategic Plan 2022 - 2024



Who we are?

The Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) is a multi-agency partnership which has statutory functions under the Children Act 1989, the Children Act 2004, the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and statutory guidance Working Together 2018.

The main focus of the SCP is to ensure that in the Rochdale Borough, safeguarding arrangements work effectively so that all children and young people are protected from abuse.

Our Principles- The principles of the RBSCP reflect our 'business as usual safeguarding activities'. With our partners we commit to ensuring:

- Children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted
- Partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children;
- Partners provide safeguarding assurance, challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively.
- Information is shared effectively within and across organisations to ensure more accurate and timely decision making and action for children and families;
- There is focus on children and families— their voice is heard, and their

How will we work?

All work and actions undertaken will reflect and promote the ethos in Rochdale of relational working and trauma informed practice. Our responses will be strength based and keep the wellbeing and rights of children and young people at the centre of all that we do.

Our work will be continuously coordinated and evaluated to fulfil RBSCP statutory responsibilities.

How our priority areas were developed

In developing the RBSCP priorities for 2022 to 2024 it was important to build on work undertaken over the last 2 years some of which has been impacted by the Covid-19 response. The priority areas were identified through a multi-agency process where all RBSCP partners provided information regarding safeguarding priorities within their own

The structure of the RBSCP.

The Executive Safeguarding Partners of the Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Board (RBSCP) have responsibility to coordinate safeguarding services, to act as the strategic leadership group in supporting and engaging others in the work of safeguarding children, promoting their welfare, obtaining assurance and implementing local and national learning.

The RBSCP Business Unit on behalf of the RBSCP Executive, our other partner agencies and through the work of our sub-groups produces a Safeguarding Children Strategic

If you are concerned that a child has or is suffering harm, neglect or abuse please call 0300 303 0440. If you feel a child is in immediate danger please contact the police on 999

Priority 1: Reducing the impact of neglect.

1. Develop and launch revised child neglect strategy & toolkit
2. Increase the multi-agency use of Early Help
3. Increase Professional Curiosity in assessment & planning

Priority 2: Identification of Child Sexual Abuse

1. Review training based on LSCPR to ensure practitioners identify child sexual abuse consistently
2. Understand the effectiveness of the local response to child sexual abuse
3. Communicate with children, families and practitioners to raise awareness of child sexual abuse

Priority 3: Understanding the risk of impact on children and domestic abuse

1. Ensure practitioners respond to domestic abuse when children are identified as victims
2. Understand the effectiveness of support when children are identified as victims of domestic abuse

Priority 4: Safeguarding adolescents

1. Develop and launch Complex Safeguarding Strategy
2. Understanding the effectiveness of services when children transition to adult services
3. Assess the local response to Missing children

Please note, the RBSCP agreed to a 2 year priorities plan. The 2022/23 report also contains information with regards to achieving activity.

Year-end 2023/24 data analysis by Safeguarding Priorities.

Data is provided by RBC Children Social Care and thus focuses on safeguarding related activity to one safeguarding partner only. The RBSCP recognises a challenge to address is the consistent delivery of safeguarding related data by all statutory partners. The newly formed Safeguarding Performance and Quality Assurance Subgroup is responsible for the aforementioned multi-agency action in 2024/25.

Data sets.

1. Children's services Analysis Tool (ChAT) March 2024 and March 2023. Please note, all benchmarking is to 2022-23 figures and therefore interpretation of current live data against historical comparators may contain inaccuracies.
2. High level Early Help performance report March 2024 and March 2023.
3. High level monthly performance report EHASH. March 2024.
4. Weekly EHASH data sets April 2022 – March 2023.
5. CSC High level monthly performance report. March 2024 and March 2023.

Priority 1: Child Neglect

Of the **376** Children open to a Child Protection Plan (in March 2024) 31% had a category of abuse stating neglect. 60% had a category of emotional abuse. When comparing to statistical neighbours, Rochdale was 10% lower in the category of neglect but 20% higher in the category of emotional abuse. This may suggest a data miscategorisation of data in some cases and not a lower prevalence of neglect in the Rochdale borough.

When combining neglect and emotional abuse to analyse as one category, the overall Rochdale borough figure of open CPP is 91%. Benchmarking figures show 90%. This indicates Rochdale benchmarks to both statistical neighbours and nationally in terms of category of open child protection plans. In the Rochdale borough during 2022-23, of the **459** children open to a Child Protection Plan (March 2023) cases with category of neglect was 26%. The category of emotional abuse was 64%. Combined categories was 90%.

The fact that 90% of all open CPP have a categorisation of neglect or emotional abuse in continuous years show RBSCP that Child Neglect must remain a priority moving forwards into 2024-25.

However, a key aim of the Neglect Strategy 2023 – 2025 was to decrease the number of children reaching child protection plan under the category of neglect, by identifying abuse early and increasing episodes of Early Help. A year on year comparator shows a reduction of 18% overall children open to child protection. This data does not definitively show a reduction of neglect cases within CPP, however it is a fair assumption using available data, the Neglect Strategy is achieving the described aim. Early Help data analysis appears in next section.

Sub Priority: Early Help

As discussed above, a key aim of new neglect strategy was to increase the volume of Early Help when identifying signs of neglect early. Key performance indicators used are the use of completed Early Help Assessments forms, which the new neglect toolkit is linked to, and Early Help closure outcomes. Please note, the available data show all types of EHA and Early Help closure outcomes. They do not discuss specific categories such as neglect or emotional abuse. This data is not available.

Benchmarking is not used in this area of analysis. Early Help models and strategies are specific to areas of regional practice. Therefore comparison to a different area's / regions would not inform RBSCP of applicable trends for the purpose of yearly report.

Number of open Early Help Episodes with EHA (Year to date. March 2024): 1343
Number of open Early Help Episodes with EHA (Year to date. March 2023): 1330

The number of open Early Help episodes with EHA between years has remained similar. The data to support the effectiveness of Child Neglect Strategy 2023 – 2025 is not found within these figures. However, the Early Help service supplied some contextual information within the March 2024 data set:

The decreasing EHA data trend is also due to the service strengthening the 1001 day pathway, School Readiness and family conflict offer improving universal plus interventions. Following a simultaneous increase in request for service referrals the process was revised in December 2022 to ensure partners aren't using this instead of an EHA. Daily allocation meetings with EHASH are in place to improve completion of EHA's.

The contextual information provides assurance that Early Help Assessment completion is a priority for multi-agency partners and interventions are in place. RBSCP will monitor during 2024-25. Another consideration for SPQA Subgroup in 2024-25 is how the effectiveness of universal services impact on the success of child neglect strategy.

CSC provide RBSCP with the overall number of Early Help Closures and a breakdown of outcomes. The following tables show average figures of 2023/24 against 2022/23.

2023/24	
Average monthly number of Early Help episode closures	152
Average monthly % escalated to Social Care	16%
Average monthly % all outcomes achieved	51%
Average monthly % of declined support	7%
Average monthly % of consent withdrawn	14%
Average monthly % of assessment not initiated	8%

2022/23	
Average monthly number of Early Help episode closures	167
Average monthly % escalated to Social Care	17%
Average monthly % all outcomes achieved	47%
Average monthly % of declined support	11%
Average monthly % of consent withdrawn	11%
Average monthly % of assessment not initiated	10%

The data between years is mostly comparable however some encouraging trends are available. The % of outcomes achieved has increased whilst the number of Early Help escalated to Social Care has decreased. The number of declined Early Help support has reduced in 2023/24 however, the number of withdrawn consents has increased.

The overall figures support the Early Help and neglect sub-priority via increasing successfully closed episodes of Early Help with all outcomes achieved. However the decreasing overall average number of Early Help closures will need to be monitored.

The RBSCP hosted 9 Early Help training sessions in 2023/34. A breakdown of attendance and impact of training can be found within this report.

Sub Priority: Professional Curiosity

Professional Curiosity is rather a 'golden thread' that passes through all training courses. In addition, we have a Professional Curiosity pack on our website, which has been accessed 2037 times in the 23-24 period. We have also been able to access the Professional Curiosity online briefing provided by Pennine Care Foundation Trust, for which 21 people signed up.

Priority 2: Child Sexual Abuse

Sub Priority: Identification of risk and need.

Using a year on year comparator, March 2022/23 – March 2023/24, the *number of children subject to a child protection plan under the category of sexual abuse* has remained at 5% of all open cases.

This means a small downward trend of the number of child cases subject to sexual abuse reaching stages of child protection due to the overall number of children with an open CPP reducing in 2023/24 when compared to the previous year.

Using *Contacts to EHASH by category Sexual Abuse*, the % of contacts into EHASH has been comparable to previous years at 5%. Of contacts during 2023/24 the most common EHASH response is *single agency response* (45%) followed by a *transfer to children social care* (37%).

The term single agency response is defines as:

Single agency response is where the contact is reviewed/triaged and the response provided is by 1 agency. An example of this could be when parents do not give consent for EHA but may agree to work with school.

Also an update to terminology which is yet to be transferred to data reporting:

Single agency response is actually now 'other agency response' which can then break down into single agency (as defined above) or multi-agency response (defined below).

Multi agency response is where there are a number of agencies involved but an EHA may not be in place i.e. voluntary agencies / adults services etc. Or again, parents refuse an EHA but agree to work with some professionals.

In both cases, this highlights how child sexual abuse is being identified and an appropriate response from EHASH is being delivered which quickly reduces risks to a child.

In 2022/23 the most common EHASH responses were single agency response at 38% and transfer to children social care at 21%.

By year end 2023/24 the number of repeat MASH gatherings under the category of sexual abuse was 0.6% of total outturn. 2022/23 comparative data does not exist.

Using the separate data points for a holistic narrative: The overall number of EHASH contacts under the category of sexual abuse has not reduced. However, the effective use of EHASH process leading to single agency response or recognising when to escalate child cases to social services could evidence effective actions leading to a reduced numbers of children within child protection who have a category of sexual abuse.

Similarly to the neglect strategy, the multi-agency training in this topic seeks to help practitioners to identify risks of sexual abuse early and be guided by EHASH, using thresholds and the RBSCP Child Need & Response Framework, towards the appropriate activity to safeguard a child.

The multi-agency training data facilitated by RBSCP is as follows. Please note, individual agency specific training is not included in this set, therefore the numbers of locally trained professionals in the area if CSA is higher.

One CSA course delivered – attendees as follows:

Total Attendees: 25	
Health: 1	Children's Services: 11
GMP: 0	Education: 1
Voluntary & Private: 3	Other: 9

In addition we have introduced an Intra-Familial Sexual Abuse course, following a Train the Trainer session provided by the Centre of Excellence on Child Sexual Abuse. This was launched in the 23-24 period and the first course had 20 attendees, as follows:

Total Attendees: 20	
Health: 1	Children's Services: 12
GMP: 2	Education: 0
Voluntary & Private: 4	Other: 1

CSA is also highlighted in other courses such as "Working Together to Safeguard Children" and "Responding to Child Exploitation".

Priority 3: Domestic Abuse

Sub Priority: Identification of risk and need.

DA in Rochdale is strategically managed by Rochdale Community Safety Partnership (RCSP) with activity led by the Rochdale Domestic Abuse Partnership (RDAP) subgroup.

As a total number of contacts to EHASH, Domestic abuse counted as 25% in both year end March 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Re-referral / Repeat MASH gathering for Domestic Abuse are also consistently the highest individual category as highlighted by the 2023/24 table below.

Total % of repeat MASH gatherings by type (in 12 months)	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24
Contextual safeguarding	6%	8%	3%	13%	0%	0%	11%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Domestic violence	21%	20%	9%	6%	11%	9%	11%	25%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Emotional abuse	1%	2%	3%	0%	3%	10%	2%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Mental health	9%	20%	9%	0%	6%	7%	2%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Missing from home	10%	9%	12%	7%	29%	1%	11%	13%	100%	100%	100%	80%
Neglect	15%	14%	10%	31%	9%	28%	13%	29%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other request for help	19%	18%	26%	29%	3%	7%	23%	21%	0%	0%	0%	20%
Physical abuse	6%	0%	18%	7%	0%	18%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sexual abuse	4%	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Substance misuse (drug, alcohol etc)	0%	2%	6%	7%	23%	3%	15%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Not Recorded	7%	9%	4%	0%	17%	13%	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total % repeat MASH gatherings	27%	23%	32%	6%	27%	29%	26%	16%	20%	29%	33%	38%

RCSP recognise that domestic abuse is the highest EHASH contact category, with police being the biggest source of contacts into EHASH. RCSP who are responsible for domestic homicide reviews recognise Rochdale borough has the second highest DHR rate in Greater Manchester.

In response, the RBC Domestic Abuse Lead Worker has created a schedule of audits to allow the partnership gain learning of how effective practice leads to good DA outcomes in Rochdale and where challenges exist for the local strategic leaders to consider action. The learning and agreed activities are shared on a regular basis with RBSCP via the Domestic Abuse Strategic Lead.

One of the DA audits shared with RBSCP centred on the quality of assessment with children where Honour Based Abuse could be considered a facet of the case. The learning directly led to a review and update to HBA training and formed a factual basis to the joint RBSCP/RBSAB HBA working group action plan.

Priority 4: Safeguarding Adolescents

Sub Priority: Complex safeguarding and missing children

In 2023/24. The average total number of children missing per month was: 54
In 2022/23. The average total number of children missing per month was: 58

The above data sets do show a downward trend in that an average yearly total would be 48 less children considered missing.

By March 2024, both the number of return interviews offered and accepted both increased. This increase may be considered to directly, positively impact the reducing numbers of missing episodes.

In January 2022, Rochdale police senior leadership team recognised that there was scope to improve the way in which missing person investigations are managed. GMP implemented a Missing from Home Unit and RBC recruited a Missing Co-ordinator who came into post in November 2022. This system replaced the previous commissioned service. Dedicated resources in this area had had an impact in *missing*, this is visible in available data.

RBSCP Subgroup review for 2023/24

The following reports aim to provide information how subgroups as defined in the RBSCP MASA have worked together to achieve both statutory safeguarding actions and achieved agreed priorities. In 2023/24 the majority of subgroups were considered joint with Rochdale Borough Adult Safeguarding Board (RBSAB). However, the information provided for the 2023/24 Safeguarding Report focuses on RBSCP activity only.

Subgroup name:	Practice Review Sub Group
Reporting Year:	2023 - 2024
Number of meetings in Year:	6

Subgroup Chair:			Sarah Boulter, GM ICB, Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children				
Subgroup Deputy:			Bev Paris, Children’s Social Care, Head of Safeguarding & QA				
Subgroup members							
Agency		Role			Name		
Northern Care Alliance		Named Nurse Safeguarding Children			Michele Whitewick		
Northern Care Alliance		ADNS children’s community services			Jan Reynolds		
Greater Manchester Police		Detective Inspector			Matthew Noland		
Children’s social care		Head of Safeguarding & QA			Bev Paris		
Education		Education safeguarding Lead			Hayley Reynolds		
Northern Care Alliance		Named Midwife			Rebecca Oatway		
Probation		Safeguarding Lead			Janice France / Vicky Travis		
Pennine Care NHS FT		Named Nurse Safeguarding			Lynsey Johnson		
Attendance of statutory membership including Education representation within year to date (%)							
CSC	83%	GMP	66%	ICB	100%	Education	66%

Subgroup activity within quarter	
Activity headlines by quarter.	<p>Quarter 1: As part of the beyond green concept, it was agreed that LSCPR reports will no longer present specific recommendations, instead, the author will pose questions to the partnership to improve agency ownership.</p> <p>The questions will be used to form Learning Outcome documents, these documents will be shared with the relevant agencies for completion and reviewed to ensure appropriate action is being taken.</p> <p>Quarter 2. There were some agencies that had difficulties in completing the learning outcome documents and this is delayed the process further. In some cases, there is significant delay due to parallel police process (H1 & F1) which means learning is not being shared in a timely manner.</p> <p>Quarter 3. The sub-group remained partially effective due to inconsistent attendance and engagement by some agencies. This has resulted in documents needing to be signed off virtually and not giving time for multi-agency discussion in the meeting.</p> <p>The chair has also been involved in a CSPR process out of borough (Lancashire). The report for this review is in draft format and learning will be shared with the PRSG once available for assurance from agencies. The report is likely not to be published due to the child and family being identifiable however the learning will be relevant to HMR services as there was cross-border working, particularly for mental health services & education.</p>

	<p>Quarter 4. Two LSCPR reports were published in this quarter (J1 & E1). AI briefing videos were developed and published alongside the LSCPR's.</p> <p>A challenge has been received from MFT in respect of the content for E1, despite them being involved in the CSPR process. Some of the concerns have arisen due to the practitioners involved in E1's care being unable to attend the practitioner event due to them being witnesses in, which has been unavoidable. Feedback was received from the Named Safeguarding lead at MFT that the discussion was useful & supportive for the staff members involved.</p> <p>The group has also been asked to review the following to identify any local learning however this has also been delayed due to the meeting not being quorate: safeguarding children in elective home education – some of this learning will link to Child AJ (Lancs). Some of the learning within this can be picked up within the JTAI action plan</p>
<p>Safeguarding Reviews (CSPR): <i>Have any activities occurred that support the implementation of CSPR recommendations?</i></p>	<p>Child E1 - Published in February 20224</p> <p>Child F1 – Due to ongoing criminal proceedings, this report has not been published.</p> <p>Child G1 – the Executive Partners agreed that this report will not be published as the family could be identifiable. The learning from the report has been incorporated into the thematic review. The National Panel are using the Child G1 report within their National review into child sexual abuse within the family environment which will be published at the end of the year.</p> <p>Thematic Review – The report is complete. Awaiting confirmation on publication date.</p> <p>Child H1 – Due to ongoing criminal proceedings, this report has not been published.</p> <p>Child I1 – The report is complete. Awaiting confirmation on publication date.</p> <p>Child J1 – Published in March 2024.</p>

Subgroup specific data information.
N/A

Summary of Risk Register review
N/A

Subgroup chair commentary
<p>Working well within group: Good multi-agency working relationships. Forward thinking activity to reflect upon and improve QA. Good leadership and commitment to resources.</p> <p>Challenges: Need consistent engagement with activity which leads to timely improvements.</p>

Subgroup Chair signature:












Date: 31.07.2024

Subgroup name:	Beyond Green (QA)
Reporting Year:	2023 - 2024
Number of meetings in Year:	4

Subgroup Chair:	Hayley Ashall. Adult Social Care. Assistant Director of Commissioning
Subgroup Deputy:	Vacant

Subgroup members							
Agency		Role			Name		
RBC ASC		Principle Social Worker and Strategic Safeguarding Adults Lead.			George Mark-Bell		
RBC CSC		Head of Children’s Safeguarding and QA			Bev Paris		
NHS ICB GM		Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children			Sarah Boulter		
NHS ICB GM		Adult Safeguarding Designated Professional Quality and Safeguarding Team			Alyson Harvey		
GMP		TBC			TBC		
Probation		Assistant Chief Officer / Head of PDU			Vicky Travis		
Pennine Care Foundation Trust		Head of Safeguarding. Prevent Lead.			Emma Barnes		
Northern Care Alliance		Assistant Director of Nursing – Safeguarding Children			Clare Kelly		
Attendance of statutory membership including Education representation within year to date (%)							
CSC	71%	GMP	43%	ICB	100%	Education	50%

Subgroup activity within quarter	
Activity headlines by quarter.	<p>Quarter 1: Agreed multi-agency activity to produce a cost of living reflective audit to identify safeguarding challenges over the 2022/23 winter period. The findings supported learning in Domestic Abuse and Neglect priorities in that partners gave examples of increased demand in both areas. Conclusion was that, although conditions leading to poverty could not be proved to cause increased demand it did indicate correlation. Partners agreed the learning was useful and informed practice resources for the next winter period.</p> <p> 1 page Summary - cost of living impact</p> <p>Subgroup agreed to delay update to QA Framework until 2024 as to ensure it aligned with upcoming Business Priorities update. Risk Register was reviewed and updated.</p> <p>Quarter 2. Virtual meeting. Information requested from partners to contribute to previous year's annual report. Update to Risk Register was agreed. Introduction documents to statutory partners with regards the increasing requirements to strengthen RBSCP QA Activity which later led to facets of the Beyond Green concept.</p> <p>   Data Strategy Proposal May 2023.supporting report - Beyond Green Case file audit proposal.docx</p> <p>Quarter 3. This quarters meeting was adjusted to allow for all RBSCP Subgroup Chairs to meet and discuss the Beyond Green report. The purpose was to seek</p>

	<p>multi-agency engagement in the concept and plan activity to ensure Quality Assurance was refreshed for RBSCP (and RBSAB as activity was joint in 2023/24). The Chair of previously named QA Subgroup suggested a temporary change of group to the Beyond Green Group with an updated ToR to ensure the Beyond Green Concept became embedded into practice. This was agreed by multi-agency representation.</p> <p> Minutes - Beyond Green 10.07.2023.doc</p> <p>An inaugural Beyond Green meeting occurred in October 2023. Agreement of ToR was gained and action plan produced.</p> <p>  Beyond Green Sub Group TOR October Beyond Green Action Plans.xlsx</p> <p>Quarter 4. Due to staffing circumstances, Beyond Green meetings for both December 2023 and February 2024 were cancelled and progress with many Beyond Green items stalled. However, a RBSCP specific JTAI Readiness Working Group continued with the development of case file audit revision. Multi-agency activity produced an agreed JTAI audit methodology handbook and supporting document. The new methodology was due to be tested in April 2024. However, an actual JTAI inspection occurred. The Partnership used the recently developed tools and method which in part, led to a positive multi-agency inspection. The inspection recognised the Beyond Green concept as potentially exemplar but delays to action plan needed to be addressed. The JTAI inspection findings, alongside an RBSAB LGA Review have led to a refresh of RBSCP and RBSAB which will include quality assurance as a central component of activity.</p> <p> MA Audit Handbook - JTAI Me</p>
<p>Safeguarding Reviews (CSPR): <i>Have any activities occurred that support the implementation of CSPR recommendations?</i></p>	<p>Working well within group: Good multi-agency working relationships. Forward thinking activity to reflect upon and improve QA. Good leadership and commitment to resources.</p> <p>Challenges: Need consistent engagement with activity which leads to timely improvements.</p> <p>The aforementioned JTAI methodology test was to support recommendations from Child D1 CSPR. Namely, how well EHASH processes support children with an EHCP and at risk of CSA. The EHASH Strategic Board, supported by RBSCP QA and statutory partners will be undertaking this audit in 2024 and findings reported in the next yearly report edition.</p> <p> EHASH audits - focused EHCP CSA t</p> <p>Working well: Excellent partnership working between ICB, CSC, GMP, SEND and Education to progress MA Case File audits on behalf of RBSCP.</p>

	Challenges: To ensure all partners recognise each other's challenges and limitations. One example is that health colleagues require notice to attend in person events due to scheduled appointments with patients.
Statutory Activity: <i>Has any statutory activity, such as Section 11 assessment, occurred within quarter?</i>	The Beyond Green Subgroup, in a revised capacity post RBSCP review, will undertake the statutory Section 11 assessment in 2024. This will be reported in the next edition of RBSCP yearly report.
	N/a

Subgroup specific data information.

Effective use of data is a recognised area of improvement for the RBSCP. The Beyond Green Subgroup is provided data by RBC CSC only. CSC data analysis can be seen in the Business Priorities chapter of report. A 2024 action is for RBSCP is to seek delivery of data from all statutory partners and use data to support the effectiveness of actions and inform of emerging safeguarding trends.


Summary of Risk Register review

The risk register was reviewed a number of times via QA / Beyond Green Subgroup members. The risks identified by group supported the Beyond Green concept adoption. Specifically, without effective use of data and QA, safeguarding activity could not be fully evidenced to improving outcomes for children and their families. Without effective QA, Leadership were not fully informed in the effectiveness of safeguarding activity across the borough.

Activity has commenced via updates to MASA, recruitment of Independent Scrutineer and reintroduction of multi-agency case file audit to mitigate risks in this area.

Subgroup name:	Learning and Development
Reporting quarter:	2023-2024
Number of meetings in quarter:	3

Subgroup Chair:			Brendan Richards, Workforce Development Manager, Children’s Social Care				
Subgroup Deputy:			Debbie Stewart, Team Manager Quality and Practice Assurance, Adult Care				
Subgroup members							
Agency		Role			Name		
RBSCP Member		School Governor			Sue Moore-Holmes		
NCA		Specialist Nurse for Safeguarding Children			Michelle Harrison		
ICB		Named Professional			Alyson Harvey		
PCFT		Safeguarding Families Practitioner			Janine Lacy		
Early Help and Schools		Education Safeguarding Officer			Margaret Barbour		
GMFRS		Designated Safeguarding Officer			Liz Hinchcliffe		
NPS		Assistant Chief Probation Officer			Janice France		
Watergrove Trust		Trust Safeguarding Lead			Claire Heap		
Early Help and Schools		Education Safeguarding Officer			Hayley Reynolds		
Big Life		Programme Manager			Claire hesbrook		
Hopwood hall College		Designated Safeguarding Lead			Tracy Marrow		
GMP		Detective Chief Inspector			Stuart Round		
Attendance of statutory membership including Education representation within year to date (%)							
CSC	100%	GMP	33%	ICB	66%	Education	33%

Subgroup activity within quarter	
Strategic Objectives:	<p>Quarter 1.</p> <p>The sub-group discussed quality assurance of training. A discussion took place about how we could meet these. There are three issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Basic Introduction to Safeguarding Children/Adults meets our minimum standards and content. 2. Does the Board/partnership have assurance that training is being provided appropriate to role? 3. Can we evidence the impact of training on children, adults and families? <p>It was decided to form a Task and Finish group to look at this in more detail and formulate a way forward.</p> <p>The Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) train the trainer has commenced and 17 attendees will join the training pool to add this course to the multi-agency training offer.</p> <p>"An Introduction to Kooth and Qwell digital mental health services" has been added to the training programme, and has a Mental Health briefing which will focus on deliberate self-harm and suicidal ideation.</p> <p>The updated Training Strategy and the 2023-24 work-plan were approved.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Minutes May 2023</p> </div> <p>Quarter 2.</p> <p>No sub-group meeting was held in Q2.</p>

The second part of the Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) train the trainer sessions has been completed and the training will now be added to the training programme.

The three-day train the trainer sessions on Intra-Familial Sexual Abuse have been completed and ten people are now trained to deliver this.

A briefing on County Lines has been arranged, delivered by Greater Manchester Police.

Quarter 3.

The Training Annual Report and Training Needs Analysis were presented, and the Terms of Reference were discussed. The TOR will be updated to bring it in line with the other sub-groups.

Trauma Informed Practice slides for courses was approved, and Family Safeguarding Model was discussed. This will also need adding to existing courses in the future.

A new 7 minute briefing on the appropriate use of adult safeguarding language has been produced.

Two videos have been published in the last couple of months – one on domestic abuse and one on self-neglect.

Materials are being produced for Adult Safeguarding Week in November, to remind professionals of the range of protocols, guidance documents, tools and resources that are available to them on our website. Safeguarding reviews indicate that these are not being used.

Discussions are being held with Public Health to develop Loneliness training in conjunction with Civil Society Consulting CIC, using a train the trainer model.



Minutes Oct 2023



Quarter 4.

The group considered resources on adultification – the process whereby children who are black/Asian are considered to be older than they are, and more worldly experienced. Resources will be created around this issue and added to current training.

The new Terms of Reference were presented and approved.

An update on the training quality assurance work was given. Requests have gone out to all statutory agencies for their single agency training data.

Working Together 2023 has been published and this necessitates updates to many of our training courses. A planning meeting for the WT course has been arranged with all the trainers. All 7 Minute Briefings are being updated in this respect.

	<p>Loneliness train the trainer dates are set for April and representatives from a variety of agencies are being recruited to attend.</p> <p> Minutes Feb 24</p>	
	<p>The sub-group works well and those attending are contributing much more than was previously the case. New suggestions are being brought to the group, and there is increasing professional constructive challenge.</p> <p>However attendance at the group meetings is inconsistent, with several agencies never or rarely attending Also the group members tend not to take on activities or responsibilities outside the meetings.</p>	
Safeguarding Reviews (CSPR): <i>Have any activities occurred that support the implementation of CSPR recommendations?</i>	<p>The CSPR published during 2023-24, Child E1, and the Rapid Review for Child J1, had no recommendations which required training activity.</p>	
	<p>All reviews are included in the Training Needs Analysis which is compiled every year. This document collates all training requirements/requests that have been received during the year (including from Children's or Adults Reviews), and specifies what actions the LD group have taken in response to them.</p> <p> TNA 2024</p>	
Statutory Activity: <i>Has any statutory activity, such as Section 11 assessment, occurred within quarter?</i>	<p>Ensuring that all the training materials and presentations are kept up to date with new legislation – Working Together 2023 for example.</p>	
	N/A	
Single agency Activity: <i>Have any member agencies provided single agency information which supports RBSCP safeguarding activity? E.g.: Single agency safeguarding training, communications and engagement actions or QA activity?</i>	<p>Statutory partners have been asked to provide single agency training data as part of the quality assurance process.</p>	
	<p>Training data from the NCA is proving difficult to get.</p>	

Subgroup specific data information.

Annual Report:



Summary of Risk Register review

Without effective multi-agency training practitioners would be less able to identify abuse and/or neglect, and less able to respond to it effectively. New ways of working, new legislation and emerging trends and themes would not be communicated to professionals, leading to inconsistent approaches which would put children and young people at risk.

The Partnership would not be meeting its statutory duties as specified by Working Together 2018/23.

Subgroup chair commentary

While the recent Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) was conducted outside of the 2023/2024 timeframe, the evidence submitted included the 2023/2024 learning and development program. The Inspectorate concluded that there is an effective and strong partnership learning offer.

All actions agreed upon in the meetings are consistently achieved, thanks to the diligent efforts of the RBSCB Learning and Development Officer. However, it is notable that when working groups are set up to address key actions, they tend to be attended by the same dedicated volunteers.

Certain agencies demonstrate strong commitment, including RBC Children's Services, RBC Adult Services, Big Life, ICS, and Hopwood Hall College. Conversely, some agencies appear to find it more challenging to allocate the necessary time and resources, such as Probation, GMP, and GMFRS. Additionally, it has been noticeable that some educational representatives have not been present as much at recent meetings.

We face ongoing challenges in securing training venues, which is a responsibility of the partnership. Maintaining a robust training pool for all courses is also an ongoing issue. Any support from the executive committee in addressing these three highlighted areas would be greatly appreciated.

Subgroup Chair signature:

(Brendan Richards – Children's Workforce Development Manager)


Date: 22/07/24

Subgroup name:	Comms and Engagement
Reporting quarter:	Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4
Number of meetings in quarter:	One meeting in a quarter four for the full year

Subgroup Chair:	<i>Pam Dickenson</i>
Subgroup Deputy:	<i>Helen Heaton (Temp)</i>

Subgroup members		
Agency	Role	Name
RBC Comms	Children Service Communication Officer	Alexis Beaumont
RBC Comms	Adult Care Communication Officer	Michael Brooke
ICB Comms	Communication Officer	Pam Dickenson
GMP	Detective Inspector	Matt Noland
RBH	Deputy Communication Manager	Iain Lindley

Attendance of statutory membership including Education representation within year to date (%)							
CSC	100%	GMP	100 %	ICB	100%	Education	n/a

Subgroup activity within quarter	
Overview and activity headlines by quarter.	<p>The Comms and Engagement subgroup is currently a joint subgroup with the RBSCP and RBSAB.</p> <p>The aim of the subgroup for the RBSCP is to develop and deliver an annual communication plan / multi-agency programme of local and national campaigns based on priorities to key stakeholders including children/young people with care and support needs, families, practitioners and the public.</p> <p>To also develop and deliver effective engagement with general public, third sector, local communities, faith groups and with local businesses, to increase knowledge of safeguarding children with care and support needs, and safer working practices and finally to provide communications advice and/or support to all sub groups that form under the RBSCP</p> <p>Note# The Comms and Engagement Subgroup also has virtual members who receive and distribute communications, they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthwatch Rochdale • Big Life • Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service • Hopwood Hall College • National Probation Service • Private Providers Representative • Together – Your Voice Advocacy Service <div style="text-align: center;">  RBSCPAB Communications and </div> <p>Quarter 1 Comms and engagement subgroup meeting 19/06/23 The focus on the meeting was to establish the comms were still being sent out as per the annual schedule and what agency was leading on the specific messages. A focus was on working through the Comms documents and folders to get a full understanding and update of where things are up to. As per the Communication action plan the following messages were shared via Social Media platforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Autism Acceptance Week (April) • Carers Week (June) • (RBSB) GM Online Safeguarding Procedures Update (June)

- (RBC Children / CCG) Safeguarding Children Week
- (RBC Ad) Hoarding Awareness Week
- (RBC Ad) Child Neglect Strategy and Toolkit

Quarter 2

As per the Communication action plan the following messages were shared via Social Media platforms

- (CCG and RBC Children) Risk of FGM during summer break
- (RBC Children) Safe After School Summer Break
- (RBC Ad) Memorial day for victims of HIV 14 July
- (RBC) World Day against Trafficking Persons 30 July
- (RBC Ad) World Suicide Prevention Day / GM Month of Hope (Suicide Prevention)



Joint Media protocol
v6 March 2023.docx

The RBSCP introduced an artificial intelligence platform named Synthesia in September 2023. Synthesia is a unique tool that creates visual media, presented by digital avatars that allows RBSCP learning to be communicated in a style practitioners are known to engage with. In 2023, RBSCP produced videos to support the delivery of learning within child neglect, FGM, basic introduction to safeguarding and LSCPR's.

Quarter 3.

As per the Communication action plan the following messages were shared via Social Media platforms

- (CCG, RBC Children and RBC Ad) World Mental Health day 10 October
- Joint Safeguarding e-newsletter
- (RBC Children) International Day of the Abolition of Slavery
- (RBSB) GM Online Safeguarding Procedures Update
- (RBC Children) Safe After School Xmas Break

Quarter 4

Comms and engagement subgroup meeting 11/01/24

discussions around the ToR all happy and agreed

PD advised she is leaving in March 2024, therefore one of the partners will be required to chair.

Discussed messages being sent out via Social Media platforms, all agencies undertaking in regards to their own areas in line with the SG awareness plan.

The RBSCP/RBSAB business unit is undertaking updates via Twitter (LH) and Facebook (CT).


The RBSCP are preparing for comms on behalf the partnership re practice fortnight in March.

As per the Communication action plan the following messages were shared via Social Media platforms

- Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week early Feb / link with intra-familial sex abuse awareness
- (CCG and RBC Children) Children's Mental Health Week
- (RBC and CCG) International Day of Zero Tolerance to FGM
- (RBC Children and Adult) Self Injury Harm Awareness Day
- (CCG and RBC Children) Young Carers Action Day
- (CCG) Safer Sleep Week

All agencies are promoting agreed messages linked to the communication action plan. Challenges for the subgroup are changes to the CCG to the ICB inclusive of no replacement to the Comms Lead who left the service.

<p>Safeguarding Reviews (CSPR): <i>Have any activities occurred that support the implementation of CSPR recommendations?</i></p>	<p>Quarter 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to the June 2023 edition of the joint RBSCP/RBSAB newsletter (mailchi.mp) <p>Quarter 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • end of year newsletter - 2023.pdf (rochdalesafeguarding.com) <p>Promotion of social media linked to the CSPR work:</p> <p>https://rochdalesafeguarding.com/p/campaigns/dog-safety</p> <p>https://rochdalesafeguarding.com/p/campaigns/safer-sleeping-for-babies-advice-during-safer-sleep-week</p> <p>Following a number of reviews completed by the RBSCP on Intra-Familial Sexual Abuse (ISFA) the RBSCP developed a multi-agency train the trainer 1 day course on IFSA</p> <p>The RBSCP also commissioned further a multi-agency Violence against Women and Girls train the trainer course.</p> <p>Both training courses can be found here: Rochdale Safeguarding Partnership - Training Arrangement</p> <p>Chair of subgroup left in March 2024. A review of subgroup occurred in May 2024 where findings were that the subgroup was not effective in sharing specific CSPR learning or links to recommendations. RBSCP social media was the main conduit for safeguarding messages however, RBSCP social media had limited engagement when compared to statutory safeguarding partner numbers. A decision has been made to disband this subgroup and ensure safeguarding comms & engagement is a facet of all RBSCP subgroups.</p>
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Subgroup specific data information.	
 <p>Communications Safeguarding Awaren</p>	

Summary of Risk Register review	
<p>(Risk)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of safeguarding in the Borough of Rochdale • Residents unable to recognise safeguarding risks or how to raise a concern. • Regular communication of wide ranging safeguarding messages, utilising different media formats co-ordinated by subgroup. • Regular safeguarding campaigns occur utilising different formats. 	

Subgroup chair commentary	
<p>The RBSCP strives to ensure that effective messages are shared across the Borough to enable all too safeguarding children and young people of the Borough.</p>	

Subgroup Deputy Chair signature: 

Date: July 2024

RBSCP Subgroup quarterly report.

Subgroup name:	Complex Safeguarding
Reporting quarter:	Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4
Number of meetings in quarter:	One meeting in a quarter four for the full year

Subgroup Chair:	<i>Abu Siddique, CSC Assistant Director</i>
Subgroup Deputy:	<i>Stuart Round, GMP Detective Chief Inspector</i>

Subgroup members

Agency	Role	Name
Children Social Care	Head of Ehash, Duty & Assessment & Complex Safeguarding	Tracy Chatterton
Children Social Care	Practice Manager, Complex Safeguarding	Rozanne Stevens
Children Service	Head of Schools, Early Help & Schools	Katie Charlton
ASC	Health and Social Care Neighbourhood Lead	Claire Gibbs
GMCA	Social Work Practice Lead, GM Complex Safeguarding Hub	Nik Autumn
Early Help and Schools Children Service	Education Safeguarding Officer	Hayley Reynolds
HMR ICB	Adult Safeguarding Designated Professional	Alyson Harvey
HMR ICB	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children	Sarah Boulter
NCA	Named Midwife for Safeguarding	Rebecca Oatway
	Named Nurse Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children	Lynsey Johnson
NCA	Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children & Cared for Children	Michelle Whitewick
NCA	Midwifery Manager for Complex Social Needs and Perinatal Mental Health	Laura Watterson
RBH	Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Victoria Wardleworth

Attendance of statutory membership including Education representation within year to date (%)							
CSC	100%	GMP	50%	ICB	100%	Education	50%

Subgroup activity within quarter

Overview and activity headlines by quarter.

The Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children's Partnership and The Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adult Board (RBSCP/RBSAB) are multi-agency partnerships, which are made up of a wide range of statutory, independent, voluntary agencies and organisations who are committed to protecting and supporting children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in, or at risk of, exploitation.

Through a coordinated, holistic, multi-agency response, we are committed to playing a key role within the partnership in tackling all age Criminal/Sexual Exploitation, Modern Slavery/Trafficking/OCG and Missing. Thus ensuring there is a consistent inclusive approach of young people transitioning into adults that raises public and professional awareness, prevents/reduces harm and ultimately brings offenders to justice.



Complex
Safeguarding Strategy

Quarter 1:-

- *The Harmful Sexual Behaviour has been signed off and is now on the Rochdale Safeguarding Website and GM Tri-X Policy and Procedure website.*
- *GM Complex Safeguarding are undertaking a Peer Review, Rochdale's will take place from the 26th June.*

Quarter 2 :-

- *Work was being undertaken by the GM complex safeguarding team whereby the Complex Safeguarding principles and the Tackling Child Exploitation (TCE) principles including the Adolescent Safeguarding Framework, has been agreed at GM level that the TCE principles will be compared to the ACT principles used by Rochdale and embed the missing factors.*
- *A visit was held with West Belfast police and community safeguarding partnership regarding CSE and the sunrise model. West Belfast has a continuing issue regarding CSE and have asked Rochdale to provide provision. The visit was well received and West Belfast have requested that a team from Rochdale visit them to continue the support.*
- *The Weapons Protocol – following meeting to agree and endorse, it was agreed that Rochdale utilise the GM violence reduction programme which has the function to incorporate the Rochdale policies and procedures, this will ensure all agencies across the borough are provided with cohesive and concise support. The ownership of the document was questioned as the referrals linked to violence reduction needs to be held by a multi-agency group for governance. It has been agreed that it will sit with the Community Safety Partnership.*

Quarter 3:-

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A thematic audit is scheduled to look at poor school attendance and if there is an increase in criminality, what support they have been provided. • July/august reports of missing were down. 50% return home interviews were completed • GMCA starting a scoping project regarding HBA – feedback will be provided as it progresses. <p>Quarter 4:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The complex safeguarding team has recently completed a visit to west Belfast to present the Sunrise model and how we work in Rochdale as a partnership. West Belfast will be taking the learning from the Independent Review into CSE report and implementing that in their area. This is an ongoing relationship with West Belfast as more work has been planned. • Funding from GMCA, Rochdale (with help from Hopwood Hall College, the Youth Service and Early Break) is developing a young people's exploitation strategy. This will be done via an expression of art and an artist will be commissioned to work with students from Hopwood Hall. <p>Summarise what is working well / challenges within subgroup activity.</p> <p>Quarter 4:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Independent Review into CSE report (part 3) was published on the 15th January. There has been a coordinated partnership response to this, which included community impact assessment meetings, a telephone helpline which crossed over between adult and children's social care. • In the final quarter of the financial year, the subgroup had lost some of the focus as defined in the strategy and action plan; therefore, it was agreed at an Executive Partner level to refocus the objective of the CSSG to be a children and young people subgroup with Adult representatives for transition. The focus of the subgroup will be on CSE/CCE/OCG and Trafficking, MDS and Missing's. • HBA working group developed training and development of a GM HBA conference
<p>Safeguarding Reviews (CSPR):</p> <p>Have any activities occurred that support the implementation of CSPR recommendations?</p>	<p>Quarter 1 - The review and development of the Harmful Sexual Behaviour Policy – publication on Tri-X June 2023</p>
<p>Statutory Activity:</p> <p>Has any statutory activity, such as Section 11 assessment, occurred within quarter?</p>	<p>Summary of activity and outcomes. Embed reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation Challenger and changes to NRM <div> </div> <p>Changes to NRM Decision Making.docx</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>GM adolescent safeguarding framework</i> • <i>Young Person Sexual Health offer</i> <div> </div> <p>Young People's Sexual Health Offer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Challenger County lines week of action is taking place in March, alongside the CSE awareness day.</i>
	<p><i>The statutory Section 11 assessment in 2024. The CSSG will contribute as required to this.</i></p>

Subgroup specific data information.

- *Data for Rochdale – CSE cases are currently higher than CCE. It was noted that that CCE has had a slight change in that there seems to be more community themes, i.e. older males being seen in public with young girls or older males abusing their position of power. It was also added that although CCE themes seem to be shifting, it is a positive that the reports/referrals are being made.*
- *There has been an Increase in serious youth violence which have crossovers with Complex Safeguarding. There is a new project lead within serious youth violence – professional links are being made.*
- *There were 95 reports of children missing, 64 of these were Rochdale children. There has been a decrease in return interviews being completed, work is ongoing to identify why.*

Summary of Risk Register review

Status of current risks: New and emerging complex safeguarding needs are not explored, understood or prevented.

New risks identified: Complex strategy has been refreshed 2023. Action Plan produced and responsibility allocated. Complex Safeguarding subgroup responsible for co-ordinating action plan and sharing intelligence with RBSCP members.

Mitigations from subgroup: Too early in process for comments. Complex has new Chair and redevelopment of group activity is underway. (last quarter of the year).

Subgroup chair commentary

I have started chairing the group from October 2023. This group continues to have strategic oversight of the complex safeguarding operational work that takes place within the borough. Our focus is to strengthen the quality of practice by ensuring all agencies have high standards of training and development opportunities to their workforce.

This groups aims to have a good understanding to the effectiveness of complex safeguarding and its impact on children and young people within the borough. We will work collaboratively with the Safeguarding Practice and

Quality Assurance subgroup to undertake multiagency audits to identify areas of good practice, as well as the areas we need to further improve.

Following the changes introduced by the Executive Partners, I will work closely with RBSAB to ensure a smooth transition of young people children to adults' services.

Subgroup Chair signature:



Date:

30th July 2024

Executive Group Feedback

Add commentary regarding Executive Group discussions, guidance or advice on specific items raised from quarterly report.



CSSG approved
change - Executive.doc

RBSCP Membership Activity 2023/24

The following reports aim to provide information how RBSCP Statutory Partners and key RBSCP members, have worked as single agencies to ensure safeguarding is everyone's business and what they have done to ensure a high level of practice and achieve the agreed multi-agency priorities.

Agency: GMP
Completed By: DI 15099 Matt NOLAND

Date: 22/07/24

RBSCP Priorities 2023-2024 – Single Agency key headlines.

Child Neglect. Sub-priorities: Revised strategy & toolkit, critical thinking – assessment & planning, early help.

There has been a consistent drive for improvement in all areas of child protection throughout the past 12 months, at both force and district levels. Priorities have been to increase knowledge, increase staffing, and improve training to uniform and specialist officers. There has been a dedicated child protection cell at force level striving to improve policies, procedures, training and staffing.

Child Protection is now at the forefront of the Daily Management Meeting / vulnerability meeting with all child related logs having been reviewed by child protection DI / DS. The child protection e-book has been firmly established and serves as a learning and skills hub / advice / best practice guide at all levels in order to ensure a consistent and professional approach to child protection matters.

The force recognised a gap in the knowledge and learning of less experienced officers dealing with PIP 1 investigations. This has seen the creation of a C-CAT PIP 1 Detective Sergeant on each district. They review all the relevant PIP 1 child protection investigations, make decisions on appropriate allocation and provide bespoke action plans and guidance throughout an investigation.

The C-CAT role was previously completed by CPIU triage staff. It was recognised that there was insufficient staffing in order to effectively provide the level of review and guidance necessary for PIP 1 investigators. As such, the C-CAT wasn't as effective as it should've been. The creation of the C-CAT PIP 1 DS has also enabled us at a district level to build our resilience and provide cover for any absences of the CPIU triage DS.

The C-CAT PIP 1 DS works closely with all relevant departments and is based at the police station mainly with the DIT – District Investigation Team – who deal with the PIP 1 investigations after initial investigation by Response colleagues.

The C-CAT PIP 1 DS has been working to improve the knowledge of uniform officers. This involved a number of key areas of training. They have reinvigorated the training provided to the team's safeguarding SPOCs ensuring that there remain adequately skilled officers on each team with safeguarding training.

As a district, one of our priorities was to provide training to uniform officers in a number of identified areas. This was a multi-agency approach also involving the LADO due to knowledge gaps having been identified from officers in terms of the role of the LADO. CPIU triage officers provided training in relation to their role, submission and expectations around CAPs (care plans) and importance of all relevant information. CPIU detective officers also provided training to pass on their expertise and assistance. This training was rolled out to all uniform colleagues. This was later supplemented by force training. The force wanted to ensure that training was provided consistently across the force.

At Rochdale, we had ensured a strong, collaborative approach to child protection training. Nevertheless, the force training served to provide further training in a number of key areas for Response, Neighbourhood and DIT staff.

Such areas were;

- Voice of the Child / ACE's / Trauma informed Practice.

- **Appropriate language (Victim blaming, adultification).**
- Roles and responsibilities PIP1 DS / MASH / Complex.
- **Understanding of cumulative risk.**
- Wider safeguarding – The role of LADO, Trusted adult.
- **CAP grading by front line / CAP grading by MASH.**
- Philomena protocol, definition of high risk MFH (serious harm)
- **PPP - Inspectors ongoing responsibilities, suitable accommodation**
- Complex Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR)
- **CP eBook.**

CPIU triage

In addition to the training provided as above, there has been a recognition of the need for more training for specialist officers. Role specific training has been provided for CPIU triage staff to ensure consistent and best practice approach to triage of care plans.

It was identified that there was a delay in identifying risk when triaging care plans. Detective Inspectors and Detective Sergeants attended a force work shop to discuss this alongside other key issues to discuss best way forward.

Improvements were identified in risk rating of care plans. As such, when triaging care plans from overnight, the high risk care plans can be easily identified and prioritised.

Crime Management Teams

It has been identified that there has been a lack of training for Case Conference Leads who attend the child protection conferences. As such, there has been force led training and feedback to the governance unit around bespoke training to create a consistent approach amongst practitioners.

PIP 2

There has been a review of the training required for all child protection officers and additional courses supplied to ensure that officers are being progressed through the Introduction to Child Protection and SCAIDP courses. There is now a force held tracker to monitor child protection staff and the training that they have and need. There was a force directive that all child protection units be fully staffed meaning that at Rochdale the vacancies were filled to ensure a more able response to PIP 2 investigations. There continues to be strong governance of PIP 2 investigations though the Rochdale Crime and Vulnerability Board.

Audits and inspections

The focus on improvement has seen a number of multi-agency and single agency audits. The EHASH strategic board has directed a number of audits following on from JTAI. There are monthly multi agency meetings.

There have been further audits from the governance unit with specified areas of improvement which have been implemented.

There has been dip sampling inspections of public protection inboxes and it was identified that crimes hadn't been submitted in accordance with National Crime Recording Standards. As such, there has been further training for all CPIU triage staff around this area.

Child Sexual Abuse. Sub-priorities: Identification of risk & need, responding to risks, increasing workforce knowledge of risk.

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There is a particular focus on any wanted or locate trace suspects to ensure that all safeguarding has been addressed

There are weekly RAOSO information packs and meetings in order to review the latest child sexual abuse cases and to ensure that there has been an effective initial response and allocation to appropriate resource.

Audits and inspections

The focus on improvement has seen a number of multi-agency and single agency audits. The EHASH strategic board has directed a number of audits following on from JTAI. There are monthly multi agency meetings. There have been further audits from the governance unit with specified areas of improvement which have been implemented.

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Domestic Abuse. Sub-priorities: Identification of risk & need, understanding the impact of domestic abuse on children.

Operation Relentless continues to be the forefront of Rochdale's response to Domestic Abuse. Domestic Abuse features as part of the Vulnerability section of the Daily Management Meeting.

Operation Encompass has been identified locally as an area for improvement. There has been repeated reminders and training to officers as part of the district and force PIP1 training programmes. This has focussed on the importance of Operation Encompass and that it is now a statutory requirement. There is a clear district governance plan around Operation Encompass to ensure that the performance of those consistently failing to comply have their performance addressed.

The daily high risk Domestic Abuse meeting ensures a multi-agency approach and quick time review of those cases where children may be affected by Domestic Abuse.

The Voice of the Child features prominently throughout the training to officers and the introduction of the C-CAT PIP 1 DS has served to reinforce key messages and learning.

Safeguarding Adolescents. Sub-priorities: Complex safeguarding, transition to adult services, missing children.

There has been a consistent drive for improvement in all areas of child protection throughout the past 12 months, at both force and district levels. Priorities have been to increase knowledge, increase staffing, and improve training to uniform and specialist officers. There has been a dedicated child protection cell at force level striving to improve policies, procedures, training and staffing.

Child Protection is now at the forefront of the Daily Management Meeting / vulnerability meeting with all child related logs having been reviewed by child protection DI / DS.

Rochdale's response to Complex Safeguarding concerns is swift, those logs identified and allocated prior to the Daily Management meeting.

The co-location of the police and social services Complex Safeguarding teams enables effective joint working. The child protection e-book has been firmly established and serves as a learning and skills hub / advice / best practice guide at all levels in order to ensure a consistent and professional approach to child protection matters.

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There has been a recognition from the force of the need to more closely align GMP with the national college of policing guidance when it comes to Missing from Homes including those where Complex Safeguarding concerns exist. This has led to a change in the language used when those who have been missing are then returned and the focus to prevent any future recurrences.

All risk assessments in relation to any missing person /child must be completed by an Inspector to ensure that there is appropriate focus and assessment of risk to the missing from home.

There continues to be a strong collaborative approach to Complex Safeguarding with a number of proactive and reactive significant operations and investigations.

Single agency Inspection findings & agency response 2023-2024

PIP 1 response required improvement.

GMP response;

Introduction of additional 12 Detective Sergeant posts, one per district, for PIP 1.

District training programme

Force training programme

Child protection e-book

CPIU triage

Lack of training

GMP response;

Force training programme for triage officers

More training courses for practitioners, especially around PNC and PND courses, necessary for triage staff to effectively and promptly do their role.

Underreporting of crime from public protection inbox

GMP response;

NCRS training

Increased dip sampling and feedback from Force Crime Registrar

PIP 2 response

Lack of adequate staffing and training

Increased staffing so fully staffed

Increased courses to enable officers to attend

PIP 2 crime management

Continued robust management of PIP 2 investigations

Other safeguarding key headlines and achievements 2023-2024

GMP has introduced its new Child Centred Policing Strategy, the latest aspect of that being the requirement for Child supervisor requirement prior to arrests of children. Many elements of good practice identified through audits in addition to areas of improvement where learning has been implemented.

Child protection is at the forefront of force and district priorities.

Rochdale continues to lead the way in terms of its influence in these areas.

Northern Ireland officers recently visited Rochdale to on-board ideas and processes in relation to Complex Safeguarding.

PIP 2 response remains strong and there is a reinforced response to PIP 1 to enable a better advised and supported response.

RBSCP Priorities 2023-2024 – Single Agency key headlines.

Child Neglect. Sub-priorities: Revised strategy & toolkit, critical thinking – assessment & planning, early help.

The above-named health agencies are supportive of the neglect strategy in HMR and tailor their provision to ensure neglect is considered when assessing level of need and making decisions. This is completed in several ways:

Training

Neglect is included in level 3 training packages offered by both NCA and PCFT which references the local strategy and toolkit. The neighbourhood training provision to Primary care by NHS GM ICB is moving toward being offered through the local provider collaborative (Local care Organisation / LCO). This package has an in-depth section regarding child neglect which links to a local Rochdale case with local learning being shared in the sessions. Where Primary Care services access level 3 training via private providers, they can access the RBSCP website for local information and additional training sessions to meet their statutory requirements. Pertinent issues are communicated weekly through GP comms which includes additional training and / or key messages. Through the same method, GPs have access to the neglect toolkit which supports them with specific tools or resources for assessing and addressing child neglect.

Audit

Audit schedules are discussed for PCFT and NCA at least quarterly during assurance meetings. NCA complete bi-annual audits of records to ensure that capturing the Voice of The Child is embedded in practice, and the use of genograms to support Think Family. NHS GM ICB have a GM-wide audit schedule. There is also a locality audit schedule within HMR for 2024-2025 which includes several different themes, incorporating neglect and auditing of the DSR (dynamic support register) in ensuring our vulnerable children with additional needs are safe. For the 23-24 period, audits focussed on MARAC referrals, children with LDA receiving annual health checks & QA of IHA /RHA's for CFC. Neglect is a theme which runs through all of these.

Attendance to meetings

Representation from all the above agencies can be evidenced at local strategic meetings where neglect is discussed either directly or indirectly, for example, meetings regarding review of the threshold document and implementation of the family safeguarding model. As part of this initiative the school nurses and health visitors either have completed the motivational Interviewing training or will do so 2024-2025. Think Family is being promoted through training delivered by the Specialist Safeguarding Nurses and links continue to be promoted with the adult safeguarding team regarding Think Family and referrals when appropriate.

EHASH

The details regarding Rochdale EHASH and any changes have been cascaded within health services and continue to be promoted to all staff to ensure conversations and actions are initiated if new or emerging concerns are identified with Neglect. EHASH has moved premises this year and is now co-located with the rest of the social work body and a number of other services in the same building (inclusive of targeted school health). This has enabled more cohesive and joined up working as face-to-face discussions are easier to hold, which also supports challenge & difficult conversations.

The NCA EHASH health workers provide health information to inform assessments of need & risk, attend the daily High Risk domestic abuse meetings and attend MARAC. They share information with health colleagues. EHASH practitioners in Rochdale also work as Early Help Practitioners and if referral is health related they will complete the assessment with 24 hours and return to Children's Social Care for management oversight. This is in line with the Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership Child Neglect Strategy 2022 – 2025. The EHASH practitioner attends team meetings for Health Visitors and School Nurses to support with Early Help and Neglect assessments and delivers training around the neglect toolkit.

Supervision

Both NCA and PCFT have a formal supervision offer to their frontline staff, some staff (those working directly with families needing above universal support), are mandated to receive quarterly supervision. Both agencies record this and report back to NHS GM through quarterly reports & assurance meetings. Compliance remains excellent.

Supervision is offered on an ad hoc basis across the wider health economy, inclusive of primary care by NHS GM and forms part of the statutory role for Designated Nurses to provide support to Named staff in our larger provider services. This is also recorded and reported to NHSE through GM. The contacts from primary care to the ICB safeguarding team for 23-24 has decreased in volume from 22-23 and although this indicates there have been fewer discussions regarding safeguarding issues, it also could be argued that primary care staff are contacting EHASH directly which is positive and would indicate those partnerships and pathways are strengthening.

Assurance

Assurance processes have continued for the year 23-24 with NHSGM holding regular meetings with all health providers to ensure statutory duties are fulfilled. For larger providers, this means quarterly meetings to review any action plans and for GPs and smaller providers, these have been followed up as necessary with action plans when required. The process is due to change for Primary Care for 24-25 so will need to be reported differently for next year however there are no escalations for this reporting period.

Child Sexual Abuse. Sub-priorities: Identification of risk & need, responding to risks, increasing workforce knowledge of risk.

As with neglect, child sexual abuse is a topic covered within the level 3 safeguarding training packages accessed by all agencies. In NCA, in addition to the mandated session, members of the safeguarding team have attended training to ensure recognition and response to CSA is a high priority with high quality support offered by the team. Supervision mentioned above is also used to support frontline staff who are working with children & families where CSA has been indicated.

There are two Specialist Nurses for Complex Safeguarding who sit in NCA and they work as part of the multi-agency Complex Safeguarding Team, contributing to all aspects of care and support offered to young people at risk of CCE/CSE. They deliver health care and assessments such as review health assessments for Cared for Children at risk of CCE/CSE. The specialist nurses for CSE/CCE recognise the importance of the impact of Child Sexual Abuse on this cohort of young people and work closely with multi-agency colleagues, community and acute services to ensure appropriate response when CSA concerns are known or suspected within the complex safeguarding arena.

The CSE specialist nurses deliver on site training to staff in the Urgent Treatment Centre to raise awareness and improve recognition and response to concerns regarding Child Sexual Abuse. There is also a Youth Justice Service Nurse who works as part of the multi-agency youth justice team. She has a drop-in clinic and offers contraception at a monthly clinic held with HRCG.

One of the Specialist Complex Safeguarding Nurses has completed the partnership train the trainer course on Intra-familial sexual abuse and delivers this both in multi-agency sessions through the partnership and also internally to any NCA health teams who require updates, to raise awareness & increase knowledge. This training was introduced following a thematic review in Rochdale around intra-familial sexual abuse. The nurse also attended a school nurse away day in September 2023 to deliver additional training and to build on the strong working relationship that exists between the two services in recognition of the overlap in care delivery by these two services for young people at risk of CSE/CCE.

In PCFT, The Safeguarding team offer oversight on any safeguarding incident that has been made which includes disclosures of sexual abuse and historical sexual abuse cases. The safeguarding practitioners will offer advice, support and guidance to practitioners that have emerging concerns through supervision. The safeguarding team offer a duty service for staff members to discuss concerns and they offer advice with concerns. Historic sexual abuse cases are a consistent emerging theme, therefore PCFT have offered additional guidance in relation to this and have linked with GMP to ensure they work collaboratively.

In primary care there has been an emphasis on identification of Risk & Need, including enhancing awareness and vigilance among professionals to recognise signs of child sexual abuse and promoting early identification through training and collaboration. All RBSCP training is available to Primary Care staff and although the uptake from GP's is relatively small, the ICB team continue to promote sessions through weekly comms and verbally where possible.

All health providers will support the sharing of the messages from the learning brief for the thematic review once this has been agreed by the PRSG.



Draft Extended
Learning Brief - Ther

Domestic Abuse. Sub-priorities: Identification of risk & need, understanding the impact of domestic abuse on children.

As with the other priorities, domestic abuse forms part of the level 3 training packages delivered to all providers with many of them also offering additional training sessions. PCFT has been co-facilitating Violence Against Women and Girls Training (there was pilot before Christmas for Police officers, and now rolled out to others working in Rochdale services) as part of that partnership. PCFT have also offered to co-facilitate the Domestic Abuse Training as part of their commitment to the partnership offer.

In NCA the school nursing team have received training by the domestic abuse team in completion of the DASH risk assessment, and an IDVA attended one of their team meetings to raise awareness of their role in supporting victims of domestic abuse.

Referral to children's social care is expected in all cases where children are known to be involved, with this being reviewed in supervision sessions where DA is identified.

In 2023/24, 40 DASH forms were completed by Rochdale Care Organisation staff. Work is on-going to increase recognition and response of Domestic Abuse and increase staff confidence in completing DASH forms. MARAC is attended by one of the EHASH practitioners on behalf of Rochdale care Organisation and attendance at the daily high-risk meetings was maintained throughout 2023/24.

Work has been undertaken across the health economy to try to support representation at MARAC, with further work to be completed. Currently all the above agencies are represented however it has been identified that there is duplication across some of the information shared. A local NHS GM audit of MARAC attendance in 23-24 was undertaken and identified some recommendations which need to be worked through. With changes to the NHS GM ICB structure, work is on-going locally around where DA practitioners in the team best sit to ensure best outcomes for families locally.



MARAC Audit Jan
2024 FINAL.docx

In 2023/24 the NCA secured funding jointly from the Home Office and Standing Together to employ a Domestic Abuse Coordinator for Bury and Rochdale. The coordinator's role includes development of domestic abuse champions in Rochdale (and Bury), with specific training being delivered to support them in their role. The coordinator is employed by Safe Lives and hosted by NCA. The initial focus of the champions training is on maternity services. The appointee commenced in role in April 2024 so there is a work plan in place for the coming year.

Both NCA and PCFT have played an active part in ensuring that Domestic Abuse is a key priority and have been contributing to the Rochdale Domestic Abuse Partnership meetings & action plans.

The DA team within NHS GM (HMR) have offered all GP practices within HMR and visit to support on DASH completion and domestic abuse in general, with most taking up this offer. In addition to this the above audit was also undertaken, with a plan to repeat this for the 24-25 period. The structure of safeguarding teams within NHS GM is, as yet unknown with there likely being some movement of staff to ensure equity across the GM footprint. To that end, work continues to ensure a safe and effective provision around DA in HMR.

Safeguarding Adolescents. Sub-priorities: Complex safeguarding, transition to adult services, missing children.

The Designated Nurse for Safeguarding children in HMR is also the GM workstream lead for complex safeguarding and sits on the GM complex safeguarding steering group, which has links to both the GM adolescent hub and GM transitional safeguarding working group. This enables greater awareness, links and smooth transfer of information from GM into HMR (and other localities). The Designated Nurse also sits on the complex safeguarding sub-group for the partnership and attends the locality 'preparing for adulthood' working group helping to join up this work which is important as it is both a Rochdale and GM priority.

NHS GM have been involved in the 4th report of the Mayoral review into CSE which was initially focused on historic CSE cases in HMR. An overview is due to be shared at the GM Safeguarding Leadership meeting in September 2024, delays have been due to the general election. This will link to the complex safeguarding strategy and support any actions going forward both regionally & locally.

In NCA, the Cared for Children's team provide oversight for all health assessments for children in care in Rochdale and also for children cared for by Rochdale but living out of area. There is a specialist nurse who provides health interventions including completion of most RHAs for over 16s. Health passports are completed and shared with Cared for Children who are turning 18 to support them in their transition to adulthood and provide health information about them and their parents that they may not otherwise be able to access. In HMR, the Designated Nurse for Cared for Children has also been integral to the work on free NHS prescriptions for care experienced young people up to the age of 25 years and supported the development of the Bee Connected care leaver app.

The work of the complex safeguarding nurses incorporates all aspects of safeguarding, partially described above in relation to child sexual abuse but also covering a much wider remit including completion of health assessment for Cared for Children and offering support with health issues identified in the course of their work.

The school nursing service provide Cared for Children's health assessments and health interventions for those who remain in education and support this cohort of young people at risk of CSE/CCE. Missing from home notifications are received by the school nursing service who review all notifications and the young person's records. Liaison then takes place with health practitioners who the young person may be open to and the relevant school to ensure cohesive and joined up working. Wider partner agencies are also included.

NHS GM, NCA and PCFT have representation at the complex safeguarding sub-group and cascade any pertinent information to appropriate services. Plans are in place for Primary care to be included going forward. PCFT have made a commitment to ensure Transitional services is a priority for 2024-2025 as this has been a key theme that has emerged from child safeguarding practice reviews locally, regionally & nationally.

Single agency Inspection findings & agency response 2023-2024

NCA

Specific work is done based on NAAS/CAAS internal inspections where knowledge of actions relating to domestic abuse, or any safeguarding elements are rated as amber. In 2023 to 2024 there were no red or amber CAAS ratings for safeguarding children in school nursing and one red for one health visiting team relating to documentation which was addressed via an action plan which has now been completed.

Safeguarding record keeping audits are carried out on HV and SN records yearly and where necessary action plans are agreed with teams. Themes identified are the use of genograms and ensuring demographic details are correct and complete.

Clinical peer reviews for registered staff are carried out yearly where practitioners shadow another registered practitioner and receive feedback on practice and record keeping which includes safeguarding elements.

Other safeguarding key headlines and achievements 2023-2024

NCA

New and improved RHA documentation was introduced 2023 to 2024 which has impacted positively on completion of RHAs with less duplication and more evidence of a child focussed interaction.

QA court report training has been delivered to the Band 7s in the 0 to 19 team, this training is delivered NCA wide and on a rolling programme to ensure all staff responsible for Quality Assuring court reports are confident in doing so to maintain the provision of high-quality reports.

One of the CSE/CCE specialist nurses travelled to Northern Ireland in January 2024 to share their expertise working with children at risk of CSE/CCE alongside their colleagues from police and social care. The team presented to a approx. 100 delegates regarding the Sunrise model.

A new Named Nurse for Safeguarding and Cared for Children in NCA commenced in October 2023 and has worked hard to build relationships within the safeguarding team and the wider multi-agency team.

Promoting ICON remains a priority for Rochdale Care Organisation. Information is now included in all contacts with under 1s by 0 to 19 practitioners, this is recorded on Systm1. There have been two ICON Weeks (September 2023 and March 2024) focussing on this important topic with members of the safeguarding team targeting key areas such as UTC and 0 to 19 to ensure as many staff as possible are trained in delivering this message to parents and carers. ICON is now a mandatory conversation for all new birth visits with further conversations where possible after that. The mandatory conversation is recorded on Systm1 (electronic patient record) and compliance is 100%.

RCO sit on the multi-agency learning and sharing community with RCO providing representation at meetings regularly. Examples of learning shared in 2023 to 2024 are the use of the new child neglect strategy and input from health regarding their role in response to domestic abuse and the application of the domestic abuse strategy.

Work has been undertaken to increase health representation at strategy meetings. School nurse attendance at strategy meetings has now increased to 97% in 2023 / 2024 which is a marked improvement on the previous year which at times was as low as 50%. This was raised in the February 2023 Locality Ofsted inspection and was identified as an improvement in the 2024 JTAI.

The school nursing team are now based in Riverside alongside social care colleagues, this has resulted in better outcomes for children due to improved working relationships and communication with partner agencies.

GM NHS ICB also provided a summary report of how they have met their organisational, statutory safeguarding obligations. The report is found on the next page.

NHS GM Safeguarding Partnership/Board overview

NHS GM Safeguarding

NHS Greater Manchester (GM) has continued to discharge our statutory safeguarding duties throughout 2023-24 in relation to safeguarding babies, children, young people and adults at risk.

The NHS GM Chief Nurse holds the statutory accountability for safeguarding and is supported by the Deputy Chief Nurse and Associate Director of Safeguarding. Statutory safeguarding responsibilities are delegated to the Associate Director of Quality and Safety in each of the GM localities and delivery of the statutory functions are undertaken by the locality Designated Teams.

NHS GM is able to demonstrate that there are appropriate safeguarding governance systems in place for discharging their statutory safeguarding duties and functions in line with the following key legislation:

- Care Act 2014
- Children Act 1989 and 2004,
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- Working together to Safeguard Children 2023.

The NHSE Safeguarding and Accountability and Assurance Framework (SAAF 2022) provides the strategic framework for ensuring strategic system oversight of safeguarding priorities. Assurance and oversight of these duties is maintained via the NHS GM.

NHSE requires the ICB to submit an annual response to the requirements of the Safeguarding Assurance & Accountability Framework (SAAF) to provide assurance of its arrangements. An overview of our detailed activity will be provided in the annual NHS GM Safeguarding Report 2023-24 to be published in quarter 2 of this financial year 2024-25 which will be accessed via our website. As part of the SAAF process the ICB must ensure that health services across the system have effective safeguarding arrangements in place.

Governance

The NHS GM safeguarding governance structure has supported an integrated model for the delivery of the safeguarding functions with the opportunity for continuing system change throughout 2023-24 and has ensured and promoted system oversight. Safeguarding is embedded within the overarching NHS GM quality governance structure. The Quality Committee receives safeguarding updates covering the ICB's approach to delivering safeguarding statutory functions, changes in the NHS Safeguarding Accountability and Assurance Framework 2022 (SAAF) and aspects of learning from safeguarding reviews and the ICB system response. The ICB accountabilities for safeguarding are noted by the committee which recognises the need for delivery and collaboration across the ten Places. The Quality Committee is sighted on any emerging themes and risks including the required actions to improve and strengthen arrangements.

Safeguarding Delivery Functions

The delivery of statutory safeguarding functions is undertaken via an integrated system wide safeguarding model aligned to the statutory functions and priority work areas within the SAAF (2022). This has promoted the opportunity for transformation across the ICS footprint and supported integrated working. National, regional and local reviews and independent inquiry recommendations are incorporated within the safeguarding delivery plan and form part of our system assurance.

Safeguarding assurance

NHS GM has a statutory responsibility for ensuring safe systems of care are delivered and to ensure that all health providers with whom they commission, discharge their functions regarding safeguarding and the promotion of welfare of children, young people and adults at risk. Effective safeguarding arrangements are in place to ensure oversight of provider safeguarding assurance via the annual 2023-24 Greater Manchester Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk – Contractual Standards which provide the safeguarding audit framework used to monitor all NHS and Non-NHS providers of health care. The statutory assurance processes set out in the SAAF (2022) have been adhered to.

Safeguarding Partnerships and Boards

NHS GM has maintained the CCG statutory duties across the GM Safeguarding Children Partnerships as one of the equal and joint statutory partners (Local Authority, ICBs and Chief Officer of police) and as a statutory partner for the GM Adult Safeguarding Boards. Full representation has been maintained at Safeguarding Children's Partnerships, Safeguarding Adult's Boards, and associated subgroup meetings, to fulfil and discharge both commissioning and statutory safeguarding responsibilities. This has enabled the ICB to work with its partners to ensure learning from local and national child death and safeguarding reviews has influenced and strengthened practice.

The locality area annual reports set out how NHS GM will work together with other agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults in GM.

RBSCP Priorities 2023-2024 – Single Agency key headlines.

Child Neglect. Sub-priorities: Revised strategy & toolkit, critical thinking – assessment & planning, early help.

FSP:

- Family Safeguarding model is enabling working with families to take an integrated multi-agency way to address Neglect.
- Aligning the FSP teams with dedicated Family Support workers is supporting work with families where neglect is a concern.
- Joint peer supervisions to enable a holistic approach of sharing information and joint decision making.
- Progressing to a Neighbourhood Model will enable better multi-agency working and identification of support for families who step down to EH ensuring the right level of support is delivered at a more meaningful level.

D&A:

- EHASH has moved from the Police Station to Number One Riverside. CWD have joined EHASH and plans are well underway for education to join the team. Links with partner agencies have strengthened.
- There has been focus on timely good quality assessments ensuring there is no drift in the assessment process and timely plans are in place for the families.
- Transfer meetings established to ensure timely transfers for children who have child protection plans of child in need plans to FSP to ensure that families receive seamless services.
- Multi-agency audits take place to consider key themes and feed back into EHASH Strategic Board

Early Help/Early Years

- Revised Early Help Assessment now contains link to Neglect Screening Tool and prompts practitioners to consider neglect during the assessment.
- Voice of children & young people is clearly identified and recorded in Early Help Assessments and subsequent Team Around The Family Meetings.
- Lived Experience and Voice of child/young person is specifically recorded in all early help case notes and case supervision.
- Work began in partnership with EHASH to develop a new portal which provides links to Early Help support Step down to Early Help process in place to support ongoing pieces of work and interventions following Child in Need episodes ending to provide ongoing early help and universal support.
- Early help briefings and promotion delivered at DSL conferences/meetings, RAEYPH conferences.
- Moved 10 SFKW posts to the Family support & protection teams in CSC to work with children and young people at CIN/CP & CLA
- Safer sleep training has been delivered to all Family Hub staff.

Child Sexual Abuse. Sub-priorities: Identification of risk & need, responding to risks, increasing workforce knowledge of risk.

- Rochdale children's services has delivered interfamilial sexual harm training across the service to ensure all worker and managers have a robust understanding of intra-familial sexual abuse and understand how to use the toolkit in response.
- Family Safeguarding enables a holistic professional approach when working with families affected by sexual abuse.
- Legal gateway has adopted a more robust approach in relation to making earlier decisions for children to safeguard them.
- Training has taken place to ensure workers have an understanding of the SHB pathway when responding to referrals

Early Help/Early Years

- Learning from Safeguarding Children reviews has been shared at Quality Assurance, Manager and team meetings.
- Early help managers have been involved in Rapid reviews and disseminated learning to management teams.

Domestic Abuse. Sub-priorities: Identification of risk & need, understanding the impact of domestic abuse on children.

Domestic Abuse constitutes the highest number of contacts received through the front door within children services. In the last 12 months, the service received 3428 contacts through the Early Help and Safeguarding hub (EHASH). 666 of these domestic abuse contacts transferring into children's social care for further assessment and 247 being closed with an offer of early help.

The Police have continued to be our highest referring agency for domestic abuse equating to 2696 (79%) of the referrals. The statistic of this data were 156 contacts deemed standard risk, 2073 were medium risk and 1197 high risk.

Children's service have now fully embed the theory of change approach after the launch in Rochdale children's services in October 2022. This approach is ensuring victims are not blamed for the abuse, those that harm are offered a platform for change and children are offered specialist support as victims in their own right as per Keeping Children Safe in Education.

We have developed a tool kit for practitioners to use to identify and respond to domestic abuse. Alongside this, we have created a training offer for our practitioners which supports them to use the specific domestic abuse tools in the kit. There has been a range of core and bespoke training delivered to teams and additional briefings to teams to promote the use of the tool kit. We have also offered monthly practice circles with 70 practitioners attending with different themes incorporated into the circles with a DVA theme.

The toolkit and training are accredited by Safe Lives and Respect. These organisations are leaders in providing guidance and support to organisations nationally working in domestic abuse.

Since our toolkit was launched in October 2022, 1155 tools have been used by practitioners across children's services. There is recognition that there is further work to be achieved in increasing the number of tools used specifically with people that harm. In order to support this, we have developed a further training offer to support practitioners to have meaningful, difficult conversations with people that harm. We have also moved the location of the tools within our recording system to ensure they are more accessible for practitioners.

As our adoption of these tools and processes have developed, we have begun to align with our wider partnership to strength the domestic abuse training offer.

Impact of Training

In order to monitor the impact of training a dip sample has been taken and shown the following;

- **84%** before the session they ***felt less confident*** in use of the tools/ assessment/ guides/ processes related to the subject area.
- **100%** said they felt able to use the tools / assessments / guides / processes related to the subject area after the session.
- **100%** said the session helped them to **reflect** on their working practice for children, young people and families.
- **100%** said the training was relevant and felt the trainers were knowledgeable of the subject.
- **100%** identified how they would use this course in future work – with children & Young people, parents & carers, families.

Since the launch of the Family Safeguarding Model in Rochdale, we have further developed our offer by recruiting four Domestic Abuse Practitioners to work within our Family Support and Protection Team. They work one-to-one with domestic abuse victims whose children are being supported at Child in Need, Child Protection or PLO level. The Domestic Abuse Practitioners have been able to engage with 50 victims since March 2024 though there are limitations as only fixed term post for 12 months.

A 'Children's Domestic Abuse Tool Kit' has been devised that is due to be launched to the partnership. This tool kit is to support practitioners across agencies to give them tools to work with children and young people, capturing their views, wishes and feelings, safety plan and build their confidence and wellbeing.

There are regular multi-agency DVA audits taking place and this has been widen to include our voluntary sector i.e. our specialist domestic abuse service (SDAS) as it was recognised that there was an absence of representation from our specialist DVA services.

Plans for 2024/25

Continuing to use the theory of change approach and increase the use of the tools being used across children's services, evidenced within case files.

Training, support and guidance on use of the tools will continue to be offered to new and existing members of staff.

Multi agencies audits will continue to take place regularly ensuring there is representation of all partners including our SDAS.

We will also continue to evaluate the quality of practice of those practitioners who have been trained in the approach through dip sampling/audits.

Through the new Family Safeguarding Model we plan to speak to a number of victims/survivors of domestic abuse to better inform service delivery working closely with the community safety partnership to achieve this.

There is also work that has commenced in speaking to children/ YP that may have experienced DVA to better understand their lived experience of the services they have received both internally/ externally.

Early Help /Early Years

- Since our toolkit was launched in October 2022, 1155 tools have been used by practitioners across children's services including Early Help/Early Years Service
- Early Help/early years staff have supported the delivery of training in relation to the toolkit.
- 247 DA cases stepped down to early help for ongoing early help intervention or universal service support.

Safeguarding Adolescents. Sub-priorities: Complex safeguarding, transition to adult services, missing children.

Rochdale's dedicated co-located multi-agency exploitation team – Sunrise – continues to provide a response to tackling the exploitation of children and young people in the Rochdale Borough. The team's key focus is on preventing harm wherever possible, protecting children from exploitation and providing the right support at the right time when actual harm occurs, disrupting those that seek to exploit children including prosecution, and building confidence with professionals and with the public to know what exploitation is and how to respond.

Prevention: The team continues to provide a prevention offer, where young people receive support from Sunrise in order to increase their safety and stability with a view to preventing child criminal and/or sexual exploitation. The team supported on average 91 young people at any one time over the course of April 2023 to March 2024; 77% of which were referred to the team for prevention due to vulnerability to child exploitation.

As part of the prevention offer and in addition to direct one to one support of young people, the team focus on increasing awareness and understanding of child exploitation with young people in schools, with professionals via training, and in communities via weeks of action. Inputs have taken place at both primary and secondary schools to over 3000 students; and training with multi-agency professionals on Understanding Exploitation, as well as inputs via Practice Fortnight and the ASYE Academy on the Complex Safeguarding Team focus / offer and themes and trends identified in relation to criminal and sexual exploitation and Language Matters (avoiding and challenging victim blaming language).

A collaborative Art Project as part of the week of action in March 2024 was undertaken with young people from Hopwood Hall College and across two youth centres, where young people were asked to express their understanding of exploitation via art. This art and the views shared by young people as part of this project will be used to inform the Young Person's exploitation strategy which is currently being developed.

The missing from home co-ordinator post based within the Missing from Home / Care Unit (co-located with Sunrise) was agreed as a permanent post in January 2024. This has enabled an informed and co-ordinated response to finding children who are reported missing from home / care and identifying support / response to prevent further episodes.

Protection: A significant focus of the Sunrise Team is safeguarding children from exploitation. Children and young people receiving support from Sunrise receive a bespoke response based on their needs, experiences and what works for them. The response is informed by a WISE (working to increase safety from exploitation) assessment (now fully embedded in LCS) which focuses on the young person's strengths and needs; their relationships with parents/carers, family, professionals and peers; the context of harm and what is being done to disrupt this; and an overall analysis focused on safety and stability.

Health assessments are offered to all young people receiving support from Sunrise by the Specialist Nurses in the team. Parents are offered support by Parenting Workers focusing on increasing their knowledge of exploitation; information they need to share with professionals; and how best to support and respond to their child. On average 84% of children supported by Sunrise over the last year live at home with their family.

Sunrise continues to work with the GM Complex Safeguarding Hub to keep up to date with trends and themes, and approaches to safeguarding children. This has included implementing changes to enable collating 'source of harm' information and providing reports on such as part of the Greater Manchester Insights and Impact Framework, to inform a greater understanding of perpetrator profiles. On average 25% of young people supported

by Sunrise have experienced exploitation online. On average 23% of young people have experienced harm via a lone offender, in person.

In addition to direct support of children and young people, the team undertake proactive activities in the community which is intelligence led. Operation Vigilant has taken place monthly and is focused on working jointly with Trading Standards and Housing to target premises, businesses and areas of concern where intelligence has been received in relation to exploitation and associated issues. The team has also focused on working with hotels (Operation Cobalt – based on Operation Makesafe: a national campaign) to identify training needs in identifying exploitation within their premises. A training package has been developed in collaboration with the Children's Society to be delivered by the Sunrise Team to all hotels in the Borough.

Prosecution: The Police within Sunrise continue to focus on disrupting exploitation via powers available to them: including but not limited to serving child abduction warning notices, taking positive action through arresting and charging those who exploit children, including using legislation available to disrupt suspected perpetrators where the evidence of exploitation is not readily available (for example disrupting via a drugs charge where criminal exploitation is suspected). Several Operations remain ongoing in relation to complex investigations of child sexual and/or criminal exploitation both current and non-recent.

Building professional and public confidence: the Sunrise Team has continued to share their knowledge and expertise of responding to and tackling child exploitation. The Sunrise Team were visited by a delegation of 25 professionals from West Belfast over 2 days in June 2023 – this included learning about the Sunrise model and approach but also the wider partnership working within the Borough; and led to a return visit to West Belfast in January 2024 to share the same to a conference of approximately 100 professionals from a range of agencies. Presentations were provided by the Sunrise Team (Police, Health and Children's Social Care), Early Break (Young People's Substance Use Service), Rochdale's Youth Service, the Rochdale Council Trading Standards and Partnership Enforcement Team.

The Isle of Mann visited the Sunrise Team in December 2023. Other key visits included the Deputy Mayor Kate Green in January 2024, and the Chief Constable of GMP in February 2024.

The Sunrise Team was subject to a Peer Review from June to September 2023, this included a strategic review as well as audits of 4 cases. Several strengths were highlighted, including but not limited to: child focused and creative planning with young people, good use of the WISE assessment (strength based, analytical, knowledgeable with good management oversight), good insight into the young people they were supporting, being persistent in building positive relationships, effective challenge to other professionals, an evidence of a culture of learning and development where there is accountability for decisions and a commitment to get things right, and all work conducted in a strong team where partnership working between police, health and children's services was evident.

Areas for reflection and consideration were also identified. These included further work with locality social workers on reflective supervision and understanding / stopping using victim blaming language; clearer evidence of - the impact of trusted relationship case formulations - the role of police in some plans – activity that has taken place – and decisions / discussions from daily governance meetings on the case file. The peer review also identified the need to use peer mapping more consistently, ensuring that these include protective peers and spaces.

The outcome of the peer review was shared with the Complex Safeguarding Subgroup and actions agreed as to how to take the learning back into the workforce across the partnership.

The outcome of the peer review was also included in an assurance report to the Greater Manchester Mayor in September 2023 highlighting Rochdale's response to both child sexual and child criminal exploitation.

The work of the Sunrise Team in relation to Operation Vigilant and Operation Cobalt was covered by the BBC in January 2024.

Rochdale's response to child sexual exploitation was of significant focus in January 2024 following the publication of the independent report into non-recent child sexual exploitation in Rochdale. A CSE helpline was made available to the public via a joined up response from children's services and adult social care, ensuring support was available where needed for those affected by the report. This included targeted support for those adults who were known to have experienced exploitation as a child.

Early Help/Early Years

The transition from Children's Centres to Family hubs has led to services being targeted at 0-19 years (25 if SEND) The voice of young people has been included in Family hubs development. You Are Wellcom – consultation and audit is taking place to ensure that Family Hubs are accessible for Young people.



Residential

The key focus for residential services was to improve the quality of care and increase consistency in staff responses to young people and when incidents occur, thus reducing the number of incidences occurring within the homes and also reducing occurrences of missing.

We have done this through establishing an underpinning model of practice across our residential services, PACE (Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy). All staff in the three homes have completed a 5 day training course on Therapeutic Parenting with PACE. This was delivered by the Clinical Psychologist linked to Our Place, one day a week for 5 weeks.

The SALT linked to Our Place will be delivering further training to the residential staff on Emotional Literacy and Emotional Regulation.

Ligature training has also been provided to all residential staff to ensure they are confident and skilled in managing such an incident.

All residential staff attended the Level 3 - 2 day First Aid for Mental Health Course in 2023.

Issues were identified with the quality of training being provided on TEAM TEACH and a new provider has been sourced and staff have all now being trained or refreshed their training with the new provider in the spring of 2024. This was crucial in terms of consistency and strengthening de-escalation of situations.

IMPACT:

Missing from Home data for comparison:

In Quarter 1 for 2023 – 2024, we had a total of 11 missing from home episodes across the three homes:

In Quarter 1 for 2024 – 2025, we had no missing from home episodes across the three homes.

Incidents data for comparison:

In Quarter 1 for 2023 – 2024, we had a total of 29 incidents of which 9 involved a physical intervention.

In Quarter 1 for 2024 – 2025, we had a total of 23 incidents of which 5 involved a low level physical intervention.

Reg40 Notification data for comparison:

In Quarter 1 for 2023 – 2024, we had a total of 8 notifications across the three homes.

In Quarter 1 for 2024 – 2025, we had a total of 2 notification, one of which was a young person who wasn't a resident at the home, but was being disruptive in the grounds which resulted in the police attending.

The Fostering service has established a Supported Lodgings scheme and has registered this with Ofsted.

There are plans to expand this and for it to be a step down for young people from fostering and residential where possible and match can be made, to allow young people greater support as they transition to adulthood.

The C4C service is reviewing the current Independence pack which is used with young people across fostering and residential to give greater focus and more pro-active planning in regards to independence skills.

Single agency Inspection findings & agency response 2023-2024

Children's Social Care was subject to an Ofsted ILACS, which commenced on 23rd January 2023 and was published on 17th March 2023. Children's Services were judged to Require Improvement to be Good. The inspection found that there were inconsistencies in the quality of practice and the pace of change by leaders and partners needed to be accelerated. However, the inspectors also said that the direction of travel under the leadership of the current Director of Children's Services, alongside the quality assurance process and corporate support for Children's Services, were to be commended.

The revised Improvement Plan incorporated impact and outcome measures, including the areas for improvement identified in the ILACS, as well as taking our ambitions for children and families far beyond this. The Improvement Plan is continuously reviewed by the leadership team to monitor progress.

Since November 2023 we have further strengthened the governance structure within Children's Social Care to ensure that there is a strong grip on consistency of practice and continuous focus on creating the right conditions for good practice to flourish. There is a culture of high support, high challenge across Children's Services.

The Quality Assurance Framework was revised and implemented across the service, this has enabled the service to note the progress and celebrate good practice and identify areas requiring further improvements. This is also assisting in driving a culture of continuous learning and improvement. The service has also developed and implemented seven Golden Threads across Children's Services, this is again helping in driving standards, expectations and consistency of practice.

There is an effective workforce development plan in place, which is building on the knowledge and skills of the whole workforce and equipping them to work effectively with children and families. The service has implemented a robust performance management plan, which is focused on high levels of coaching and support for staff, alongside high challenge through performance clinics. This is resulting in improvements and significant activity across the service to move our services to good.

We have an intense focus on creating the right conditions for excellent practice to flourish. The platform for implementing our new practice model, Family Safeguarding Model, which was implemented in May 2024. The Family Safeguarding model, which originates from Hertfordshire, works with families with children in need, who are experiencing significant impairment to health or development as a result of issues in their family; and children to CP Plans, who are experiencing significant harm as a result of abuse or neglect; including those who are the subject of family law proceedings or pre-proceedings. The model aims to keep more children at home, safe with their families. It is a whole family approach to working with children and families that supports parents to create sustained change for themselves and for their family.

As a part of the Family Safeguarding Model implementation, the workforce along with key partners, were offered a number training and briefings, such as Motivational Interviews, Children and Family Rights and Threshold. This has already started to have an impact on practice and how the partnership work with children and families.

The service reorganisation has also enabled Children's Social Care to align to the neighbourhood model. The Family Support and Protection Service is now working on the neighbourhood delivery model which is developing links with key stakeholders and having an increased presence in neighbourhood partnership meetings.

We have reviewed and launched a social work recruitment and retention strategy. This has resulted in a positive impact on social work recruitment and retention.

Residential

OFSTED:

Inspections of Children's homes / Grading's:

OUR PLACE – OUSTANDING in all areas (October 2023)

Furness Road – GOOD in all areas (March 2024)

Martin Lane – GOOD in all areas (July 23 and May 2024)

Reg44 Inspections:

Issues with the quality of Reg44 inspections, led to a new provider being commissioned and they began their independent inspections in June 2024. The reports are now much more concise and thorough than those provided by the previous visitor and they are now triangulating evidence to get a more thorough analysis of the records.

Other safeguarding key headlines and achievements 2023-2024

FSP:

- Family Support and Protection is making strong headway in relation to the full implementation of the Family Safeguarding Model in Rochdale.
- Family Safeguarding embraces a holistic partnership approach to working with children and families.
- Our key driver is to reduce children coming into the care of the Local Authority and to support children within their own family networks where safe to do so.
- The service has started the scoping in relation to Neighbourhood working, this will enable a far stronger partnership approach for children and families.
- A Neighbourhood approach for teams will reduce travelling time across the Borough as they will base themselves within their designated Neighbourhood and work with families in that geographical location.
- This approach will align to building strong working relationships in the community.

D&A:

- PMs across Duty attendance at multi-agency meetings and reviews where children are at risk of or have been permanently excluded from school.
- The electronic portal for referrals into EHASH and Neighbourhoods is finalised ready for roll out in summer.
- Multi-agency review of the Children's Thresholds document is underway.
- Progress is made on having an education rep sat in EHASH.

C4C/ POPT

- We are embedding our psychological team in the C4C service to support children, carers and staff to address complex emotional needs of our cared for children and young people. Since early December 2023 the senior mental health practitioner has had over 100 contacts these have resulted in more than 35 consultations with socials workers, supervising social workers and carers. Training and support has also been offered to The Zone, foster carer forum, supported lodgings support group, our children's homes and schools.
- We have continued to develop our cared for children participation and engagement groups for children and young people in care. C4C Ambassadors advocate on behalf cared for and care experience children and young people. Within the participation groups key topics and issues are discussed and feedback via the corporate parenting board ensuring that the voice of our young people informs the services we are providing.
- Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who arrive in the UK receive a prompt and tailored response. Children are provided with appropriate accommodation, along with practical and emotional support.
- Celebrated the achievements of our children and young people through Our Big Day and Our Big Night events
- We have continued to deliver the House Project – cohort 2 of 5 YP are currently benefiting from holistic, practical and emotional support which will prepare them for their own tenancy's. Cohort 3 is being recruited to
- Submitted Supported Accommodation registration for Rochdale's trainer flats and supported lodgings carers as part of Ofsted regulation of supported accommodation for 16-17 year old cared for children
- Reviewed our Corporate Parenting Strategy for 2023-2025
- Produced a new Kinship Care Policy to provide clear guidance and support for family and friends carers supporting children under special guardianship orders and child arrangement orders and adopters.
- Continued to support 2 cared for children youth groups The Junior Zone and The Zone
- Reviewed our local offer with young people and published this on our website so that it is accessible for our young people. A new webpage has been developed and is now live
- Care Experienced YP supported the motion at cabinet and Rochdale BC agreed that Care Experienced will be a protected characteristic. Working group established to explore the inclusion of "care experience" as a protected characteristic within Rochdale Local Authority policy frameworks
- We have developed a house project to prepare young people for their own accommodation to equip them with the skills to sustain tenancies
- 6 day Bespoke training delivered via Become Charity topics included:
 - Understanding legislation to ensure care leavers can access their rights and entitlements
 - Pathway planning - developing a holistic and personalised approach
 - Understanding the impact of trauma and how to provide support
 - Effective interpersonal communication with care leavers
 - Supporting care-experienced young people on their journey to higher education
 - Supporting care leavers' mental health
 - Supporting care leavers who were former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC)

➤ Professional communication within the Personal Advisor role

- Custody Policy developed and embedded into practice that sets out expected good practice for social workers and personal advisors to provide consistent and appropriate support for cared for children and care experience young people whilst they are in prison, on remand or serving a custodial sentence and on their release.
- Jointly commissioned Supported Accommodation has opened to support young people aged 18-25 (including care experienced) not yet ready to live in their own tenancy.
- In collaboration with staff and young people a review of the Post 21 post was undertaken, as a result this post has now been removed and all PA's work with all young people aged 16-25

YJS

- Developed a diversity and disproportionality policy via a task and finish group to target the disproportion of over representation of cared for, care experienced, black and minority ethnic groups, travellers and children with additional educational needs. Currently in draft
- Completed year 2 of the Turnaround Programme – 28 children at risk of criminal behaviour supported – supporting families keyworker and youth worker in post to support with this programme.
- Training delivered in relation to the new YJS Out of Court, Prevention and Turnaround Assessment due to be embedded into practice.
- Development of the PPIED with GMP – weekly multi-agency meetings in place to deliver a trauma-responsive and collaborative intervention to identify and offer support services for young people engaged in repeat offending.
- Youth Justice have undertaken a piece of work with community safety partnership and serious violence duty to co-produce and deliver the Silence the Violence film which is being used to support our knife crime prevention programme in schools

RBSCP Priorities 2023-2025 – Single Agency key headlines.

Child Neglect. Sub-priorities: Revised strategy & toolkit, critical thinking – assessment & planning, early help.

Homelessness Family Temporary Accommodation Service :

The Early Help principles are now fully embedded in the authority's statutory Family Temporary Accommodation Service. All staff are fully trained in early help practice and assessments, and currently take the lead on this for several cases.

Embedding the Early Help principles, has increased the skillset and knowledge of our staff, and created a unified approach as a wider system with a more joined up and holistic offer to our families experiencing homelessness.

The service participates in providing relevant reports and information for Child in need and Child Protection Plans and statements for court proceedings and conferences as and when required.

The Family Temporary Accommodation Service has recently implemented reflective practice for staff, which enhanced Self-Awareness, helping staff understand their strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement, leading to more effective personal and professional development. By reflecting on past experiences, staff can better analyse situations, identify challenges, and develop more effective solutions.

Homelessness and Housing Solutions Service

Joined up work with Strategic Housing and Children's Services has taken place over the last 12 months, to align and coordinate support and improve the offer for young people and care experience transitioning into adulthood.

Homes for Ukraine Multi-Disciplinary Team: A dedicated Early Help worker is closely aligned to housing services, ensuring needs of displaced Ukrainian children are being met on their arrival into Rochdale. This has included, access to schools, accessing community and leisure services in the borough. Comprehensive assessment and Early Help interventions of all arriving Ukrainian children and adolescents in the Rochdale is completed within 48 hours of arrival into the country and at their hosting household. Strong national system enables RBC to monitor arriving Ukrainian children and adolescents. Private fostering framework is followed for any unaccompanied Ukrainian minors.

Child Sexual Abuse. Sub-priorities: Identification of risk & need, responding to risks, increasing workforce knowledge of risk.

Strategic Housing places a strong emphasis on safeguarding through comprehensive training for all staff and ensure all complete this as a mandatory requirement along with refresher training.

Strategic Housing are a member of the Safeguarding Board and information from the board is shared with the whole department.

Domestic Abuse. Sub-priorities: Identification of risk & need, understanding the impact of domestic abuse on children.

Specialist Domestic Abuse Homelessness Officer

The former pilot of an innovative approach to Domestic Abuse and Homelessness as now been integrated into the 'SDAS' Model which launched April 2024. Now all homeless initial referrals which are identified with Domestic Abuse being a concern, the first point of contact is a Domestic Abuse specialist. Through this route our service are initiating a more person centred response to victims and survivors of Domestic Abuse. Along with a strong preventative approach with the direct access into the councils Safer Homes Scheme. The scheme have completed works to over 150 properties in the last year and increased the number of families and children who are prevented from being homeless due to the domestic abuse.

The specialist DA Homelessness Officers take the lead in attending MARAC weekly face to face at the Police Station, Providing the SHS, linking in with Early Help and Complete DASH Risk Assessments assisting in to suitable safe accommodation.

Safe Accommodation Strategy

The Safe accommodation Strategy has now been published and fully implemented with the identified actions for the council to take forward. This is owned by RDAPB, with Strategic Housing and Public Health as the lead owner. A review of this will be completed in 2025.

Safeguarding Adolescents. Sub-priorities: Complex safeguarding, transition to adult services, missing children.

The Rochdale Youth Homelessness Board (RYHB) continues which holds oversight for the authority's youth homelessness aims and objectives are being met. This group aims to scope the need, identify the gaps and suggest solutions to the barriers that are experienced by young people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, through a Strategic Action Plan. Ensuring statutory and legal obligations are being met. The Board will also strive to ensure that a "prevention" approach is embedded across services in a more connected way and will hold oversight of existing/developing structures and support in fostering a more collaborative approach from Rochdale Council, Statutory Services, third sector and other partner agencies.

Team around the Young Person Accommodation Pathway

Strategic Housing have been successful in receiving a large capital and revenue allocation from MHCLG which will allow the design and creation of 28 self-contained 1 bed flats across tree sites, which once built will be supported accommodation with wrap around support from 2025 onwards. This will be designated for our young people aged 18-25 for those experiencing homelessness, or leaving care.

The pathway into the offer will be via the current joint protocol with the Housing solutions/ Homelessness Team and Children's Services, along with a designated lead Housing officer for this cohort.

Other safeguarding key headlines and achievements 2022-2023

Strategic Housing places a strong emphasis on safeguarding through comprehensive training for all staff.

The Temporary Accommodation Service have now implemented reflective practice for the staff which has created a stronger approach to supporting this aim is to roll this out to all staff that work on front facing services.

Strategic Housing services are key representatives at a number of boards and meetings;

- MARRAC
- MAPPA
- Early Help Advisory Board
- MDT's and MRMS
- Child Protection Conferences
- Youth Homelessness Board
- Safeguarding Board
- Corporate Parenting Board

Resettlement: Homes for Ukraine and Afghan Resettlement Schemes (ARAP/ACRC):

- A dedicated Early Help worker collaborates closely with housing services to address the needs of displaced Ukrainian and Afghan children, ensuring seamless integration into schools and community services.
- Comprehensive assessments and Early Help interventions are conducted within 48 hours of arrival to support timely support and safeguarding.
- We utilise a national system to monitor these children, adhering to the private fostering framework for unaccompanied minors.
- Regular welfare checks are made monthly for every family, and monthly resettlement panel meetings involving Early Help, Adult Social Care, Works and Skills, and Strategic Housing address individual needs and risks case by case.
- Cross-departmental joint home visits are conducted for identified resettled families to ensure coordinated and holistic support.

Asylum Contingency Hotels and Dispersed Accommodation:

- The contingency hotel in Rochdale was closed earlier this year, and we continue supporting asylum seekers in dispersed accommodation.
- We collaborate closely with Serco and Migrant Help to address safeguarding concerns, ensuring prompt reporting through formal channels.
- Upon receiving positive discontinuation notifications, we proactively contact each family to guide them through next steps, prioritising housing applications for families with urgent needs, including single males and females.
- We refreshed Rochdale Welcome Pack provided by Serco to all new arrivals in dispersed accommodation recently so it's updated with essential contacts and services.

Additional Safeguarding Activities

- Rochdale Borough Council collaborates with external partners to enhance support for vulnerable groups affected by No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) restrictions.
- **RESS (Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support):** Through partnerships with the Boaz Trust, GM Immigration Aid Unit (GMIAU), and Booth Centre, a specialist floating support and immigration advice, addressing homelessness among NRPF individuals is provided.
- **Refugee Action's Asylum Crisis Service:** As part of the Refugee Welcome Programme funded by GMCA, we collaborate with Refugee Action to provide critical support services to asylum seekers, including destitute cases. This partnership reinforces our commitment to addressing immediate needs and enhancing resilience among vulnerable populations.

These initiatives supplement our core safeguarding priorities, demonstrating our proactive approach in meeting legislative requirements and supporting the welfare of children, young people, and families in Rochdale.

Over the last 12 months there has been stronger partnership working with Community Safety Team and Greater Manchester Police to raise awareness about hate crimes, regularly reviewing tension monitoring reports to address potential risks promptly.

Housing Standards Team

Housing standards significantly impact children's health and well-being. Poor housing conditions can lead to various health issues, both physical and mental.

RBC Housing Standards Team have increased capacity to respond effectively and timely to the properties that are in poor housing conditions.

Our enforcement work aims to reduce and eradicate this, safeguard children and improve their lives.

We attend various MDT / TAC / CP Meetings where poor housing conditions are a feature in the case, whether it be just an update on the progress of a case and/or the parent's failure to allow repairs for whatever reason.

We also make decisions and take appropriate action where there is a vulnerable age group at the property

RBSCP Priorities 2023-2024 – Single Agency key headlines.

Child Neglect. Sub-priorities: Revised strategy & toolkit, critical thinking – assessment & planning, early help.

RBH's safeguarding policy, culture and practices are designed to raise awareness about the abuse and neglect faced by some children and young people who live in our properties and wider community. We work in partnership with RBSCP to ensure that a Think Family approach is embedded within our practises. We attend Early Help, Strategy, Child in Need and Children Protection meetings.

The child neglect strategy toolkit is used by RBH safeguarding case managers to ensure that the level of neglect is fully understood and appropriate safeguarding interventions are delivered in partnership with children's services.

RBH have developed all corporate safeguarding training for all employees. This includes training in the four categories of child abuse, along with understanding contextual safeguarding around child criminal exploitation and child sexual exploitation. All RBH safeguarding case managers use professional curiosity, critical thinking and use assessment, risk assessment and case planning to ensure that cases are progressed. We conduct 10% monthly audit reviews of all our safeguarding cases, in addition to monthly clinical supervision with managers.

RBH introduced a new safeguarding concerns reporting system in 2023. We now log all low, medium and high-level concerns. We have a dedicated internal reporting telephone line. We assess and triage all concerns to ensure that appropriate actions from early help interventions through to children's safeguarding referrals are made in a safe and timely way.

RBH have customer support teams who provide help with Money Matters and Tenancy Sustainment Services, Domestic Abuse Specialist, Older People's Services and Community Investment teams.

Child Sexual Abuse. Sub-priorities: Identification of risk & need, responding to risks, increasing workforce knowledge of risk.

RBH have developed corporate safeguarding training for all employees. This includes training in the four categories of child abuse, along with understanding contextual safeguarding around child criminal exploitation and child sexual exploitation.

RBH work closely with both GMP, Children Social Care, Safeguarding and Community Safety Partnerships to prevent, protect and safeguard children at risk of sexual abuse. Risk and risk levels are detected and understood through effective partnership working and sharing of information. RBH Safeguarding case managers receive training in relation to Children's Safeguarding which covers areas of sexual abuse from inter-familial sexual abuse, through to child sexual exploitation.

All RBH Safeguarding case managers are trained to understand that children at risk of sexual abuse may be at risk from abuse from other children, as well as adults. RBH employees are trained to understand that sexual abuse may occur both directly and indirectly via the use of digital technology such as mobile phones, access to social media platforms and the internet. Training is provided in relation to Working Together 2023, Early Help and Safeguarding Children. The voice of the child is placed at the centre of all cases relating to children.

RBH attend Child in Need, Strategy Meetings and Child Protection Conferences to ensure that we work within multi-agency settings to share information and take safeguarding interventions to keep children safe and free from harm.

Domestic Abuse. Sub-priorities: Identification of risk & need, understanding the impact of domestic abuse on children.

RBH have a Domestic Abuse Specialist who works with victims of domestic abuse aged 16 years of age and over. Our DA Specialist works with victims experiencing domestic abuse and supports families to remain living at home, where it is safe to do so. We work closely with multi-agencies through the MARAC processes to ensure that risks are understood, and actions taken to support all victims of domestic abuse. This includes children who may experience or witness physical, emotional, mental and sexual abuse.

RBH safeguarding case managers are trained to recognise that children may display changes in behaviour, that are not in keeping with their usual behaviour. Children may display signs of outward fear, but not all signs of distress are the same. Changes in behaviour as an impact of domestic abuse may result in a child becoming withdrawn, unemotionally unresponsive to situations, through to a child displaying unusual signs of disruptive and aggressive behaviour towards other children, adults or animals. This may occur within the home environment or when at school or other environmental settings. Children may start to display signs of distress through self-injury or other harmful coping strategies.

All RBH employees receive recognition and response training to identify indicators and sign of domestic abuse. This may be a repair operative attending a customer's home and recognising damage to the property, or it may be a call handler hearing verbal abuse in the background of phone call. All concerns relating to domestic abuse are reported into RBH's dedicated safeguarding concerns reporting line 'If in Doubt, Shout it Out.'

All RBH employees receive training in relation to Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma-Informed Awareness. Both the short term and long-term impact of domestic abuse on the child is fully understood by our workforce.

Safeguarding Adolescents. Sub-priorities: Complex safeguarding, transition to adult services, missing children.

RBH safeguarding case managers receive training in relation safeguarding adolescents. We understand that young people who have received children's social care support in childhood, often require referrals into adult services for continued support. In the majority situations RBH would rely on Rochdale Children's Social Care to assess and determine if transitional support into adult services is required.

Any reports of missing children made to RBH are reported to GMP and Rochdale's Children's Social Care. RBH will work with families, friends and statutory agencies to find a missing children.

The Rochdale Community Safety Partnership are locally the strategic partnership whose activities include oversight of domestic abuse in our borough.

Domestic Abuse. Sub-priorities: Identification of risk & need, understanding the impact of domestic abuse on children.

Service Provision:

In April 2021 the Domestic Abuse Act was introduced, this placed a statutory duty on local authorities to assess the need for safe accommodation and commission in line with this need. Strategic Housing completed a safe accommodation needs assessment and created a safe accommodation strategy. Utilising the findings from this and the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment of 2022, Community Safety and Public Health embarked on the re-design of our commissioned domestic abuse services.

We consulted widely with the partnership, survivors and people who harm to understand what gaps there were in provision and to develop a new model to be commissioned. The model included a single point of access for a service that supports victims, children and young people and people who harm. It also includes safe accommodation and target hardening. The service was launched in April 2024 and is delivered by 4 providers: Victim Support, WHAG, 24/7 Locks and Rochdale Connections Trust.

When developing the model, we recognised that children and young people need support to recover from the domestic abuse they are living with. Working with Children's Services we were able to include support for young people experiencing domestic abuse in their own relationship as well as support and counselling for young people affected by domestic abuse within their family. To enhance this offer, we will also be funding provision to work with young people who harm via our Community Safety Grant.

Previous grant funding has been utilised to deliver different provision for children and young people. This included healthy relationship sessions in schools and therapeutic support for young people living in safe accommodation. Evaluations and feedback from these pilots has helped us to understand what needed to be included in our core offer and also what services we would fund again should further grant funding become available.

MARAC:

We have a MARAC Steering Group to ensure the effectiveness of our MARAC and from completing a MARAC review we found that the fortnightly meetings and daily high risk meetings were not as efficient as they could be. We led on a partnership consultation to move to a weekly MARAC and to discontinue the full daily high risk meetings. The changes were piloted from October 2023 and have now been made permanent.

MATAC:

GMP are rolling out a model called the MATAC, this is an 8 weekly meeting that discusses the top 10 DA offenders as identified by GMP. The partnership then puts in place a plan to disrupt the offending behaviour and offer support to change. Locally this model will be rolled out from November 2024. We have led on partnership meetings about the model for the past 6 months so agencies understand the aim of the model and what the ask is from them. We secured funding from GMCA to fund a MATAC worker that will support the top 10 offenders to access services they need and to change their behaviour. This worker is now in post on a 12 month contract.

Training:

Via the Safeguarding Board we deliver 1 day DA Awareness training 3 times a year for anyone working or volunteering in Rochdale. In addition to this we provide bespoke training to schools, nurseries, local businesses and hair dressers to help people recognise and respond to domestic abuse.

Children's DA Toolkit:

We have refreshed our 'Children's Domestic Abuse Tool Kit' and are making available to the whole partnership not just schools. This tool kit is to support practitioners across agencies to give them tools to work with children and young people, capturing their views, wishes and feelings, safety plan and build their confidence and wellbeing.

Independent Scrutiny Arrangements.

The multi-agency safeguarding arrangements or MASA describe the multi-agency expectations for RBSCP. In 2023/24 Amanda Clarke served as the Independent Chair and Scrutineer for both RBSAB and RBSCP. These arrangements have been updated as per Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023. Recruitment for a revised Independent Scrutineer role commenced in May 2024.

Stated in Section 9 of the MASA, The role of independent scrutiny is to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases. This independent scrutiny will be part of a wider system which includes the independent inspectorates' single assessment of the individual safeguarding partners and the Joint Targeted Area Inspections. Scrutiny is objective, acts as a constructive critical friend and promotes reflection to drive continuous improvement. The Independent Chair will work independently of the three safeguarding partners and in liaison with the RBSCP Business Unit to plan programmes of activity during the year. The Chair supports the partners in publishing an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding. The report provides a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services identifies areas of strength and weakness.'

In 2023/24 the Independent Chair attended all RBSCP rapid reviews to scrutinise service delivery and multi-agency working on the most serious of child safeguarding cases. This allowed follow up and requests for assurance from partners at an early stage which was not dependant on whether full child safeguarding practice review criteria was met.

At the end of this yearly reporting year, RBSCP welcomed multi-agency inspectors to undertake a JTAI under the topic of Multi-Agency Identification of Need and Risk. The Independent Chair met with inspectors to provide assurance of RBSCP scrutiny arrangements and discuss many of the planned improvements to quality assurance.

Amanda resigned from the role of RBSCP Independent Chair, leaving the post in May 2024. The RBSCP would like to extend its gratitude to Amanda for her commitment and contribution to the role.

New Independent Scrutiny arrangements are detailed in the revised MASA which will be launched in 2024 and reported in the 2024/25 yearly report.

Children's Safeguarding Practice Reviews

A Child Safeguarding Practice Review takes place when a child dies or is seriously harmed in circumstances where abuse or neglect are known or suspected. CSPR's are a learning exercise and not an investigation to apportion blame. The purpose of reviews are to identify improvements which will promote the safeguarding and welfare of children, prevent or reduce risk from reoccurrence, learn multi-agency lessons and improve inter-agency working. Working Together 2023 sets out the requirement to undertake Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews in cases which meet the defined criteria.

During 2023-24, in the Rochdale borough, there were 10 serious incident notifications that ultimately led to 1 Rapid Review. None of the notifications progressed to a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review.

Reoccurring themes from 2023-24 safeguarding referrals were neglect and sexual abuse.

Data Analysis – Serious Incident Notifications

10 serious incident notifications in 2023/24. The number of referrals has remained consistent to the 10 received in both 2021/22 and 2022/23. This indicates a consistent application locally of serious incident notification processes.

In referrals, in 2023/24 the most common theme was serious harmful behaviour / sexual abuse. This was due to one incident that prompted 7 individual referrals. Other themes were neglect and intra-familial sexual abuse. When compared to the previous 2 years, neglect and child sexual abuse are the most common themes of referrals locally. [NSPCC Summary of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's annual report 2022/23](#) indicates the borough of Rochdale benchmarks nationally in terms of a high prevalence of child neglect. Both neglect and sexual abuse will remain priorities for RBSCP.

In 2023 / 24 the range of protected characteristics of SINs was as follows:

Number of SIN ratio of sex: 70% Male: 30% Female. In previous years the ratio was maintained at 50:50. The one incident, named above, involved more single incident referrals for males. If we remove this incident from range, the ration is back to 50: 50. The data suggests being of either sex does not put a child at a higher risk of serious incident, statistically, in Rochdale. From data alone, the information does not suggest RBSCP should focus priorities on a specific sex.

Age of serious incidents. RBSCP considers ages as per Key Stage of education.

In 2023/24 were all aged within an adolescent range between KS3 and KS4. 2022/23 saw referrals for predominantly younger children between Early Years and KS1. 2021/22 had an even split of referrals for Early Years and adolescent key stages. No pattern in data is visible however it is encouraging that local campaigns such as Keep Baby Safe are producing positive results such as no SIN referrals for this age range in 2023/24. However, the RBSCP does have a priority for adolescent safeguarding which is rooted within the Complex Subgroup. The data available suggests adolescent safeguarding must remain as a local priority.

Race and serious incident notifications. In 2023/24, National Panel wrote to RBSCP and asked our members to consider race and the level of safeguarding learning achieved for non-white British children. An analysis of the previous 3 years SIN to CSPR activity took place. The findings where, at a Serious Incident notification level, referrals for white British, and non-white British children was comparable. This indicated local practitioners recognised when a SIN had occurred for all children. However, 1 in 3 SIN progressed to CSPR level for white British children, only 1 in 10 progressed to CSPR for non-white British children. The Practice Review Subgroup has been asked to consider findings and develop practice to ensure more learning reaches CSPR stage for non-white British children.

The overall data analysis mostly indicates the RBSCP is well informed and has the correct priorities for local safeguarding development activity.

Not all Child Safeguarding Practice Review reports are published but all learning recommendations are utilised in improving local safeguarding practice. Independently commissioned reports may also appear outside of the year they were initially commissioned in. In cases where a report is published after the initial notification, this may be due to the complexity of a case.

In 2023-24, a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review and a Learning Lessons Report were published. A number of other reports were also completed but not published due to ongoing criminal investigations. Publishing of completed reports and information will occur once criminal investigations are completed.

Child E1 (LSCPR) - Child E1 was born before Christmas 2020 during the global pandemic. Child E1 was born with a cleft lip and palate which affected feeding. Child E1 parents received support from both universal services and the specialist cleft lip and palate team for feeding. During Child E1's short life, they lived with two older half siblings.

Child J1 (LLR) - in 2020, Child J1 (7 years old) collapsed in school having ingested a bag of white powder, one of nine that he had brought into school in a kinder egg. Child J1 was transported to hospital where he was found to have cocaine in his system although testing of the remaining white powder did not prove positive for a class A drug. Child J1 and sibling were removed from mothers care. A police investigation commenced in relation to neglect and possession of controlled drugs. The investigation was finalised with a decision of No Further Action due to insufficient evidence.

The following page discusses the learning recommendations and the Practice Review subgroup Learning Outcomes from 2023/24.

The RBSCP Practice Review subgroup oversees activity relating to CSPR's. The main purpose of the Practice Review Sub Group is to enable and support the Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership to undertake reviews of "Serious Child Safeguarding Cases" in line with the Working Together 2023 guidance.

The group also provides a mechanism for the Partnership to deliver reviews of cases which do not meet the threshold for a Child Safeguarding Practice Review and supports the strategic direction of the Business Plan.

The Beyond Green approach was implemented when the Business Unit recognised learning recommendations were duplicated in multiple reviews in a short space of time. This led to concerns that learning was not being embedded to improve multi-agency safeguarding practice but also resources were being utilised to repeat learning considered as completed. Effective partnership working is vital in order to ensure that outcomes for children and families are central to all assessment, planning and intervention. This includes the need to consider differing views and experiences which evidence the value of exchanging ideas and developing critical thinking in regards to how best to achieve improved outcomes. There will be times when disagreements occurred and require informal and possible lead to formal escalation.

Due to the Beyond Green concept, it was agreed that the Independent Report author would pose questions to the Partnership rather than using recommendations.

The following page summarises, by specific case, the activities achieved in 2023/24 by members of RBSCP Practice Review subgroup.

Child E1	
Independent Report author: David Mellor	Published: N/A
Learning recommendations:	
Recommendation 7: That Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership obtains assurance from the Northern Care Alliance NHS Trust that when referrals are made to the cleft lip and palate team, any information held in respect of parental mental health is shared with the cleft lip and palate team.	
What this means	
Recommendation 7: The Cleft Lip and Palate Service work alongside the Fetal Medicine Unit (FMU) to ensure referrals are made and received. The referral form is sent to the NCA by the network therefore any changes should be discussed with them. The NCA can work with the network to make any amendments needed. Which means information is shared in an appropriate and timely manner, aiding professionals in providing the correct service.	

Child F1	
Independent Report author: Karen Perry	Published: N/A
Learning recommendations:	
Recommendation 7: The Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership (RBSCP) Seeks assurance from each agency involved in this review that learning points have been identified and action has been/or is being taken to address and disseminate them.	
What this means	
Recommendation 7: Each agency has provided a clear pathway to demonstrate where the learning from this review has been shared. This means information is being shared with numerous practitioners and can be acted upon appropriately.	

Child G1/Thematic	
Independent Report author: Jane Wiffin	Published: N/A
Learning recommendations and Questions:	
Learning 1 - How does your organisation identify concerns regarding Harmful Sexual Behaviours and sibling sexual abuse and what systems/structures do you have in place to respond appropriately?	
What this means	
Learning 1 – Interfamilial Sexual Abuse Train the Trainer model has been rolled out across the partnership. This model will provide a cohesive package for all agencies across the borough to ensure staff are aware of the many complexities regarding IFSA (Interfamilial Sexual Abuse)	



[Rochdale Safeguarding Partnership Board](https://www.rochdale.gov.uk/childrens-social-care/safeguarding-partnership-board)



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Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership
Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adults Board



@LSCP_B_Rochdale

Worried about a child or young person?

Please call **0300 303 0440** to speak to someone in Rochdale's Children's Social Care about your concerns.

If you feel a child or young person is in immediate danger please contact the police on 999

Alternatively you can contact the **NSPCC 24/7** on **0800 800 5000**

Worried about an adult?

Please call **0300 303 8886** to speak to someone in Rochdale's Adult Social Care about your concerns or email adult.care@rochdale.gov.uk

If you feel an adult is in immediate danger please contact the police on 999