



# ROCHDALE BOROUGH SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

Business Plan 2025 - 2027





The 2025 – 2027 the RBSCP Priorities have been agreed by Lead Safeguarding Partners to focus activity on implementing readiness in supporting the Families First Partnership (FFP) programme. The priorities named in this document will support statutory safeguarding partners, and wider RBSCP membership, to implement Family Help and multi-agency child protection reforms.

As part of agreeing RBSCPs priorities for 2025 - 2027, we have also taken into account:

- ✓ Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023
- ✓ Children's social care: national framework
- ✓ What we are hearing from our children and young people via the Children & Young Peoples Partnership (CYPP).
- ✓ Hearing what practitioners have told us in subgroups, conferences and other learning events.
- ✓ By reviewing subgroup data.
- ✓ The learning recommendations from local safeguarding children practice reviews (LSCPR).
- ✓ The 2024 JTAI Inspection
- ✓ The learning from national reviews and research from Foundations

The RBSCP Priorities 2025 - 2027 have also been developed to ensure our Vision and Values are reflected throughout.

## Our Vision

*Children and young people in the Rochdale Borough will be safe and will feel safe within their homes, schools and communities.*

*RBSCP Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements 2025 – 2027*

## Our Values

**Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.** For services to be effective, each person, practitioner and organisations should play their part.

**A whole family approach to supporting families.** For services to be effective and create long lasting, positive change we need to support the whole family, regardless of the level of need.

*RBSCP Response to Need document 2025 - 2027*



### How RBSCP will achieve its Priorities:

- Support and enable work across the partnership to improve safeguarding practice
- Understand the effectiveness of our safeguarding arrangements through our Safeguarding Performance & Quality Assurance Subgroup.
- Develop and disseminate up to date and effective policies, guidance and procedures through our Safeguarding Performance & Quality Assurance Subgroup and Learning Subgroup
- Implement learning from good practice and where we have identified areas for improvement through our Child Safeguarding Practice Review Subgroup and Learning & Development Subgroup
- Analyse, review and understand the key factors identified in serious safeguarding incidents cases and work together to implement any learning identified through the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group
- Provide high quality multi-agency training to the children's workforce, and evaluate the impact of that training to support a skilled and effective workforce through our Learning & Development Group
- Ensure all partners are informed of multi-agency safeguarding developments, learning and contribute to the co-design of local strategy and effective safeguarding models via the Early Help, Education & Safeguarding Group.
- Identify and protect children who are vulnerable to exploitation and respond to emerging threats through our Complex Safeguarding Group.



**During 2025/26 RBSCP priorities will be:**

1. **Neglect** – by introducing the Family Help model, professionals and Family Help Lead Practitioners are enabled and supported to recognise the signs of neglect, understand the impact of neglect on children, and respond at the earliest point of identification whilst ensuring children and their families are at the centre of everything we do.
2. **Child Sexual abuse** - multi-agency Child Protection Teams (MACPTs) receive high quality learning & development to recognise the signs of child sexual abuse and understand the impact of child sexual abuse on individuals and the wider community. MACPTs will deliver effective support whilst providing services that ensure the welfare and wellbeing of victims of CSA.
3. **Domestic Abuse** – through robust quality systems, data is shared accurately, and widely, to enable effective support for children and young people impacted by Domestic Abuse. The RBSCP will seek information that children tell us they feel safer as a result.

**In all of our RBSCP activity, we will ensure the voice of children, young people, families and practitioners will contribute and be heard.**

**RBSCP**



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## Priority 1

**The Family First System will reduce the impact of neglect via effective Family Help.**

The RBSCP will support Multi-agency partners to agree a Family First delivery model by March 2026.

The focus for RBSCP will be evidencing an increase of early family help which utilises the RBSCP Neglect Toolkit.

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. RBSCP's neglect strategy 2022 – 2025 describes neglect as one of the most prevalent forms of child abuse. It is complex, taking different forms in different families. We must all work together to support families in making positive changes to the lives of the children and young people of Rochdale borough.

The RBSCP neglect strategy sets out our commitment, vision and priorities for identifying and responding to childhood neglect. All professionals have a part to play in supporting and promoting the safeguarding of children and young people, and our neglect strategy is designed to show how early identification can work alongside the breadth of our local Early Help offer.

## Priority 2.

**A well-trained Multi-Agency Child Protection Team (MACPT) that supports and responds well to children affected by Child Sexual Abuse.**

RBSCPs Designated Safeguarding Partners (DSP's) will ensure their workforce have gained professional development in the topic of recognising and responding to child sexual abuse. The Partnership will also utilise Quality Assurance and Learning Development professionals to understand how effective learning is transferred in practice by using the RBSCP Training Quality Standards.

Child sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

The RBSCP recognises that we have reoccurring themes occurring in LSCPRs relating to the recognition and response to CSA in our borough. In line with national learning, this is an area we must ensure all multi-agency staff are equipped to recognise and effectively respond to CSA.



### Priority 3.

### Quality data sharing reduces the impact of domestic abuse for our children.

The RBSCP will support Greater Manchester Police to ensure Operation Encompass data is shared accurately and effectively in 100% of notifications by 2027. This will include multi-agency working with Education and Health Partners to understand multi-agency requirements of notifications. The Families First programme details how data strategies are system enablers to ensure support is identified and delivered at the earliest opportunity, as such the RBSCP has prioritised data quality as an important tool of safeguarding practice.

Children affected by domestic abuse are automatically treated as victims regardless of whether they were present during violent incidents or not. The effect on children witnessing domestic abuse is profound, it undermines a child or young persons need for safety and security. Behaviour, brain development, educational outcomes and overall wellbeing can all be detrimentally impacted.

The RBSCP, alongside our partners in Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership (RSCP) are committed to improving outcomes for all children affected by domestic abuse. The JTAI inspection of April 2024, identified improvement actions relating specifically to Operation Encompass and Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDs). RBSCP will be seeking assurance from GMP and Rochdale Domestic Abuse Partnerships with regards to the improvements identified.

# RBSCP



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## **How we will know we are achieving our Priorities:**

### **1. Reduce the impact of Neglect**

The RBSCP Neglect strategy defines measurable which include tracking the number of Early Help Assessments which include a completed Neglect toolkit assessment. Also, the number of successfully completed Team around the Family (TAF) is measured to indicate the overall number of successful early help episodes. RBSCP will measure these data points, and other Early Help quality assurance information from Partners to measure how successful this priority has been.

### **2. Increase the identification of Child Sexual Abuse**

The RBSCP will seek assurance that Learning & Development materials are seen to be effective in practice. This will be evidenced via a range of L&D related quality assurance methods with include meeting defined quality standards, case file audit and seeking feedback from practitioners.

### **3. Effective support for victims of Domestic Abuse.**

The RBSCP will use quality assurance methods via partnership working with the Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership to be informed and assured of an effective Operation Encompass system. The RBSCP will also utilise Education expertise to ensure good quality safeguarding practice is carried out by Education partners once an Operation Encompass notification has been received.

**Utilising the methods discussed above, the RBSCP will also use the JTAI Improvement plan to identify where evidenced actions help RBSCP meet its Priorities.**