

Annual Safeguarding Report 2022-23

RBSAB
ROCHDALE BOROUGH
SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD

RBSCP 
ROCHDALE BOROUGH
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

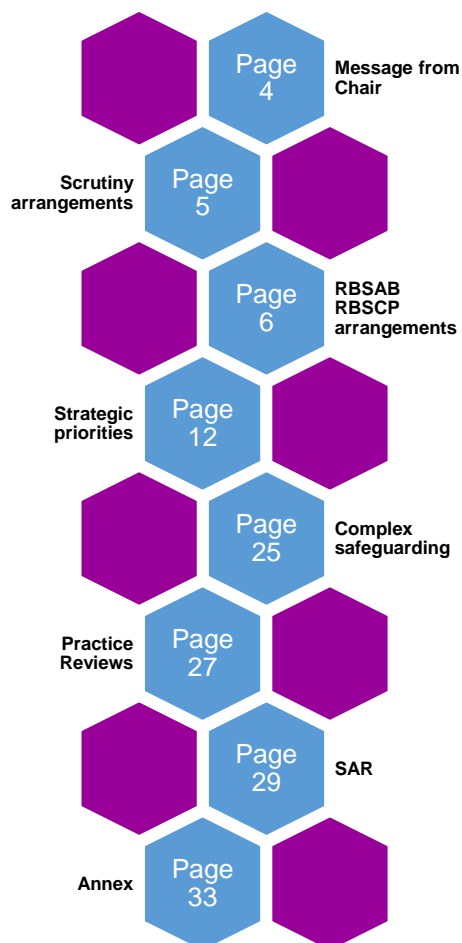
Statutory Partners

- Rochdale Borough Council
- Greater Manchester Police
- NHS Integrated Care System (HMR)

All Partners

- National Probation Service
- Pennine Care Foundation trust
- Northern Care Alliance
- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue
- Healthwatch Rochdale
- HCRG Care Group
- Hopwood Hall College
- CAFCASS
- Rochdale Boroughwide Housing
- Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership
- Rochdale District and Mind
- Together – Your Voice Advocacy
- HM Prison Service

Contents Section



The Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership is the local statutory body responsible for overseeing the safeguarding activity of children and young people as set out in Working Together 2018. The Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adults Board is the statutory multi-agency body to oversee, lead, and coordinate the strategic development of adult safeguarding across the borough. Both the Partnership and Board have a joint Business Unit to coordinate and facilitate all activity, and a single Independent Chair sits across both bodies.

Working Together 2018 provides a framework of support to enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system where children are safeguarded and their welfare is promoted, partner agencies collaborate, enabling organisations and agencies to challenge appropriately and hold one another to account. For more information please visit [Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://Working_together_to_safeguard_children_-_GOV.UK_(www.gov.uk))

The Care Act 2014 sets out a clear legal framework for how local authorities and other parts of the system should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect and gives the RBSAB three core duties to undertake:

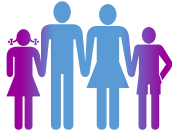
- Develop and publish a strategic plan
- Publish an Annual Report detailing the effectiveness of our work
- Commission Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)

For more information please visit [Care Act 2014 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://Care Act 2014 (legislation.gov.uk))

The vision of the Board and Partnership is that in Rochdale, people are able to live a life free from harm and where communities have a culture that does not tolerate abuse, work together to prevent abuse and know what to do when abuse happens.

Rochdale Borough in numbers

To provide context of the local resident population that RBSCP and RBSAB members support with safeguarding activity, a comparison of 2011 to 2021 census is provided below. This data is important as all local safeguarding activity considers protected characteristics when designing effective process.



**223,800 people live in
the Borough of
Rochdale**



The median population of Greater Manchester districts is 242'000. Rochdale has seen the largest population growth in residents aged 65+
Population growth between 2011 and 2021 Census



0 – 15 Years Old
9.5%



16 – 64 Years Old
1.5%



65+ Years Old
19.7%

In Rochdale, females are represented in a higher proportion of the population.



% Pop: 50.5

% Pop: 49.5

26% of Rochdale's population is not white British



■ BAME ■ White

A Message from the Independent Chair/Scrutineer of RBSCP and RBSAB



In 2022-2023 the Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership and Safeguarding Adults Board have continued our aim to ensure all people living in Rochdale are supported to lead safer lives.

After the Covid-19 period which presented massive challenges for all, moving forward through 2022 the RBSCP and RBSAB was required to change and adapt to be assured of the continued positive response to safeguarding across the Rochdale Borough.

I am pleased to report our partners have continued to prioritise the safeguarding and protection of our most vulnerable children and young people, and adults with care and support needs. Key partners continue to face the scrutiny of external inspection frameworks and have been transparent regarding findings and improvement plans.

As Independent Chair and Scrutineer I saw strong engagement by partners in RBSCP and RBSAB business. Of particular note was the implementation of an updated RBSCP neglect strategy and associated resources, which was the focus of a successful in person launch in Rochdale in January 2023.

Case reviews continue to be a huge part of RBSCP and RBSAB work and an area which I continue to scrutinise closely. During the year the Business Unit with partners has focused on repeat learning themes and recommendations, and what action can be taken to ensure outcomes from reviews are as effective as possible and how these link to SCP/SAB business priorities.

In 2022-23 we involved partners in a more pro-active way to develop our priorities and this work will be built on in 2023-24. In particular a "Beyond Green" approach is being considered to ensure all priorities, actions and general activity is linked and helps provide assurance of safeguarding effectiveness.

We experienced changes within the partnership with leavers and new starters in significant roles. The Business Unit has worked tirelessly to ensure new members are inducted well in order that partnership working in Rochdale can remain as strong as ever. The Business Manager and whole Business Unit have supported me as Scrutineer and Independent Chair and I am very grateful for their assistance in all aspects of my role.

As always particular thanks needs to go to the statutory partners and deputies who make up the RBSCP and RBSAB Executive Group. We continue to meet frequently to ensure any urgent/ emerging issues receive immediate attention and I am grateful for their wisdom and leadership. Later in 2023 the Executive Group will be supported to review its activity and make any necessary changes. The 2023 Working Together to Safeguard Children Update will also lead to possible amendments as to how the RBSCP (and RBSAB) function locally.

I hope the information in the annual report is helpful and provides an insight into the safeguarding work and achievements of all partners during the year to end March 2023. This year we have responded to feedback to ensure the "so what" question is answered within the report as to the impact of RBSCP/RBSAB work. We continue to want to improve and welcome any comments and suggestions for the coming year.

Thanks again to all my RBSCP and RBSAB colleagues.

**Amanda Clarke, Independent Chair.
Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership and
Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adults Board.**



Independent Scrutiny Arrangements.

The multi-agency safeguarding arrangements or [MASA](#) describe the multi-agency expectations for RBSCP. Similarly the [Adult Constitution](#) explains the multi-agency safeguarding expectations for RBSAB. Amanda Clarke serves as the Independent Chair and Scrutineer for both RBSAB and RBSCP.

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.'

Section 4 of the Constitution, In order to provide effective scrutiny, the Board has to be independent. It is not subordinate to, nor subsumed within, other local structures. The Board has an independent chair who can hold all agencies to account.'

In 2022/23 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.

The Independent Chair also attended all Safeguarding Adult Review screening panels which allowed for scrutiny of safeguarding themes, the SAB members involvement and activity within case and early findings to support the decision making process around if progression to a full safeguarding adult review was required.

During this annual reporting year, Rochdale was subject to media scrutiny of a high profile case. The Independent Chair met with local safeguarding leaders and gained additional assurance to ensure reported action plans were complete or in progress. This allowed our Independent Chair and statutory partners to be assured that important changes to safeguarding practice was being embedded in organisations via learning achieved from robust assurance activity.



The Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adult Board and Children Partnership

The Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership (RBSCP) derives from Working Together to Keep Children Safe 2018. 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.

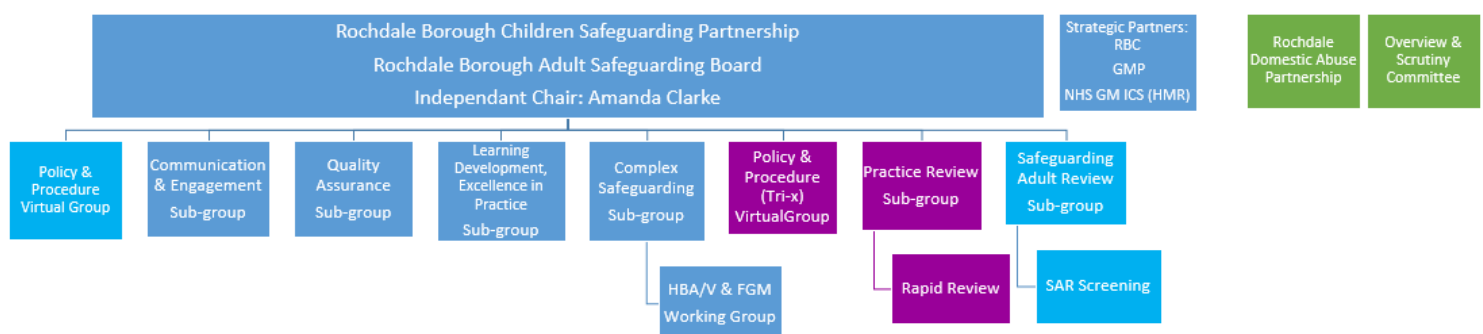
Similarly, the Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adults Board (RBSAB) derives from legislative requires described in the Care Act 2014. Partner members are required to gain assurance of effective adult safeguarding, work together on a shared strategic vision and ensure learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) are embedded into organisational practice.

Membership to both the Board and Partnership is defined as; statutory members must be Rochdale Borough Council, Greater Manchester Police and NHS ICS HMR. Then non-statutory members are those

organisations that feed into the effective safeguarding in our borough. The full membership can be seen on page 2.

A Business Unit exists to support and facilitate RBSAB / RBSCP strategic activity within the structure below. The Business Unit works with members of the RBSAB / RBSCP to facilitate activity that both assures of, and development of, effective multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and statutory requirements. The Business Unit jointly facilitates activity across the children partnership and adult board. The joint nature of the Business Unit is to ensure safeguarding the different cohorts of people in the borough of Rochdale is not done in isolation. 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 to be discussed with statutory partners in 2023/24.

Structures and Sub-Group overview.



The structure of Rochdale's Safeguarding Children Partnership and Adult Board aims to provide the opportunity for increased joint working across age ranges. Many subgroups are considered joint and members of both RBSAB and RBSCP work together to seek a range of safeguarding assurance types.

In the diagram above, light blue indicates RBSAB only subgroups. Purple is for RBSCP specialist groups with the remaining as joint working subgroups. The groups in green are partners that both RBSCP and RBSAB work closely with as many priorities closely align with the goal of seeking effective safeguarding assurance.

RBSCP and RBSAB Funding

The RBSCP, RBSAB and Business Unit are funded by partner organisations. The Business Manager is responsible for ensuring the budget is managed appropriately.

Total budget Inc. salaries / carry forward:	£325,088.00
Total spend:	£237,256.72
End of year budget carry forward:	£87,831.28*

*Please note. Due to the nature of RBSCP and RBSAB funding from multi-agency partners, carry forward is a protected value. The table below highlights the partner funding. The difference between partner funding and total budget relates to the local authority funding salaries.

Rochdale Safeguarding Board and Partnership	2022/23
Funding	Actual
GMCA	£24,300
NHS ICB GM	£79,816
Education	£21,135
Safeguarding Unit	£94,712
Total	£219,963

Funding from partners continued into 2023/24. Partner funding is currently a risk topic of discussion moving into the next financial year.

The main expenditure beyond salaries are safeguarding reviews:

Adult Safeguarding Review: £8231.25

Child Safeguarding Practice Review: £17,455.00

The costs of commissioning independent authors to undertake safeguarding reviews is increasing. This topic is informing the discussion regarding future funding risks. Although difficult to forecast future SAR and CSPR numbers, the recent trend since 2021, has seen the numbers of referrals that meet safeguarding review criteria increase. Numbers of safeguarding reviews is not purely a local trend. Members with a regional footprint and national evidence indicates a rise in safeguarding reviews across the country. This fact predicts a future increase of cost in this area. Information from regional partners indicate the increase of SARs and CSPR is not a local occurrence with the same trend is occurring in neighbouring authorities.

Continued income ensures RBSCP and RBSAB, 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 free of charge 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 and RBSAB completed all aspects of 2022/23 statutory requirements by publishing strategic priorities and producing the annual 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 2018 and Care Act 2014 were supported as per current business arrangements.

Business Unit activity

In 2022/23, the Business Unit continued to support membership of RBSCP in the Child Safeguarding Practice Review and RBSAB with Safeguarding Adult Reviews. Information regarding safeguarding reviews can be found on page 26 and 29.

During December 2022, the Business Unit analysed data which concerned safeguarding reviews for both adults and children. A trend appeared of repeated safeguarding themes and recommended learning actions. The repeated safeguarding themes could be rationally explained using the terms of criteria in a safeguarding review. In the cases of SAR and CSPR, the person must have died or been seriously harmed with the suspected cause of abuse and neglect. Therefore repetition of themes would be expected due to the nature of review and associated criteria. However, the second part of safeguarding review criteria is that, 'it is thought agencies could have worked better together to prevent harm and abuse'. Where RBSCP and RBSAB saw repeated safeguarding review referrals which are similar in nature to learning recommendations already gained, the Business Unit suspected this must be associated to learning recommendations not becoming embedded in member organisations. This analysis led to a Business Unit, self-reflective process to understand, a) why this may be occurring and b) what could be done to improve this particular facet of safeguarding assurance. This piece of work is ongoing and now seeking engagement of RBSAB and RBSCP members. The 2023/24 Annual report will contain a full update of progress made in this area.

The Business Unit has continued to facilitate and support statutory, operational and strategic safeguarding activity across all RBSAB and RBSCP subgroups during 2022/23. One of the statutory activity supported by the QA Subgroup was the Section 157/175 School Safeguarding Audit. This audit derives from the Education Act 2002 where local education establishments must discharge their safeguarding duties to the local authority. The local authority in turn must ensure local education establishments are promoting the safeguarding and welfare of children. In 2022/23, the audit process was updated after consultation with schools and commenced in September 2022. The new process saw a focused, termly self-reflective audit occur in which Designated Safeguarding Leads self-assessed their schools current performance within safeguarding topics. Online forms were utilised and information was securely received and returned by the Business Unit who analysed data on behalf of the Education Safeguarding Officer. The data informed RBSCP of safeguarding assurance in local education establishments. Where development was required, the Education Safeguarding Officer formulated plans within the Early Help & Schools service. All activity was reported to the QA subgroup to allow multi-agency partners to reflect and discuss the findings. The majority of schools across the Term 1 and 2 audits assured RBSCP of good safeguarding practice in our local area. The topics of safeguarding that RBC Early Help & Schools have provided support in Term 1 & 2 have been safeguarding supervision & appraisal, online safety support and domestic abuse toolkit support. The Business Unit and Early Help & Schools plan to continue to develop the new process and deliver learning assurance to RBSCP members and safeguarding support to our education partners.

In 2022, the Business Unit worked with partners via the QA Subgroup to complete the Section 11 and Adult Self-assessment. These statutory processes allow RBSAB / RBSCP members to undertake a reflective audit based on specific safeguarding standards. The reflective audits are then moderated using a Challenge Panel which consists of senior safeguarding professionals from across the RBSCP and RBSAB membership. The activity is designed to allow members to both self-assess own practice but also benchmark safeguarding strengths and challenges to other local organisations. The aim of report is not to provide direct recommendations but to inform and suggest to members where future activity may need to occur in order to fully assure the standard of safeguarding locally. The report noted that overall self-assessed standard scores reduced in 2022 when compared to previous years. A number of mitigations are explored within the report with the main reason for score reduction was one partner, Rochdale Borough Housing, scoring themselves lower than previous returns. The organisation described a number of learning reviews that were taking place which was to culminate in an independent audit. RBSCP / RBSAB have been receiving assurances from this organisation on a consistent basis. Overall, the report indicated a wide range of change and review within safeguarding practice and personnel was occurring post the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. Assurance of the report items will be discussed over the 2023/24 year.

A challenge the QA Subgroup is exploring is the requirement to undertake multi-agency case file audits as part of normal membership business. National inspection frameworks are being investigated as the basis of a model to adopt locally. This method aims to ensure inspection readiness for partners but also evidence that safeguarding practice is effective for individuals in Rochdale borough.

Throughout the year, the Business Unit continued to facilitate multi-agency training working in partnership with RBSAB / RBSCP members. The end of year training report is seen at Annex A. This document describes the wide variety of training that is available free of cost to professionals who work in the borough of Rochdale. The report details membership take up of training offer and how that compares to previous years. Attendees value the training offer which is evidenced by high scores within evaluation forms however it must be noted, overall numbers attending RBSAB / RBSCP training dropped in 2022/23. Activity to understand this drop is underway. Investigations will include how the Learning Development and Excellence in Practice subgroup can understand effectiveness of training beyond the reported numbers of attendance, if a *Train the Trainer* approach is more suited to partners and their learning requirements, and to streamline the RBSAB / RBSCP training offer by understanding what member training is delivered via single agencies.

The Communications & Engagement Subgroup continued to work together on online campaigns to promote safeguarding awareness both to local residents and practitioners in the borough of Rochdale. Children's and Adult Safeguarding week messages we're primarily promoted on the RBSCP / RBSAB Facebook and Twitter pages. Partners also agreed cross-agency promotion of items such as suicide awareness, keep baby safe and domestic abuse. Some challenges have been recognised in the latter part of 2022/23. This was engagement assurance requires a strengthened process and effectiveness of the local social media model does not deliver messages to enough of the local population.

In October 2022, the Business Unit investigated a new artificial intelligence based software called Synthesia. Synthesia uses artificial intelligence to produce professional learning videos. The Business Unit felt this was an innovative new model to produce safeguarding messages. In order to ensure cost effectiveness, the Business Unit has engaged with Children's Social Care, Adult Social Care and wider RBC Leadership to investigate a sharing of cost. Engagement with partners has developed interest in Synthesia. An illustration of use is an AI video that provided learning from a local child safeguarding review was utilised during training events and attendees noted how effective they were.

Partner member activity

Page 11 of report is a section that focuses on RBSCP and RBSAB member's achievements focused solely on RBSAB & RBSCP Strategic Priorities. Safeguarding is an umbrella term for a large variety of different safeguarding themes and types. As such, RBSCP and RBSAB members will have single agency safeguarding priorities that are important to their business and the local area. This section of report aims to highlight the wide range of safeguarding work our members undertake and are proud to have achieved in 2022/23.

<p>RBC Adult Social Care</p> <p>Adult Social Care underwent a Peer Review Challenge in January 23 completed by external colleagues from across the North West. Feedback received highlighted Safeguarding processes and practice as a strength of the service.</p> <p>ASC has seen a year on year significant increase in both numbers of safeguarding concerns being recorded and actioned and in completion of formal section 42 safeguarding enquires across a range of abuse categories. Work continues to seek continuous improvements across the service and to enhance the confidence, competence and performance of all staff members</p> <p>Rochdale Adult's Care's managing allegations process continues to support providers regarding allegations made against individuals in a position of trust and closer links have been built with our commissioning and quality assurance team to ensure quality of care short falls are consistently and efficiently addressed.</p> <p>The ASC team remain committed to supporting the board with the delivery of priorities and training opportunities with several staff members regularly supporting with the delivery of various training sessions to partners across the system.</p>	<p>GM ICB HMR</p> <p>Programme of safeguarding assurance, in line with GM Contractual Standards, with all health providers, has continued. Assurance programme includes reviewing all evidence, monitoring areas of partial compliance and escalating non-compliance.</p> <p>Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Visits to providers of domiciliary care to children in collaboration with the ICB Continuing Healthcare completed during 2022-23. Plan in place for these for 2023-2024 until clarity received around GM function.</p> <p>Programme of safeguarding assurance visits to Private Residential Children's Homes in the Borough continues.</p> <p>Programme of GP Challenge Visits continued for 2022/23. Areas of challenge were informed by learning from safeguarding reviews (including gaining assurance that pathways developed due to learning from reviews are implemented in all Practices).</p>
<p>Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service</p> <p>All frontline staff complete mandatory E Learning module which encompasses safeguarding processes and procedures that need to be undertaken, including when and how to raise referrals.</p> <p>GMFRS will be changing from a 5 borough model to a 6 borough model across GM, this will mean that Rochdale that has previously had a prevention team shared with Bury and Oldham, will now only be shared with Bury. Rochdale will have a dedicated Prevention Advisor working to support the most vulnerable members of the community.</p>	<p>Healthwatch Rochdale</p> <p>Healthwatch Rochdale are an independent organisation who ensure NHS leaders and decision makers hear the voice of residents and use feedback to improve care. Their mission is to listen, challenge and shape local health and social care services for both children and adults.</p> <p>Healthwatch Rochdale provided their annual report which details the many initiatives, findings and actions that occurred in 2022/23. The full annual report is available here.</p>
<p>Rochdale & District Mind</p> <p>Our organisation faced challenges with the loss of our previous DSL. The role had initially been part of the counselling services managers' role however it was not possible to recruit with this skill set. Hence RDM took the decision to utilise existing experience</p>	<p>RBC Strategic Housing</p> <p>The authority's vision is ensuring fair access to housing, sustainable homes, for everyone in Rochdale. With supportive and connected services, we will help people to improve their lives. We will build the right homes and enable fair access for</p>

<p>within the team and train up F Manning as DSL with additional hours being allocated to achieve this. This has been done and now our whole Safeguarding systems and policies have been overhauled. We have now included a specific safeguarding induction with DSL for all new starters – this covers the basics and also how our systems work to ensure concerns are raised.</p>	<p>everyone. There is a strong collaboration with these aims and objectives with Adult, children's social care and health colleagues with the aim of a 'whole system approach'.</p> <p>Embedding the Early Help principles is expanding the temporary accommodation staff's knowledge and developing a unified Council offering to helping Homeless Families. Building closer engagement with Pennine Locality has resulted Sure Start sessions are now happening at our Family Hostel and better identifying joined up work with Strategic Housing and Children's Services has taken place over the last 12 months, align and coordinate support and improve the offer for young people and care experience transitioning into adulthood.</p>
<p>GMP Rochdale HQ (Adult and Child return)</p> <p>Annual detection rates around child sexual abuse have continued to be the highest in Greater Manchester.</p> <p>Rochdale has been identified as the flagship for Child Centred Policing, with the intention to implement and share data with youth IAG, whilst developing delivery plans to improve Police engagement and/or outcomes for children and young people. D/Superintendent Key has been designated as force lead for Child Centred policing.</p> <p>The structure of the CPIU triage team was amended to ensure an effective response, achieved through effective planning of strategy discussions to ensure statutory requirements are met.</p> <p>A recent HMIC inspection focused on triage and vulnerability. At Rochdale the number of cases awaiting triage are often low, the high risk incidents are triaged within 24 hours. The aim is that all DA incidents are triaged within this time. Rochdale has been highlighted as having a good working system in place with a 'Live Desk' to ensure that vulnerability is addressed at an early stage.</p>	<p>RBC Children's Social Care</p> <p>During 2022/2023 practice improvements were implemented in Rochdale's Children's Social Care. An independent quality assurance team highlighted improvements in practice required; practice standards were introduced and an Improvement Board was established in November 2022.</p> <p>Post Ofsted (ILACS) January 2023 inspection, Children's social care have produced actions to support findings, highlights are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Improvement Plan refreshed and overseen by the monthly Improvement Board. The Plan requires timely action to ensure pace and rigor to improve children's experiences. •Strengthened Independent Reviewing Officer and Child Protection Conference Chair service, underpinned by specific Practice Standards is improving the quality of challenge. •Audit of all children in custody resulted in immediate improvements in visiting and responsiveness by their support workers.
<p>Rochdale Advocacy Together Hub</p> <p>Rochdale Advocacy Together Hub have had another busy year delivering Advocacy Support under the Care Act including Making Safeguarding Personal, Mental Capacity Act, Mental Health Act and NHS Complaints to ensure that the individual's rights are upheld and their voice is heard through the decision making process. From April 1st 2022 until 31st March 2023 we received 953 referrals.</p> <p>As a service we emphasise positive working partnerships with all relevant professionals involved. This is so we can easily share appropriate information; raise any necessary challenges or concerns, and work together in order to get the best outcome for the individual.</p>	<p>Pennine Care Foundation Trust</p> <p>PCFT training compliance at Level 1 and Level 2 safeguarding training has remained at compliance through 2022-23, with increased compliance levels at Level 3 safeguarding training.</p> <p>Consultations with the PCFT internal safeguarding team have increased by 122% highlighting the increased level of complexity in safeguarding concerns and the emphasis which our staff consider when it comes to safeguarding children and young people.</p>

Strategic Business Priorities

The strategic business priorities are the borough wide shared vision of key safeguarding aims. The priorities were cooperatively agreed for both RBSAB and RBSCP after consultation with all members and ratified via the Executive Group. The full business priority documents can be seen at [here](#). The priorities are formulated using known local safeguarding challenges from partner data and information, safeguarding

review learning, legislative changes and identified emerging themes. This section aims to highlight activities undertaken in 2022 - 2023, progress made and where we still have work to do in 2023/24.

RBSAB and RBSCP members contributed to this annual report via a return form. This section of annual report is information pertinent to the strategic business priorities.

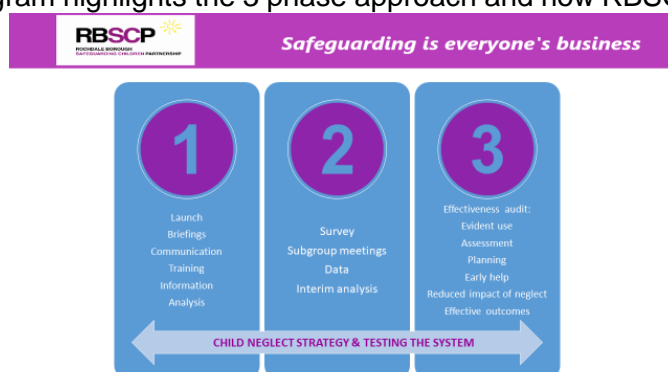
RBSCP Strategic Priorities 2022 – 2023

1.0 CHILD NEGLECT

The RBSCP developed a new child neglect strategy and identification toolkit in 2022. The strategy and toolkit can be seen at [here](#). Members of the RBSCP came together to create a multi-agency strategy that focuses on earlier identification of child and adolescent neglect and ensuring practitioners are aware of key documents such as Early Help Assessment, Child Needs & Response Framework and the Escalation Policy to assist them with their assessment and planning. The strategy and toolkit emphasize the need to listen to young people and their families and understand their experience which must inform a professional's assessment and planning. Another key aspect of the new strategy is the requirement for professionals to consider critical thinking in assessment and planning. This is done by asking professionals to consider 4 Key Questions which allow them to see past the symptoms of neglect and truly understand the root causes which in turn will inform a more complete assessment and develop a robust plan to support.

The Business Unit created a launch event on behalf of our Safeguarding Partners during November – December 2022. The new strategy and toolkit was launched at an in person event at Rochdale Football Club. Professional Leaders from GMP Rochdale HQ, Rochdale Borough Council, local NHS services, Education and other local key organisations attended. They heard from 3 speakers, all of which emphasized the importance of identifying child neglect early to reduce the impact that children may suffer. The launch created a positive engagement with local leaders and RBSCP are positive the message and aims from launch will be embedded into practice over the 2023-24 year. Alongside the Launch, the Business Unit facilitated several briefing events, these were a mixture of in person and remote. The aim was to ensure key messages regarding reducing the impact of neglect was delivered to as many multi-agency practitioners as possible.

The launch of the child neglect strategy is being completed over 3 phases, each phase being assessed for effectiveness. The following diagram highlights the 3 phase approach and how RBSCP will test the effectiveness of our actions:



The engagement seen by RBSCP members indicates that this strategy will be a success and named key performance indicators such as an increase in Early Help and a reduction of child protection plans will decrease.

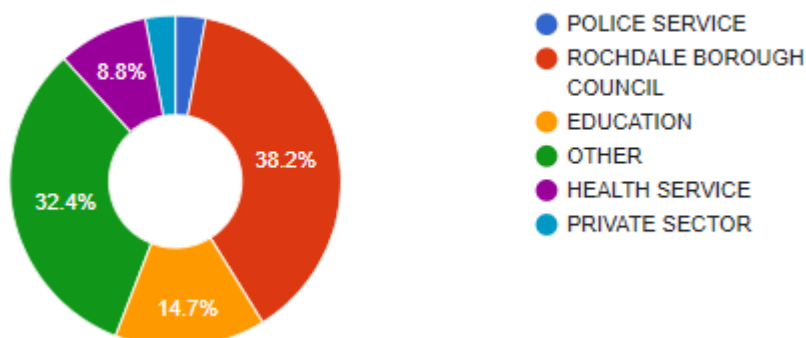
WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

RBSCP QA

The QA subgroup led on the final development stages. This finalised a period of multi-agency working to develop a strategy that was deliverable by all partners. The QA subgroup will lead on phases 2 and 3 during 2023-24 to understand the effectiveness of strategy and report all learning to RBSCP.

RBSCP Training

Neglect and Emotional Abuse training continued to be a well-attended course. This training provides multi-agency information to recognising signs neglect and emotional abuse alongside how practitioners can work together to reduce or prevent associated risks. The course was delivered twice and 42 of 50 places were booked.



To support the new child neglect strategy aim of increased critical thinking, a working group made up of partners across RBSAB and RBSCP was formed to develop a Critical Thinking training session. This new course will look at the many different aspects of critical thinking and how practitioners can utilise this skill in the assessment and planning of safeguarding cases. Critical thinking training will be delivered for the first time in September 2023.

RBSCP Communication & Engagement

The Communications and Engagement subgroup led on creating and delivering media to both Rochdale residents and professionals working in the borough of Rochdale. In the 2022-23 year, this involved posting diverse messages on social media which provided information of the signs of neglect in different areas of a young person's life. The messages spoke about medical, physical, emotional and developmental neglect. Leaflets and posters were also produced and shared with RBSCP members to promote. The aim of this was to support the early identification of neglect by providing information regarding the signs and what to do when identified. Another aspect of communication work was an innovative direct email strategy where practitioners who attended the launch and briefings had images supplied that reminded them to utilise the new strategy and toolkit and where to find information on the RBSCP website. Engagement with all messages has been a success and the promoted webpage saw an increase in traffic of over 60% when compared to the previous year. The Communications and Engagement subgroup will survey practitioners during phase 2 of launch which will aim to understand if early adoption of key messages and use of new documents has been a success. Information of this success will be delivered in 2023-24 annual report.



Examples of Child Neglect poster.

The Keep Baby Safe campaign continued throughout 2022/23 and led by members of the Engagement and Communications subgroup. This campaign has been highly successful in raising awareness both to practitioners and local families. One key finding from Integrated Care was that babies presenting to health partners with head trauma had significantly reduced over the measured period in 2022. RBSCP partners worked well together to promote Keep Baby Safe messages across social media.

RBSCP Members

GM ICB (HMR) supported the launch of the neglect toolkit and a number of colleagues attended the launch event. Neglect as a topic is something which has been picked up in the GP challenge visits undertaken throughout 2022-2023 to provide assurance that information & practices have been embedded within their work. Information is also shared via the Level 3 safeguarding training, which plans to focus more on neighbourhoods during 2023-2024, GM Trix Procedures are referenced & signposted to within this.

GMP has updated child protection structure, office space and hours so that there is now a dedicated and cohesive child protection unit based altogether at Rochdale police station to improve response during core hours. This has enabled a more specialised and appropriate policing response to neglect. The CPIU triage team have separated from the DA team. This has provided more clear lines re the response within EHASH to enable an effective response and to meet deadlines and statutory requirements. The supervision within the CPIU and CPIU triage teams work closely together to identify the most appropriate resource to deal with child protection matters. The use of the C-CAT crime allocation process ensures there is a review of the complexities of the investigation as well as crime type to ensure families and young people are signposted to the CPIU through a more robust review. There is a triaging of all child related incidents and crimes, the process has been reinvigorated and the CPIU triage Detective Sergeant provides a specialist review to enable best practice and most appropriate resource to be utilised. Child Centred Policing is now an embedded quarterly report identifying crime trends and statistics concerning Rochdale children in order to identify types of offences where children are most at risk, areas of concern. This enables a focus on the key areas and a problem oriented approach to policing based on data and case studies which is shared regularly with our partners.

RBC Children Social Care spoke about their work that supported the new neglects strategic aims as local learning from audits found the cumulative concern of chronic neglect and detriment to children's outcomes. As part of the learning, particularly regarding assessment and planning, defensible decision making training has been rolled out to social work managers and practitioners. Also, the revised Early Help Assessment and guidance highlights the link to the new neglect screening tool which helps further explore the impacts of neglect and abuse. The increase of Early Help Assessments is a known factor in reducing the impact of neglect.

RBC Strategic Housing Service is undergoing transformation of all services, which has incorporated a review of current processes and a redevelopment of the authority's Temporary Accommodation and supported accommodation offer. Through this process, there has been a working and development group on adopting, embedding, and aligning with the Early Help and Children's practice standards within the Family Temporary Accommodation Service. 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.

Rochdale & District Mind provide various services for young people at Rochdale Mind in particular counselling. We have ensured our counsellors have been fully trained with respect to recognising what can be regarded as a safeguarding concern. All our staff who work within our organisation complete elfh SFA/SFC 1 and 2. In addition courses related to issues affecting young people are cascaded to line managers for their staff. We have utilised RBSB posters regarding child neglect as part of team discussions and these posters are placed around our building.

Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust. Child Neglect is captured at length in the Level 3 Children's safeguarding training and information, resources and learning from the partnership is disseminated widely to colleagues.

WHAT NEXT AND WHY?

The RBSCP must deliver phase 2 and 3 of the Child Neglect priority to fully meet the Business Priority. This will include the currently active practitioner survey and using Child Safeguarding Week to continue delivery of child neglect messages (June 2023). A multi-agency audit of child neglect cases to understand how the use of new strategy and tool has increased the positive outcomes for local children, young people and their families will occur in the 2023-24 year.

2.0 INTRA-FAMILIAL CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

This priority is within the scope of activity which occurs in the Complex Safeguarding subgroup. This subgroup developed an action plan in late 2022 which seeks to understand the local themes and provide information to partners to ensure practice is fully informed using a wide range of data. More information on the Complex Safeguarding subgroup can be seen on page 24.

The RBSCP training subgroup has continued to review and refresh the training offer.



WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

RBSCP Members

GM ICB (HMR). This topic is within the safeguarding level 3 training and the ICB will support the sharing of learning through the thematic published report and any 7-minute briefing. Challenge visits for those completed this year as above have also included sexual abuse for assurance purposes.

RBC Children Social Care delivered intensive training on Intra-familial sexual abuse for social workers and social work managers to increase confidence within assessment and planning. The effectiveness of training will be explored via practice learning events and a pending thematic audit of rapid reviews in 2023/24.

GMP have described a change in structure in the table above, this also has enabled a more specialised and appropriate policing response to child sexual abuse. GMP have identified that there needed to be increased training and development around child protection. Safeguarding single points of contact are identified from each response teams to undertake enhanced child training and to provide support to their colleagues. This is being supported by training deliveries and inputs provided by specialist staff to improve response to child protection matters. GMP utilise quarterly data to inform crime and trending statistics to identify types of offences where children are most at risk and use information to inform their child centred approach to policing.

RBC Strategic Housing Service workforce regularly identify Early Help training opportunities and are continuing to develop knowledge. Since transferring back into Council control. Staff are aware of the signs of CSE and the policies and procedures that are in place.

Rochdale & District Mind Designated Safeguarding Lead and counselling team have attended CSE training. The DSL also keeps management team updated regarding local safeguarding trends which enable a local response.

Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust have updated guidance for staff around Child Sexual Abuse. Workforce knowledge has been promoted through an update of the Level 3 safeguarding training, to reinforce this guidance

and through the sharing of the Independent Inquiry in to Child Sexual Abuse through the safeguarding newsletter and through a recorded learning video for staff.

WHAT NEXT AND WHY?

The CSSG strategy and action plan will see all partners continue their work in this area of safeguarding. Assurance will be received continuously by RBSCP on the effectiveness of activity.

3.0 CHILDREN IMPACTED BY DOMESTIC ABUSE.

The aim of this priority was to improve the RBSCP joint working with the Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership (RSCP) who led on activity related to domestic abuse. The secondary aim was to seek assurance from RBSCP membership that they understand and adapt service to consider legislative change that children are identified in their own right as victims impacted by domestic abuse.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

RBSCP QA

A joint RBSCP and RSCP multi-agency audit into the effectiveness of Operation Encompass and the support young people receive is scheduled to begin in Autumn 2023. Operation Encompass is a police and education early information safeguarding partnership that enables schools to offer immediate support to children experiencing domestic abuse. This audit aims to meet priority 3.4 Undertake a multi-agency audit to measure impact and assurance that legislation is embedded into practice.

A RBSCP multi-agency reflective audit took place in spring 2023 with regards to the Impact of the Cost of Living and its effect on Safeguarding. Domestic Abuse data across the partnership was seen to have increased over the Winter 2022 cost of living crisis period. Although no direct link to cost of living crisis and domestic abuse could be established, partners have gained a collective understanding of the increase in data and how that may affect the local population. For the RBSCP, the gained knowledge of increased incidence of domestic abuse will be considered to the response for children which is to be investigated during the Operation Encompass audit.

The Business Unit also supports Rochdale Borough Council Early Help & Schools in undertaking the Section 157/175 School Safeguarding audit. During Term 2 (Jan 23 – April 23), all education partners were asked regarding their confidence with regards to the education domestic abuse toolkit. Confidence in this area was quite low. However, this information was also provided RCSP Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator who investigated and concluded that many of the schools had yet to attend training which was taking place in May 2023. This area will be revisited during Section 157/175 audit and self-reflective confidence will be re-assessed post more school Designated Safeguarding Leads attending training and embedding learning into education establishments. The aim of a closer partnership between RBSCP and RSCP has been developed during 2022-23 and will continue to develop in 2023-24.

RBSCP Communication & Engagement

The Business Unit investigated the effectiveness of statutory partners and the use of Social Media to promote safeguarding messages. A positive aspect of the report is that all statutory partners promoted safeguarding messages regarding domestic abuse regularly. Over 40 messages regarding domestic abuse were posted during the reports investigation period which highlights the Partnership focus on this area of safeguarding.



Partnership examples of Social Media images

RBSCP Members

GM ICB (HMR). From a GM perspective, domestic abuse is included in a wider programme of work and is being looked at across GM to ensure statutory functions are met. The quality, safety & safeguarding team are integral to this work and will ensure partners are kept informed of any progression. The information sharing pathway between primary care and MARAC for Adults with children was, at the time, delivered by health practitioners based in the EHASH but in late 2022, two additional posts, a further 0.5fte Specialist Nurse, and a dedicated Administrator, were recruited and commenced in post from January and March 2023. The additional resource will support a robust and consistent MARAC information sharing pathway, covering both Adult only cases and cases involving children. The new pathway for cases involving children commenced on 3rd July 2023.

RBC Children Social Care measured the effectiveness of the use of available tools via data collected by the Domestic Abuse co-ordinator. This was used to improve the efficiency of the multi-agency tool. Data also indicated areas where usage of tool is low and training is targeted to improve workforce confidence. A key priority is led by legislation changes to ensure effective interventions are seen when children and families are affected by domestic abuse. During Practice Fortnight, keynote speakers presented their lived experience of coercive control. This presentation was evaluated as effective and practitioners stated the knowledge from discussion improved their practice.

GMP stated Operation Relentless is Rochdale's response to Domestic Abuse with a continuous drive to arrest promptly those perpetrators of Domestic Abuse with dedicated arrest and investigation teams to utilise all tools to deal with offenders. The Voice of the Child message was prominent through DA training and other key force training and updates in order that officers were cognisant of the impact Domestic Abuse has on children and their emotional wellbeing. Op Encompass continues to provide early alerts to all school in the borough following a domestic incident, affording the school and teachers the opportunity to support the young person and family as needed.

Strategic Housing are piloting an innovative approach to Domestic Abuse and Homelessness. This year we have set up our Domestic Abuse Homeless Prevention offer. Now all homeless initial referrals which are identified as 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 centre response to the threat of Domestic Abuse. We have been able to respond by completing Safer Homes Scheme 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.

Rochdale & District Mind offer a service for victims of Domestic Abuse. All staff are trained to ensure DA concerns are reported following local processes.

Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust. Domestic Abuse continues to be on the most prevalent themes for safeguarding consultations in the Trust. In 2022-23, a Domestic Abuse Basic Awareness training was made available for all staff through the learning management system. This is something which is being reviewed again, in line with changes.

WHAT NEXT AND WHY?

2022/23 had a large number of developments and initiatives. Many of which occurred via RSCP activity. RBSCP will utilise 2023/24 to work together with the Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership to understand the effectiveness of development work and how they benefit and safeguard our local population.

4.0 SAFEGUARDING ADOLESCENTS

Safeguarding adolescents is a joint priority alongside RBSAB Transitional safeguarding. RBSAB members have recognised the local importance for effective transition services for local adolescents and young adults. Voice activity took place in 2023 via RBSCP Children's Social Services which highlighted the challenges for young people in our borough. [7 minute briefings](#) focused on adolescent safeguarding topics have been produced and this priority is considered when developing new safeguarding strategies. The information below provides an update from local services and their commitment to transitions.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

RBSCP QA

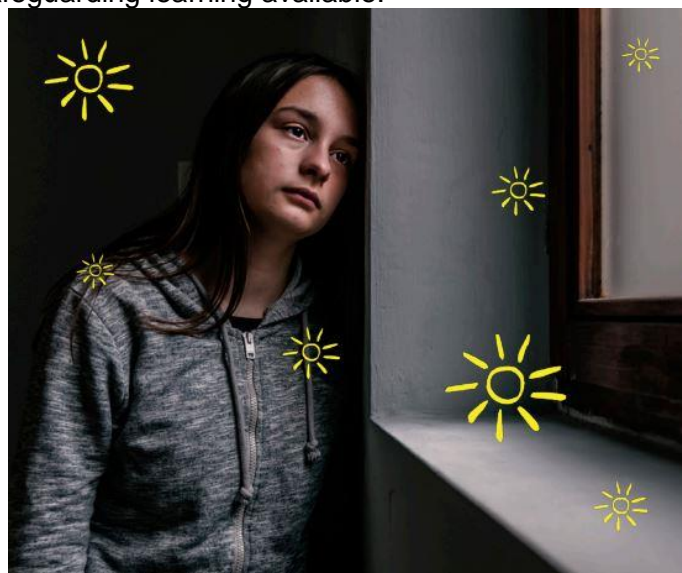
Adolescent safeguarding was considered as part of the Child Neglect priority. [Support document](#) developed for local practitioners to use in conjunction with the neglect identification tool. During the development of strategy, RBSCP members were aware of how adolescents may present and discuss experiencing the impact of neglect in a different way a child would. To support practitioners in the borough, the adolescent age profile document is a guide for

practitioners during an assessment of adolescent neglect. A key aspect of this document was to ensure correct language was demonstrated. RBSCP have focused on language in 2022/23 and its importance in all aspects of safeguarding. An example from the adolescent age profile is, "Adolescents may be at a higher vulnerability of harm" and not placing the blame on an adolescent by stating that they are putting themselves at risk. Effectiveness of document and evidence of use in assessment will be investigated during phase 3 of child neglect priority.

RBSCP Communication & Engagement

To support the adolescent age profile and correct use of language in safeguarding, the Communications and Engagement subgroup produced and promoted 7 minute briefings. The aim of 7 minute briefings is to allow the rapid understanding of a safeguarding topic. This includes information, local learning and what to do when a safeguarding concern is identified. 7 minute briefings are available via www.rochdalesafeguarding.com.

NSPCC resources in adolescent safeguarding have been promoted on our social media which helps signpost people to the safeguarding learning available.



Things to say to help a young person feel supported

I believe in you

Everything will be okay

I'm here if you want to talk

Take as much time as you need

You deserve to be proud of yourself

RBSCP Members

GM ICB (HMR) attend the preparing for adulthood steering group which is looking specifically for the age group of 16-25 years. Many of the children transitioning to services link to other priorities; complex safeguarding, neglect, so this is considered within this context too. As part of Level 3 Training – we inform GP's that they will be notified of any children open to Complex Safeguarding for CCE, CSE and missing from home. Transition focus across HMR is on preparing for adulthood 16-25 years, even though it is acknowledged transition starts in the early years. This is a priority area for the Local Care Organisation and is a theme in the business plan for 2023-24.

GMP described how Operation Vigilant has been the district's focus on disrupting individuals looking to exploit children for criminal and sexual purposes. It has been running monthly with increased high visibility patrols on the streets of Rochdale, visiting premises and areas of concern to proactively disrupt activities whilst also engaging young people regarding exploitation, building relationships and ensuring that young people know where they can access support. The Child Centred Policing reports have shown the significant impact that the Missing from Home team has had on the repeat and long term missing from home children through working with partner agencies for long term and achievable solutions. Child protection problem profile has been generated by GMP Force Intelligence Bureau with the aim to provide a strategic overview of offences against children in Greater Manchester. This is with the purpose of developing an understanding of the current key threats and risks that are associated with these crimes in the Rochdale borough to develop recommendations to policing interactions with children, young persons, and families.

RBC Children Social Care. The Missing from Home Intervention Unit established by the Police in 2022 was joined by the Children's Services Missing from Home and Care coordinator in November 2022, line managed by the complex safeguarding team. This joint service is providing an effective joint response to children and young people. The Complex Safeguarding Service continues to strengthen. During 2022/23 the WISE assessment tool (working to increase safety from exploitation) has been embedded and the service received positive recognition in the January 2022 ILACS: "Children at risk of sexual and criminal exploitation receive an effective response from the dedicated Sunrise team...Risk assessments are routinely reviewed and updated so that current harm is understood,

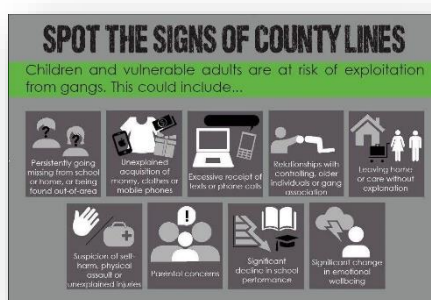
informing bespoke multi-agency actions.....Relationship-based social work helps children identify risks and provides tools to avoid harmful situations, helping to keep children safer”. During 2022/23 the Step Ahead care experienced team was formally established, a single team, under a single leader is providing an improved focus on integrated services for young people who have experience of being cared for.

RBC Strategic Housing Service workforce: Building upon mandatory training our Temporary Accommodation Family service have identified areas for development and shared knowledge from reducing parental conflict training across our wider temporary accommodation team. Staff regularly complete training to ensure that they are confident when identifying and reporting safeguarding concerns.

Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust. Complex safeguarding is support through quarterly, face-to-face supervision provided to all CAMHS practitioners on a quarterly basis. The Safeguarding team facilitate supervision and also provide ad hoc supervision for complex safeguarding cases. The safeguarding team promote learning in this area by sharing local bulletins and learning in a monthly Quality update disseminated to all teams and through the safeguarding newsletter. In 2022-23 PCFT completed an audit into children who are not brought to appointments or were missing. Learning from this was about the sharing of information to professionals involved, beyond the GP and PCFT are working on guidance to support this learning.

WHAT NEXT AND WHY?

This priority is to be carried forward into 2023/24 with a focus of activity on transitional safeguarding. RBSCP members will consider a multi-agency case file audit involving complex cases of adolescents at risk of child sexual exploitation or child sexual abuse and how transition into adult services consider and plan for risks. The audit will identify strengths and learning which will inform the RBSCP approach to training and communication developments.



RBSAB Strategic Priorities 2022 – 2023

SELF-NEGLECT

Self-neglect was a recognised local priority due to the repeating learning regarding this topic discovered in SAR's. The SAR subgroup oversaw the majority of activity in this area by working with partners in achieving SAR recommendations. More detail can be seen on page 29.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

RBSAB QA

The QA Subgroup developed a local Cost of living audit to see how partners supported adults during cost of living. This audit was based on the LGA survey Project Insight. Adult Care, GMP, GMFRS and PCFT provided returns which provided insight to safeguarding challenges and the support offered during the cost of living crisis by these services. The purpose of this audit was to reflect on the winter period of 2022/23 and utilise the shared information towards planning for winter period of 2023/24.

RBSAB Training

The joint Training subgroup led on the development of a suite of workbooks to assist practitioners learning regarding a range of safeguarding themes that data has shown as a regular feature of local safeguarding. The workbooks were launched on the Rochdale safeguarding website in the summer of 2022. The workbooks are an additional resource to compliment the multi-agency training offer and seek to reinforce training messages whilst allowing a practitioner to work through when a review of training is required. Workbooks developed cover the following themes:

[Self-neglect](#) / [Safeguarding Adult Awareness](#) / [Domestic Abuse](#) / [Female Genital Mutilation](#) / [Forced Marriage](#) / [Mental Capacity](#) / [Modern Slavery](#) / [Prevent](#).

The webpage containing workbooks was viewed 772 times between August 2022 and March 2023. This is encouraging assurance that local practitioners are utilising this free of charge resource.

RBSAB Communication & Engagement

A sub-category of self-neglect was financial abuse. Throughout 2022/23, RBSAB Facebook page providing information on different types of financial abuse, how to prevent being a victim and where to find help. Our website was also promoted to support providing information to residents. There have been no high level enquires where financial abuse.



If you come across self neglect or hoarding...

Don't ignore it - Report it

Self neglect is when a person does not look after themselves fully. It may be a choice they make or because they are ill or unable.

It can also be a sign that something else is going wrong in their life.

Call Adult Care today 0300 303 8886

RBSAB
ROCHDALE BOROUGH
SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD

Safeguarding is everybody's business

Predatory Marriage



Hidden in plain sight, predatory marriage is an emerging form of exploitation. It can happen anywhere and to anyone, but older adults and adults who lack mental capacity are particularly at risk. Coercion and control and financial abuse are common features within this form of abuse.

We all need to be vigilant to stop predatory marriage from happening

Key Facts:

- *The grooming process in often hidden in plain sight
- *Predatory marriage can happen to anyone but most commonly it affects older women
- *If a marriage takes place, any previous Will made by the victim is revoked, which is almost impossible to challenge
- *If there is a power of attorney, the attorney is not notified if the victim marries

What can I do to find out more?

- *Attend an awareness session
- *Understand that adults can be groomed
- *Look out for new friends/acquaintances of adults, particularly those who lack mental capacity or are lonely/bereaved

More information can be found here:

- *www.predatorymarriage.uk
- *[Forced marriage \(www.gov.uk\)](http://Forcedmarriage.gov.uk)

RBSAB Members

RBC Adult Social Care. Learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews and internal Serious Incident Practice Reviews where self-neglect was a theme have been developed into training briefings and will continue to be delivered to all staff teams. Our Prevention team have worked in partnership with both the wider food solutions network and economic support network. Our community connectors have worked on the promotion and sharing of the cost of living tool kit, supported a large number of residents around their financial well-being and supported with the promotion of and knowledge sharing of financial well-being services available in the borough across our wider teams. The services principal social worker and safeguarding strategic lead chairs the Multi-Risk Management (MRM) executive group. This is to provide oversight of high risk / complex self-neglect cases and in partnership with key stakeholders, completes audits to ensure effective risk management is in place.

GM ICB (HMR). Self-neglect and the learning from local SARs embedded within the level 3 Think Family training delivered by the NHS GM Integrated Care HMR team throughout 2022/23. The training included a self-neglect case study, an interactive exercise and links to the RBSAB website. Also covered within the training is a discussion of ACES, financial abuse, the relationship between poverty and abuse and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis in a borough already experiencing significant disadvantage and deprivation. Self-neglect and mental capacity have also been areas of focus for GP challenge visits in 2022-2023. The GP visits provide assurance that learning from safeguarding reviews has been embedded within their work. The visits also provide an opportunity to raise awareness of local services, policy, procedures, and resources, including the Rochdale and District Mind Hoarding Support Group, the Self-Neglect Practitioner toolkit and the RBSAB Mental Capacity and Self-Neglect workbooks.

Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue continue to monitor safeguarding themes and provide referrals to appropriate partners. They also offer a Home Fire Safety Assessment which is a triaged, person-centred targeted service offer

for those at increased risk of fire. The service is open to self-referral and partner agency referral. This service provides important fire safety preventative measures for adults at risk of self-neglect and hoarding.

GMP has a dedicated team within Rochdale Police Station which is dedicated to problem solving. The team sits within the Neighbourhood Police Team and is focused on problem solving with partner agencies. The team consists of the Vulnerable Adult police team, a mental health worker, adult social care, housing and probation. Frequent callers to police and partner agencies are identified and the most appropriate agency will take the lead to problem solve. There is a twice weekly multi agency safeguarding meeting which is chaired by police. Information is shared directly with partners and feedback is sought. Officers also manage a case load of the vulnerable adults within the community and attend MRM and MDT meetings. Training has been provided to front line officers when dealing with cases of financial abuse, bespoke advice is provided by the GMP Fraud Department who identify any trends. Detectives will investigate cases of serious financial abuse, ensuring that safeguarding has been addressed for the victim. There is a mental health worker who sits within the response police team and can speak directly to those in crisis. There is a mental health triage team who officers can call for advice if they are at an incident to ensure the appropriate agency can deal with the incident. GMP recently launched 'Right Care Right Person'. This initiative involved identifying from the earliest of opportunities which agency is best to deal with the incident. The implementation of Right Care, Right Person will support the force in delivering our purpose, outlined in the plan on a page: to focus on the basics, fight, prevent and reduce crime, keep people safe and care for victims.

RBC Strategic Housing Service and our commissioned accommodation and support providers are all aware of the signs of self-neglect and we ensure a level of professional curiosity is used when working with individuals who have multiple support needs. By using professional curiosity, we understand themes of self-neglect could be due to capacity issues, mental health or other influence such as drug use or exploitation. We work closely with specialist agencies to ensure each element leading to self-neglect is understood and addressed where possible, anything not addressed promptly will result in joint action plans.

Rochdale & District Mind noted Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) and a trauma informed approach are now widely used terms within in-patient services. Training is provided to Mind staff to ensure they are converse with the application of this learning. Our listening lounge service have noted an increase in cost of living crisis concerns and have clear pathways of how to support and refer service users to.

Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust: ACES and financial abuse are incorporated into Adults Level 3 Safeguarding training and we have also delivered several lunch and learn packages on the theme of financial abuse. Cost-of-living has been featured in several safeguarding newsletters, which are disseminated to staff in the Trust.

Rochdale Advocacy Together Hub noted the reasons why we are instructed for a safeguarding case varies, however the most prominent trend we are noticing in referrals is suspected financial abuse, or mismanagement of finances by family or friends. This is something care home staff are also alerting us to and it is increasing. If there are any circumstances where we recognise potential abuse or a safeguarding concern we immediately alert Adult Care, either via the allocated social worker if the individual has one, or via the duty line. We then request a referral for the safeguarding enquiry to support the individual. Once identified, Advocacy Together have addressed these with the relevant professionals in order to safeguard and uphold the rights of the individuals we support. We will promote cohesive partnership working to ensure that we are all doing our best for those individuals in Rochdale who have a right to support under the different statutory instructions.

WHAT NEXT AND WHY?

RBSAB members provide consistent assurance that multi-agency working regularly occurs in the local area to support and prevent cases of self-neglect. However, Safeguarding Adult Reviews also indicate an inconsistency to organisations applying learning in some instances of self-neglect, the assessment and planning of self-neglect and subsequent support. RBSAB have started in 2023-24 to develop the Team around the Adult approach. A feature of this will be the development of documented pathways to ensure practitioners are aware of all support options for local residents. These pathways will also be promoted to residents to ensure they are informed of their choices of support if requested. As discussed throughout this report, the need to assess effectiveness will commence once initial Board work has concluded.

TRANSITIONAL SAFEGUARDING

RBSAB members have recognised the local importance for effective transition services for local adolescents and young adults. Voice activity took place in 2023 via RBSCP Children's Social Services which highlighted the challenges for young people in our borough. 7 minute briefings focussed on adolescent safeguarding topics have

been produced and this priority is considered when developing new safeguarding strategies. The information below provides an update from local services and their commitment to transitions.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

RBSAB Members

RBC Adult Social Care. The development of a new Preparing for Adulthood / transitions focussed team remains in progress to improve pathways and consistency of response whilst enhancing existing relationships with children's services colleagues. Our Training, Assurance and Safeguarding Team have linked with external partners to identify and source training resources around trauma informed practice which have been promoted throughout the service and accessed by a range of practitioners. A new apartment based accommodation service with on-site support has been commissioned for 18 – 25 year olds to support with building independence and resilience as individuals transition into adult hood.

GM ICB (HMR). Transition focus across HMR is on preparing for adulthood 16-25 years, even though it is acknowledged transition starts in the early years. This is a priority area for the Local Care Organisation and is a theme in the business plan for 2023-24. The Preparing for Adulthood (PFA) workstream has focussed on completing the PFA minimum standards and started work on the action plan to move some of this work forward. There is a training plan for the PFA/ person centred planning training and 3 sessions are already planned with more being organised.

GMP have renewed training regarding adolescent safeguarding and the correct recording of incidents involving victims and perpetrators who are aged 16-18 years. There is Child and Young Person (CYP) IDVA who can be contacted for advice and referrals can be sent to the relevant agency. We have a dedicated complex safeguarding team at Rochdale which is a multi-agency team and incorporates a missing from home team to ensure that safeguarding is addressed for adolescents. The division also supports the Girls Out Loud mentoring scheme whereby adolescents are mentored by other police officers and are seen as role models.

Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue offer the GMFRS FireSmart service to enable specialist Youth Workers to engage with young people and the family where fire setting within the home is a factor in referrals.

RBC Strategic Housing Service have Commissioned safe dispersed accommodation for victims of criminal exploitation, individuals who are typically facing multiple disadvantage and have become the victim of exploitation due to their vulnerabilities. Safe accommodation with tailored support allows these people to stay in the area, continue to connect with appropriate agencies and engage in police procedures to get charges brought. Housing options are considered and the main aim is to return to their property but risk and trauma will guide this and alternatives will be sourced where this is deemed the most suitable option.

Strategic Housing are regularly present at MRM's or professional meetings for individuals who might not currently have a housing need but are at high risk of entering point of crisis. The aim of our involvement is to maintain the current accommodation safely or to source alternative more appropriate accommodation. We would work alongside various Strategic Housing commissioned services to ensure there is a wrap-around support offer to address the wider needs and reduce crisis presentations and worsening of the situation.

Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust operate in a trauma informed way. Complex safeguarding concerns are supported by the safeguarding team using a supervision model which incorporates adult safeguarding drop-in sessions or ad hoc supervision for more complex case. Oversight can be sought by any member of staff in adult services on complex safeguarding. There has been a new policy in relation to 16-17 year olds in adult settings ready for the new Radcliffe Place, which is a 16-25 hospital avoidance service opening in June 2023.

WHAT NEXT AND WHY?

This activity will carry forward into revised strategic planning. As discussed above, the adult social care Preparing for Adulthood team is currently in development. ASC will be a key partner when the Preparing for Adulthood activity is finalised. RBSAB will seek assurance of the effectiveness of the borough's multi agency effectiveness regarding the local transition offer in 2023/4.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

RBSAB worked in partnership with the Community Safety Partnership, specifically the Rochdale Domestic Abuse Partnership to support and seek assurance regarding a range of domestic abuse activity in our local area.

If you suspect an adult is suffering harm, neglect or abuse call Adult Social Care on 0300 303 8886.

Out of office hours call 0300 303 8875.

**Don't ignore it
- report it.**



WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

RBSAB QA

The adult-self assessment highlighted an inconsistency of understanding regarding the local Managing Allegations policy and process. The policy was updated and process promoted during 2022/23. All members received a consistency of knowledge during the Challenge Panel which was delivered by the ASC Principle Social Worker. The effectiveness of knowledge delivery will be investigated during 2023/24 statutory processes. The Cost of living audit which indicated a rise in adult mental health and Domestic Abuse locally during the investigated period. This information has been provided to Board members to assist 2023/24 service planning.

RBSAB Training

The RBSAB started planning training on violence against women and girls at the beginning of 2023. A specialist trainer provided a Train the Trainer model for twenty participants from across the RBSAB partnership organisations, including Greater Manchester Police, Health, Probation, Adult Care and Rochdale and District Mind.

The course aims to reduce the harms caused by perpetrators of violence against women and girls and ensure a consistent standard of support across Rochdale for those subjected to VAWG by improving the knowledge, understanding and skills of the workforce. The course will be delivered both in-house within agencies. It will also form part of the RBSAB multi-agency training offer, which provides free safeguarding training for anyone who works or volunteers in the Rochdale borough.

RBSAB Members

RBC Adult Social Care. Adult Care have committed staff to support with the delivery of the Violence against Women and Girls and interfamilial sexual abuse training to be delivered across the system on behalf of the board. The services continues to contribute to Domestic Homicide Reviews procedures with learning identified developed into briefing sessions and delivered to all staff teams. Adult Care attend the daily multi-agency domestic abuse panel meetings alongside partners to share information, pick up actions and contribute to initial multi-agency responses. Adult care supported with the commencement of the DRIVE initiative and regularly attend perpetrator panel meetings to consider support options available for high risk offenders.

GM ICB (HMR). Work has included:

Development of a shortcut key on the GP electronic system which provides GP's with easy access to all safeguarding and domestic abuse related forms, including MARAC information sharing and referral forms.

Introduction of the HARK C Domestic Abuse Screening Tool. The HARK-C is an evidence-based tool to support Primary Care clinicians in identifying individuals who are experiencing domestic abuse. The tool consists of 4 brief questions and identifies if there are children in the household. It assists in identifying individuals experiencing physical, sexual, and emotional violence and may help women to disclose abuse in general practice. Moreover, the HARK-C questions are now incorporated into the electronic medical record (EMIS) to prompt clinicians in consultations to ask the questions around violence and encourage disclosure.

Increasing the number of DASH trained staff within the GP practices.

Networking with partner agencies, voluntary and third sector organisations to ensure continued collaborative working.

Provision of webinars and bespoke training on Domestic Abuse and MARAC, including Practice Nurse/ Social Prescriber workshops and training for administrative staff.

The Information Sharing Pathway between Primary Care and the MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) we have seen a steady increase in GP referral of patients to the MARAC and Victim Support and signposting to other domestic abuse services as Specialist Nurses promote the Think Family approach.

GMP described Operation Relentless is Rochdale's response to Domestic Abuse with a continuous drive to arrest promptly those perpetrators of Domestic Abuse with dedicated arrest and investigation teams to utilise all tools to deal with offenders. This effectiveness of Operation Relentless is measured through internal governance and identifies those who are most vulnerable and those who are cause most harm which are then prioritised and monitored through the district problem solving meeting. DA Matters training was delivered across the force to reinforce key messages and ensure best practice and correct response to DA and provide a consistent approach to the delivery of policing in respect of all aspects of domestic abuse. There is a dedicated police DA triage team who risk assess all domestic abuse incidents which are reported to police. There is an officer who is part of this team who reviews and provides bespoke guidance to officers when they attend appointments which relate to domestic abuse. This ensures that positive action is taken at the very start. There are weekly governance structures in place regarding our DA arrest rate and solved investigation rate. There is a dedicated team who interview and process DA prisoners in order to achieve higher solved outcomes for victims.

RBC Strategic Housing Service has undertaken a review of the safe accommodation and support and should be seen as part of and complimentary to the wider Rochdale borough Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment. In terms of the RBSAB specific priority, the review supported data found by RBSAB that Domestic Abuse is an increasing trend with more people coming forward for support services. Strategic Housing understand the benefits of current offer which includes access to up to 33 'units' of accommodation split across 3 sites including Women only, Move On and Men only. This includes the Women's 'Refuge' that can accommodate up to 12 households, a block of self-contained accommodation plus a separate unit of Male only housing. There are also existing arrangements to help people relocate to districts outside of the borough, but also the future requirements of multi-agency working to provide solutions where vulnerabilities have been identified.

Rochdale & District Mind receive referrals for victims of DA as part of a new contract and our staff have been trained and have also provided support to the organisation regarding DA.

WHAT NEXT AND WHY?

Through the activity of RBSAB members and the Rochdale Domestic Abuse Partnership, RBSAB are assured of a strong local offer when considering identification of Domestic Abuse and subsequent victim or perpetrator support and action. The effectiveness of the many developments that occurred in 2022/23 will need to be assessed for effectiveness to ensure the correct support is reducing the impact of domestic abuse in the borough. This will be achieved by continued joint working with Rochdale's Community Safety Partnership.

Complex Safeguarding Subgroup

The Complex Safeguarding Subgroup (CSSG) is a joint Children partnership and adult board group that considers strategy and actions across a range of non-traditional safeguarding themes. The complex safeguarding strategy document aims to provide definitions of the safeguarding themes within this subgroup, define the vision and principles and detail the borough of Rochdale's response to complex safeguarding.

Complex safeguarding refers to criminal activity (often organised), or harmful behaviour associated with criminality, involving children, young people and adults with multiple vulnerabilities where there is exploitation, a risk of exploitation and / or a clear or implied safeguarding concern which is likely to lead to a serious and sustained negative impact on children, young people and vulnerable adults

The CCSG action plan was developed in March 2023. The action plan details how RBSAB and RBSCP members will develop the early help and prevention offer. How we will discover and provide the skills required for the multi-agency workforce to respond the exploitation concerns. Identify locals themes and trends within complex safeguarding utilising quality systems and engagement within communities to ensure the response is effective. Communicate information to all people who work or live in the borough.

The early progress in 2022/23 for CSSG is detailed below:

- Early Help and Prevention offer with regards to schools workforce being more confident in services available.
- Raising awareness of the local nature of exploitation in the borough and how to respond to complex safeguarding issues
- Inform complex safeguarding offer that is able to identify changes in themes and respond accordingly.



RBSCP and RBSAB support and promote Programme Challenger via activity within the Complex Subgroup. The local strategy and action plan align to the goals of the Greater Manchester challenger programme. Programme Challenger is Greater Manchester's partnership response to tackling serious and organised crime.

We work together to relentlessly pursue and disrupt serious and organised crime groups as well as reduce the risks to vulnerable people and stop them from becoming victims. This type of criminality includes county lines, exploitation of young children and vulnerable adults, modern slavery, immigration and economic crime and the use of firearms.

Our vision is to enable individuals and communities to be free from the harm caused by serious and organised crime. Using the four key partnership objectives we will:

- Prevent – support early intervention and prevention activity to tackle organised crime at the earliest point possible
- Protect – develop closer links with neighbourhoods and communities to develop an understanding of how it affects them, identify emerging issues and implement solutions
- Prepare – reduce this criminality by mitigating and tackling the impact of when organised crime occurs
- Pursue – be relentless and targeted in our pursuit against criminals of the highest harm through disruption and prosecution

HBA/V working group

HBA/V is a working group of the Complex Safeguarding subgroup. This working group also reports into the Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership which is an example of cross governance board working.

In 2022/23 the working group continued awareness raising regarding FGM. A continuing annual activity was informing all local education establishments in the borough with regards heightened risks particularly during holiday periods. The HBA/V working group chair wrote to all local headteachers and provided information on the signs of HBA/V and what partnership working can offer to reduce the risk. The group also developed new 7 minute briefing resources for practitioners. These included information on forced marriage, virginity testing and hymenoplasty and ending child marriages in the UK.



The HBA/V strategy was updated in 2022/23. Work commenced in 2023/24 to understand the local risks and data sets. This was alongside an audit to understand the effectiveness of HBA/V standards. Progress will be reported in next year's annual report, this will include the development of HBA training standards which will be mapped to local single agency training packages and a multi-agency train the trainer package which will increase practitioner confidence in accessing the wide range of resources available to enhance local practice.

The HBA/V working group chair is the NHS ICB Safeguarding Adults Designated Professional who has supported the development and delivery of multi-agency training regarding honour based abuse. The Safeguarding Board and Partnership hosted training in February 2023 which was well attended by partners from children social care, adult social care, Greater Manchester Police, Northern Care Alliance, Probation Services and Schools.

A challenge that RBSAB and RBSCP has acknowledged is the requirement to understand effectiveness of training and report beyond purely the numbers attending. This will be a key theme of development in 2023/24.



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 2018 sets out the requirement to undertake Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews in cases which meet the defined criteria.

During 2022-23, in the Rochdale borough, there were 10 serious incident notifications that ultimately led to 7 Rapid Reviews which continued to 3 Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. The number of serious incident notifications remained the same as the previous year. However, the number that progressed to rapid review and fully commissioned CSPR's increased by over 50% in 2022/23 on previous year. This increase prompted a Business Unit review called Beyond Green. The Beyond Green review found many learning recommendations produced in commissioned reports are similar to recommendations received in previous reports. This led to an evidenced conclusion that although learning is gained and activity occurs to satisfy action plans, the learning must not be effectively embedded in local organisations. The Practice Review subgroup has agreed to utilise Beyond Green and formulate process to ensure assurance is received of effective embedded of learning alongside assurance of activity compliance. This activity commenced in the 2023/24 business year and updates will be reported in next year's annual report.

Reoccurring themes from 2022-23 safeguarding referrals were neglect and sexual abuse.

As part of the Beyond Green review, a national benchmarking of themes and repeated learning recommendations occurred ¹.

Nationally, neglect and keep baby safe were themes that featured highly and multi-agency information sharing, sharing learning from reviews and use of professional curiosity were the most common learning recommendations. Rochdale closely matches national data when the previous 3 year local data was reviewed.

¹[Summary of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's annual report 2021](#)
(nspcc.org.uk)

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 2022/23, learning reports were completed but not published due to ongoing criminal investigations. Therefore, no detail of completed reports from 2022/23 will appear in this annual report. Publishing of completed reports and information will occur once criminal investigations are completed

The following page discusses the learning recommendations and the Practice Review subgroup action plans from 2022/23.

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 2018 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 Partnership Business Plan.

The following page summarises, by specific case, the activities achieved in 2022/23 by members of RBSCP Practice Review subgroup. This summary only provides updates where reports were published within reporting year. Full details of all published reviews can be found [here](#).

Olivia	
Independent Report author: Kathy Webster	Published: October 2021
Learning recommendations:	
Recommendation 6: RBSCP should consider how it can bring together multiagency learning and promote the utilisation of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Trauma Informed Practice (including attachment and relationship practiced) in future safeguarding children arrangements.	
Actions achieved:	
RBSCP Learning Development and Communications Sub-Group to develop multi-agency training package promoting the utilisation of ACEs and Trauma Informed Practice. Research in Practice has been commissioned to provide training in Trauma informed practice on May 31st June 6th and 9th. The working together training content has been reviewed to ensure ACE's is incorporated within the presentation. Emails have been sent to partners to request information on the different Trauma informed practice training that is taking place across the partnership.	
LDC Sub Group completed a review of training and updated as necessary. This was achieved by using the evaluations (pre and post course) and through the questionnaire that is sent to all attendees a few months after the course.	
What this means	
Local professionals are gaining key skills to utilise a trauma informed approach. This will benefit children and families as a more complete assessment will occur. This incorporates learning how to understand trauma and how that may influence planning	

The RBSCP Practice Review subgroup will continue activities in 2023/24 to achieve effective safeguarding assurance by working towards safeguarding review recommendations.

Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)

The purpose of a [Safeguarding Adult Review](#) is not to reinvestigate or apportion blame but to establish whether lessons can be learned from the circumstances of a case that may improve practice or the way in which agencies and professionals work together to safeguard vulnerable adults. The focus of Safeguarding Adult Reviews, in line with both multi-agency policy and national guidance, is to: Learn from past experience and the specific event examined; improve future practice and outcomes by acting on learning identified by the review; Improve multi-agency working and compliance with any other multiagency or single agency procedures.

During 2022-23 there were 9 referrals leading to 7 screening panels. 4 Safeguarding Adult Review was commissioned including 1 case which was reviewed as a table-top exercise where multi-agency professionals discussed the SAR learning and how this had been embedded into practice. Although referrals remained consistent to 2021/22 the number of screenings increased by 2 and full commissioned reviews increased by 3. Many learning recommendations from 2022/23 reports are similar to previous reports. These repeated themes were a catalyst for a Business Unit review on how effective safeguarding learning is being embedded into partner organisations. This review ultimately became known as Beyond Green as discussed on page 8 on this annual report. Beyond Green found the SAR process from referral to action plans derived from commissioned reports to be good. However, the focus on Beyond Green, and SAR subgroup actions commencing in 2023/24 have identified where actions require strengthening in terms of effective evidence of learning being embedded into practice.

Themes from 2022-23 safeguarding referrals were:

A word cloud with 'Self-neglect' in large blue font at the bottom. Above it, 'suicide' is in orange. Other words in smaller fonts include 'Unreported', 'Attempted', 'Neglect', 'Death', 'Abuse', and 'Financial'.

Beyond Green benchmarked Rochdale SAR learning to national SAR themes recommendations²

²[Briefing for practitioners - Analysis of Safeguarding Adults Reviews | Local Government Association](#)

Nationally 45% of reviews featured self-neglect as the most common safeguarding theme. The most common learning recommendations were SAB Governance and interagency collaboration. Rochdale benchmarks to National findings.

Not all reports are published but all learning recommendations are utilised in improving safeguarding practice. Independent reports may be produced outside of the year they were commissioned in. Where a report is published after the initial referral, this may be due to the complexity of a case. In 2022/23 the learning published was:

Adult F: “Amira”

Adult F was in her 20's at the time of her death. The SAR/DHR was led by an independent reviewer and identified she had a history of domestic abuse and deteriorating mental health with low mood, anxiety and self-harm with increasing referrals to agencies with intermittent engagement inclusive of Department of Work & Pensions, Greater Manchester Police.

Learning recommendations for RBSAB included

1. To raise public and practitioner awareness regarding forced marriage and what to do if identified.
2. To share report with those responsible for overseeing the work of MAAST to inform the MAAST process and governance.
3. To seek assurance of effective RBC Adult Care Section 42 processes.
4. Members are aware of the links between domestic abuse and the risk of suicide.
5. The learning from this case is shared with those responsible for Rochdale's Suicide and Self-harm prevention strategy.
6. To promote awareness of the service provided by the Coronial Bereavement Nurse.
7. Highlight the complex issue of mental capacity and coercive control and where a person with capacity repeatedly makes decision construed to be unwise.

The following page discusses the learning recommendations and SAR subgroup action plans from 2022/23 and includes activity taken place from “Amira's” report.

The purpose of the SAR process, from referral to commissioned independent report is to gain learning that ensures multi-agency partners can work better together and minimise the risk of a similar safeguarding event happening again.

The RBSAB SAR Group aims to enable and support the Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adult Board to undertake statutory reviews. The group provides a mechanism for the Safeguarding Adult Board to ensure that learning from reviews is embedded into practice. Its main aims are to oversee the referrals to the SAB and ensure that the criteria laid out in the Care Act 2014 are followed, i.e. scrutinise and monitor the quality of Safeguarding Adult Reviews. This includes the report as well as monitoring and evaluating the quality, progress and effectiveness of multi-agency action plans in response to Safeguarding Adult Review.

The following page summarises, by specific case, the activities achieved in 2022/23 by members of RBSAB SAR subgroup. This summary only provides updates where reports were published within reporting year. Full details of all published reviews can be found [here](#).

Adult F (SAR/DHR)	
Independent Report author: David Mellor	Published: Yes
Learning recommendations:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adults Board and Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership initiate a campaign to raise awareness of forced marriage and the action to take in response to suspicions that a person may be at risk of forced marriage, possibly in conjunction with the Safeguarding Children Partnership. 2. RBSAB shares this report with those responsible for overseeing the work of the Multi-agency Adult Safeguarding Team (MAAST) so that the learning from this case informs further development of the MAAST process. 3. RBSAB and RSCP ensure that the learning from this case in respect of the antecedents of suicide and the links between domestic abuse and risk of suicide are shared with practitioners involved in safeguarding adults and in supporting the victims of domestic abuse. 	
Actions achieved:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RBSAB/RBSCP Communications Group facilitated multi-agency campaign regarding Forced Marriage. Resources for the forced marriage campaign were agreed and signed off by the HBAV working group in July 2021. Additional national updates continue to be shared as and when received e.g. multi-agency statutory guidance and practice guidelines: The 'right to choose: government guidance' on forced marriage published May 2022 is available on RBSAB website. 2. RBSAB Business Unit shared overview report with Adult Care (overseeing governance for MAAST). The learning from this SAR has influenced processes within ASC, new procedure has been signed off by ASC SMT to improve governance. Meetings at MAAST now consider Section F42 criteria 3. RBSAB/RSCP developed a seven minute briefing to inform partner agencies of the potential precursors of suicide, and links to domestic abuse. This has been circulated widely across the multi-agency partnership and uploaded to website. 	
What this means	
<p>The Forced Marriage campaign produced media and information that was promoted to residents in Rochdale to ensure they have access to information which could inform decision making. The focus of this campaign was ensuring members of the public are aware they have the 'right to choose' when marriage is considered. The campaign also provided contact details of local and national agencies where help and guidance is available. For local agencies, information and strengthen practice by providing knowledge of the signs of suicide and what to do if observed.</p>	

RBSAB

ROCHDALE BOROUGH
SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD

The following actions derive from Safeguarding adult Reviews published prior to the reporting year, but actions were occurring to achieve recommendations. The full reports are not provided but are available on www.rochdalesafeguarding.com

Adult D	
Independent Report author: David Hunter/Paul Cheeseman	Published: Yes
Learning recommendations:	
1. RBSAB ask partner agencies to demonstrate that staff are trained/is planned and processes are in place for the identification of risk when dealing with vulnerable adults and the development of plans draws on expertise on personality disorders in their construction of plans to manage those risks.	
2. RBSAB ensures partner agencies are updated on the changes that have been made to the Multi-agency Risk Management (MRM) process, the risk assessment model and action-planning model within it. This will ensure the process for allocating, tracking the completion of actions in all multi-risk management meetings is effective, and professionals tasked with actions are accountable for doing so.	
3. RBSAB provided guidance to professionals, in appropriate cases, to consider engaging family and friends as protective factors when developing plans for the care and support of service users and formulating risk management plans.	
Actions achieved:	
1. RBSAB facilitated briefing and virtual training around personality disorders for partner agencies, focussing on identification of risk. The training has been delivered and is part of a rolling programme.	
2. RBSAB partner agencies provided evidence that their staff have utilised the virtual training course and had sight of the 7MB. This was tested via the annual RBSAB Section 11/Self-Assessment completed March 2022. 7MB on Emotionally Unstable Personality Disorder published on website	
3. RBSAB assured that the action-planning model within the revised MRM process is effective and actions are being completed.	
4. Appropriate/meaningful guidance was developed for practitioners with Briefing/guidance published on website and shared with partner agencies/sub group members to circulate.	
What this means	
Local services have been provided with learning about the assessment and planning when adults may have a personality disorder. This means services are able to consider what the context of the personality disorder means when planning care and support decisions. This knowledge should be visible in risk assessments and wider multi-agency strategy meetings. MRM audits will be required to ensure messaging has been successful.	

Adult E	
Independent Report author: Michelle Grant	Published: Yes
Learning recommendations:	
Action B above ref MRM, repeated in Adult E & G	
A. RBSAB assured that NWS has briefed all NW Local Authorities on their proposed referral form changes to enable the LAs to differentiate between a 'safeguarding referral' and a 'care concern' so that this change in practise is shared with front line staff in both NWS and LAs	
B. RBSAB received evidence that Northern Care Alliance has amended the audit template to capture if there has been a 'safeguarding referral' made by NWS at the point care has been handed over to hospital staff or by ED staff on handover of care to a ward	
Actions achieved:	
A. NWS has updated the forms and communicated this change	
B. Follow-up work ongoing to complete this action.	
What this means	
A. NWS has achieved greater clarity for practitioners receiving information as to what is a referral and what is a concern. This allows for local authority social care teams to apply correct procedures in a timelier manner which benefits those in need of support.	
B. Unable to sign-off this action as incomplete. Routinely monitored/updated at SAR sub group meetings	

Adult G

Independent Report author: Michelle Grant

Published: Yes

Learning recommendations:

See A above in Adult E & B in Adult D

- A. RBSAB assured that partner agencies ensure staff are aware of their joint accountability to finding safeguarding responses to support outcomes using the National Framework as a driver
- B. RBSAB ensure a link with the Rochdale drug death overview panel is established
- C. The chair of the RBSAB shared the findings of this report in relation to the lack of central government funding for substance misuse services at a regional level to assess how this affected other localities in the region. Highlighted at national SAR network level to assist in drawing attention to the North-South divide.

Actions achieved:


- A. Partner agencies evidence collaborative decision making in both preventing and finding responses to abuse and neglect whether within the responsibilities set out in the Care Act (2014) or through other powers or multi-agency arrangements.
- B. Information regarding the function of RBSAB and SAR processes forms part of the Terms of Reference of the Drug Death Overview Panel and it is clear when to refer relevant cases to the RBSAB that may meet the threshold for undertaking a SAR to ensure the RBSAB is compliant with its statutory function.
- B. Relevant member of RBSAB to attend meetings where necessary. RBSAB to consider where relevant including a member of the Drug Related Death Overview Panel on a SAR panel
- C. Raised with Chair of NW Group for discussion in NW meeting; she is also the rep on National Executive so shared the info there on funding N/S divide

What this means

The north / south funding divide is an active, ongoing discussion on national forums. Although it is understood this funding gap reaches beyond safeguarding practice, it is important that the issue is raised in as many forums as possible to allow solutions to be found. More locally, a RBSAB representative attends Drug Death Overview Panel and reports actions back to the SAR subgroup which improves joint working and associated practice.

The RBSAB SAR subgroup will continue activities in 2023/24 to achieve effective safeguarding assurance by working towards safeguarding adult review recommendations.

Index of Annex

CODE	NAME
A	 ANNEX H RBSAB RBSCP Training end



[Rochdale Safeguarding Partnership Board](https://www.rochdale.gov.uk/safeguarding)



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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

RBSCP



ROCHDALE BOROUGH
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

RBSAB

ROCHDALE BOROUGH
SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD