

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

WORKING TOGETHER TO
MAKE ROTHERHAM SAFE, TO
KEEP ROTHERHAM SAFE AND
TO ENSURE THE
COMMUNITIES OF
ROTHERHAM FEEL SAFE



Foreword

I am pleased to present the Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report for 2022-2023.

The report describes the priorities, work and achievements of the Partnership over the year as we have worked to achieve our core ambition for all people in Rotherham to be safe and feel safe as they go about their daily lives.



I am proud of the progress that has been made to address our commitments to protecting vulnerable children and adults, building safer stronger communities and protecting people from violence and organised crime. However, there are no easy answers to the challenges we face and there are constant new challenges to deal with. Therefore, the report sets out where we still have work to do, and what we need to do as we move forward into 2023-2024.

I would like to thank all Board members for their hard work and participation over the last year and I look forward to working with you over the coming year where we will continue to strengthen our partnership to make Rotherham a safer place.

**Councillor Saghir Alam OBE
Chair of the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board**

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Our priorities for 2022-23

The Safer Rotherham Partnership brings together partner organisations within the Borough to protect local communities and help people feel safer.

Working together to make Rotherham Safe, to keep Rotherham safe and to ensure the communities of Rotherham feel safe

The Safer Rotherham Partnership is a multi-agency strategic partnership made up of senior leaders. Together, partners work out how to deal with crime and local issues like anti-social behaviour, drug or alcohol misuse and re-offending. They assess local crime priorities annually, consulting with partners and the local community about their priorities, and monitor progress in achieving them.

Organisations represented at Safer Rotherham Partnership Board meetings in 2022-23 were:

- Probation Service
- NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- South Yorkshire Police
- Victim Support
- Voluntary Action Rotherham
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire

Whilst each of the above organisations has individual responsibilities and priorities to prevent crime and to keep people safe from harm, the Safer Rotherham Partnership is able to direct additional activities and achieve additional value through combining expertise, experience and resources.

Each priority is led by a senior leader drawn from our partner organisations.

Our priorities for 2022-23 were:

Priority	Objective Areas	Strategic Leads
Protecting Vulnerable Children	Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)	Laura Gough Head of Service, Safeguarding, Quality and Learning, Children and Young People Services, RMBC
	Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	
	Child Abuse	Andy Wright Superintendent South Yorkshire Police

Priority	Objective Areas	Strategic Leads
Protecting Vulnerable Adults	Mental Health	Andrew Wells Head of Service Safeguarding and Mental Health Adult Social Care, RMBC
	Modern slavery and human trafficking	
	Substance Misuse	

Priority	Objective Areas	Strategic Leads
Safer and Stronger Communities	Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	David Plumtree Director of Services (Infrastructure) Voluntary Action Rotherham
	Hate Crime	
	Online Crime	Shayne Tottie Group Manager South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue

Priority	Objective Areas	Strategic Leads
Protecting People from Violence and Organised Crime	Domestic Abuse	Emma Ellis Head of Service Community Safety and Regulatory Services RMBC
	Sexual Abuse	
	Male Violence Against Women and Girls	
	Serious Violence	Andy Wright Superintendent, South Yorkshire Police
	Organised Crime	
	Counter Terrorism	

Protecting Vulnerable Children

What we did in 2022-2023

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Driving increases in child exploitation intelligence submissions and referrals to the police is a constant focus. Increases in these areas should be seen as a positive as this vital information provides the opportunity to protect children. As recorded offences have not increased at the same rate this indicates that more early identification is taking place.

The Evolve team leads work to understand the prevalence of child exploitation in Rotherham, share information, agree strategies to intervene and protect victims, and disrupt and prosecute perpetrators. Positive feedback was received about Evolve's work following the Ofsted inspection, particularly in terms of co-locating partner agencies and effective information sharing. Evolve use a range of tools and strategies to explore children's understanding of issues relating to exploitation and manage risks informing children's plans.

Training on how to submit intelligence to the Police and concerns about CCE and CSE has been developed by Evolve and delivered to frontline staff to provide guidance on the correct pathways. 341 staff from Council, Police and other partner agencies including the Ambulance Service and Department of Work and Pensions have been trained so far and the feedback has been that 97% of attendees feel they understand more about submitting Police Intelligence Reports (PIRs) and are likely to submit more in the future.

A number of initiatives have been delivered within South Yorkshire Police (SYP) and with partners to drive intelligence submissions. This includes inputs for Sergeants and a renewed briefing site providing key information including hotspot locations, children at risk, nominals of concern and detailing intelligence requirements.

Child Abuse

The Neglect Working Group has been established to gain a better understanding of neglect in Rotherham, raise awareness of neglect and the impact on children, ensure staff from all agencies are able to spot the signs, assess the level of risk for the child and promote early identification tools to respond. Data will be monitored to highlight trends and hotspot areas so that early intervention resources can be placed correctly. Data will also be used to measure the impact of early intervention services.



Child Matters training has been delivered to South Yorkshire Police which has improved the recording of cases under Neglect. As cases are being more accurately identified, interventions can be put in place to support families where there is no criminal neglect. The improved data recording has led to an increase in non-crime neglect throughout 22/23 alongside reductions in crime neglect.

Current and emerging challenges

SYP and Evolve are working together to ensure meaningful oversight of outcomes for CCE. Suspects are often charged with other offences and therefore there is a lack of recorded offences under CCE which does not provide a true reflection of the disruption work taking place. Additional data will be monitored through the Child Exploitation Delivery Group (CEDG) to enable a clearer understanding of the work being done to address CCE.

Safer Venues Together events aimed at training licensed premises in various aspects of safeguarding is taking place and hotel staff are invited to attend to build relationships and promote their engagement in training on spotting the signs of Child Exploitation in hospitality venues.



Online Safety training has been developed and delivered on key issues including sharing images, online radicalisation and awareness raising sessions with parents/carers.

A commitment has been made to develop and promote further training and awareness for professionals and parents/carers to better understand online abuse and exploitation and ways in which they can report concerns or access support for young people.

Protecting Vulnerable Children

Spot The Signs

Child Exploitation Awareness Raising

Continuing to increase awareness around the signs of Child Exploitation amongst frontline workers and members of the public remains a high priority.

Focused social media posts on the signs of exploitation were shared to promote the Children's Society 'Look Closer' campaign and to coincide with County Lines Intensification Week.

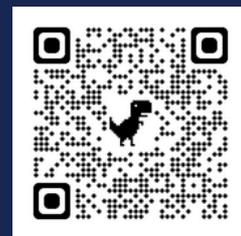
A series of social media posts were also shared in the run up to Child Exploitation Awareness Day (18th March) highlighting how members of the public may see signs of exploitation in their every day lives with links to local and national reporting mechanisms and support available.

Spot the Signs information cards have been distributed widely including partner organisations, schools, Parish Councils and Elected Members.

Information on child exploitation and safeguarding was distributed to frontline workers on Safeguarding and Learning Day in June 2022.

Awareness sessions have been delivered to Elected Members.

An awareness session for the public has been made available on YouTube and has been viewed over 700 times. The video outlines the signs people may see even if they don't work directly with children and young people and gives details on local and national reporting mechanisms and routes for support. Scan the QR code to view the video.



What we need to do

Child Exploitation

Continue to raise awareness on the signs of child exploitation with training for staff and partners working directly with children and the wider workforce

Provide further training opportunities for hotels on spotting the signs of exploitation and increase engagement in training available

Develop and promote training and awareness for professionals and parents/carers to better understand online abuse and exploitation

Child Abuse

Continue to increase identification of neglect including training on completing Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) assessments and exploring the use of a single assessment screening tool to identify when GCP2 is required.

Develop a public campaign to increase awareness and reporting and work with schools to promote understanding and disclosure education.

Monitor additional data being provided to Neglect Working Group and explore other data measures which will focus on the early intervention and support

Protecting Vulnerable Adults

What we did in 2022-2023

The number of Vulnerable Adult alerts reported continues to increase year on year because of greater awareness amongst partners around our safeguarding procedures.

How the partnership responds to people with complex needs and reducing offending against vulnerable adults continues to develop through the restructuring and additional resourcing of the Community Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference process (CMARAC). The support provides a bespoke multi-agency response for individuals to reduce risks and vulnerabilities.

During the year funding was secured for the provision of a dual diagnosis mental health and substance misuse worker to support the CMARAC and the Domestic Abuse Assertive Outreach Service. Also, the Police post of 'Vulnerability Officer' was secured to work within the Safer Neighbourhood Service, working with the Councils Complex Lives Team in carrying out joint support visits.

Mental Health

The work of the dedicated Mental Health Clinical Specialist, based within the Police Safer Neighbourhood Service, continued to play a key role in tackling the challenges of mental health. Interventions have continued to increase year on year and the removal of previous Covid restriction has increased the number of face-to-face interventions.

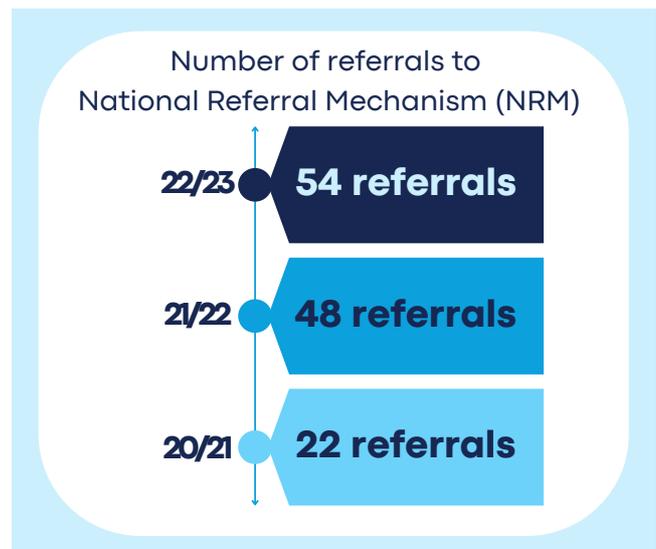


During the period this work ensured that referred adults with mental health needs were provided with, or signposted to, the most appropriate support, reducing their vulnerability to becoming involved with the criminal justice system as either a victim or perpetrator.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

Throughout the year the partnerships response to tackling Modern Slavery continued to progress with the delivery of awareness raising training to professionals across the partnership. The annual review and refresh of the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement was completed and published, and a thorough review was undertaken by the Councils Overview and Scrutiny Management Board which identified several actions that would further improve the partnership response to Modern Slavery. These actions will be addressed over coming months.

Referrals by agencies to the Modern Slavery National Referral Mechanism (NRM) increased on the previous year due to a greater awareness amongst partners about identification and reporting processes.



During the year Modern Slavery data and information sharing improved through the quarterly provision of a data suite covering all relevant information in respect of potential victims of modern slavery referrals to the NRM.

Substance Misuse

Co-location of workers from the Probation Service and Drug and Alcohol Service has improved client engagement with services, resulting in more positive overall outcomes for service users. Over the period there has been an increase in the number of Drug Rehabilitation Requirement Orders issued compared to the previous 12-month period. We also continued with the programme of training for staff working within the Criminal Justice System.

Protecting Vulnerable Adults

Helping older people stay safe

Community Safety team members attended the Extra Time launch event at New York Stadium on 17th March. This was a free public event with lots of organisations offering support and information for older people in Rotherham where we gave out information on online safety, protecting vulnerable children and domestic abuse services in Rotherham with Rotherham Rise. Team members wore the 'No Means No' T-shirts provided by the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit in support of the South Yorkshire Police campaign to end violence against women and girls.



Current and emerging challenges

Substance Misuse

Over the next 12-months we would expect to see an increase in the number of Drug Rehabilitation Requirement Orders issued through the courts in line with the national expectation of an increase in community sentence treatment requirements being given at court.

Embedding and developing the new Rotherham Alcohol and Drug Service (ROADS). This model includes reaching out to individuals and communities, specialist pathways for young people and appropriate support delivered in community locations, a single point of contact for referral and assessment, a variety of speciality interventions including psycho-social support and specialist prescribing.

Mental Health

Data management and recording of interventions by the Mental Health Clinical Specialist in conjunction with RDaSH (Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust) will be reviewed to better reflect successful outcomes and improve future response.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

A commitment has been made to develop and promote further training and awareness for professionals to spot the signs of modern slavery and how to report concerns. Also training will be provided for council staff who manage council issued building and works contracts to ensure full compliance with the relevant sections of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

What we need to do

Develop a Strategic Modern Slavery Steering Group and increase the training we can offer around Modern Slavery.

Deliver the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, (OSMB) Modern Slavery Review.

Continue to address Cuckooing through the mapping of potential vulnerable victims and locations.

Increase the number of Drug and Alcohol Service workers working with the Probation Service and recruit a dual diagnosis practitioner.

Support Health colleagues and other agencies with the delivery of the Combatting Drugs Partnership Action Plan.

Case Study (Name changed)

John is excluded from accessing an area that includes Carnson House, where Rotherham Drug and Alcohol Recovery services are based, as he committed a serious offence in this area. Previously he would be seen by his Drug and Alcohol workers at his home address which involved two members of staff travelling there. Several times John was not at home and the visit would be rearranged. John saw his probation worker regularly at their offices. Since the Criminal Justice worker has been based at probation, they have reported that the therapeutic relationship has improved and three-way meetings now occur. The probation worker has told us that John is more open and honest now about his current drug use.

Safer Stronger Communities

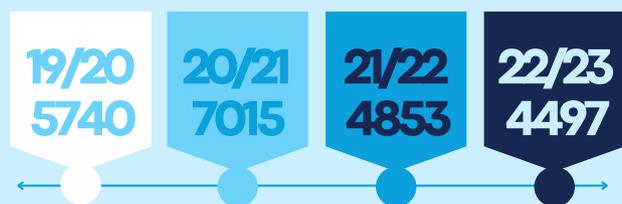
What we did in 2022-2023

Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)

We recognise that Neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) have a very damaging impact on residents' lives and wellbeing and robust enforcement and preventative action to tackle crime and ASB remains a key priority. Everyone has the right to feel safe and secure in their home and local neighbourhood.

Police and Council Neighbourhood officers continue to work together in co-located teams, enabling them to share information and take swift action when issues arise.

Number of recorded anti-social behaviour incidents



There has been a decrease in reports of ASB from previous years and responses to the SYP Your Voice Counts Survey demonstrate that perceptions of ASB by the public remain stable. Problem Oriented Partnership (POP) Plans are now a well established process and have had a positive impact on the communities where residents and businesses have reported emerging or increasing problems .

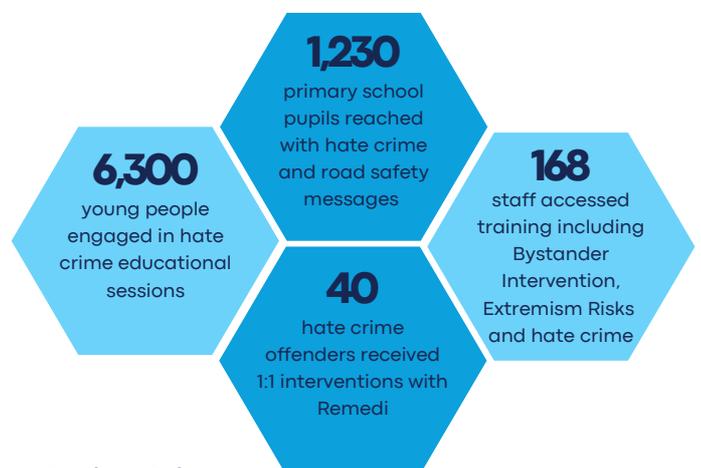
POP plans are an approach to tackling crime and disorder that involves identification and understanding of a specific problem and developing a tailored multi-agency response. Surveys have been implemented to evaluate the outcomes of action taken. The findings of the surveys are proving useful to ensure that South Yorkshire Police (SYP) and partners are targeting the issues that matter, and feeding back results in a productive and useful way.

CCTV deployment and re-deployment in targeted areas has supported early intervention.

Partnership work with South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (SYFR), SYP and youth organisations is ongoing to look at wider community safety needs relating to water safety and the links to ASB activity around high-risk sites. SYFR are also working in partnership with the Councils Housing and Enforcement teams to address deliberate garden fires which impact on neighbours and increase the risks of wider fire spread.

Hate Crime

We have used a range of methods to successfully engage children and young people across Rotherham with information about hate crime and extremism. These included an event for a number of Year 6 pupils and work with an individual secondary school to develop a resource that could then be used to engage other secondary schools. We used other issues and risks facing younger pupils (e.g., road safety) to combine learning initiatives that also introduced other learning around hate and bullying. This supported the work of Road Safety and Neighbourhoods colleagues. Some excellent feedback was received along with some very good outcomes.



Online Crime

Online safety remains a concern and offences by young people and against young people have increased. This is a national trend however we have developed and delivered a range of awareness sessions for professionals and parents/carers to address online safety issues including sessions focused on Image Sharing and Online Radicalisation. Feedback from the sessions has been positive and allowed us to identify gaps in training so we can develop further sessions.

Safer Stronger Communities

Current and emerging challenges

Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)

The risks of open water and the ASB activity within high-risk locations. Consideration is being given to the use of the appropriate problem solving tool to address this and Partnership meetings will continue to feed into the development of further work in relation to open water sites. This will include meeting with site managers and users and encourage reporting.

Hate Crime

Responding to and addressing hate incidents and community tensions remains an important area of work. We will continue to seek opportunities to identify priorities and engage communities, for example, looking at the Ward Priorities via the Neighbourhood Partnership Team, maintaining the effective relationships built up with partners such as Rotherham United Community Sports Trust to assist delivery and working with schools as delivery partners.

Online Crime

Offences by and against young people continue to increase nationally and locally. The majority of offences against young people include malicious communications and the majority of offences by young people include obscene publications which includes the sharing of images. Be Share Aware sessions developed by Youth Justice Service are being delivered in secondary schools with the aim of reducing the amount of young people referred by the Police for intervention following a 'take, make, distribute' offence. The programme helps young people understand the law around image sharing and online safety.

What we need to do

Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)

Provide early intervention for key locations and ensure that the joined up approach continues within areas that present risk, such as bodies of water and open spaces.

Continue to use a partnership problem solving approach as appropriate.

Digital Champions Network



Information on online safety issues is circulated via the Digital Champions Network. The aim of the network is to increase awareness of online and digital developments, help disseminate

information enabling greater awareness and engagement, stay informed of any training available for professionals and the public and have the opportunity to inform future training based on the needs identified in different settings. Feedback via the network also enables us to develop any resources or information bulletins which can then be shared on specific apps/websites that may have come to their attention.

Hate Crime

Deliver targeted, community-based projects tackling hate and harmful influences and focus on the use of education and engagements to prevent hate crime by tackling the drivers of hate.

Improve victims experiences of reporting hate crime and incidents which will be monitored through quarterly data reports

Provide training for key stakeholders including Bystander Intervention training and other Continuous Professional Development and provide frontline staff and partners with the knowledge and skills to counter extreme views and harmful narratives.

Continue to commission Remedi to deliver Hate Crime initiatives and interventions.

Online Crime

Continue to develop sessions for professionals and parents/carers to promote online safety and awareness of risks focusing on key issues and emerging concerns. An action to develop and promote training and awareness for professionals and parents/carers to better understand online abuse and exploitation has also been added as a new commitment to the Protecting Vulnerable Children priority for 2023-24

Develop online safety awareness sessions for delivery in communities to older people and continued awareness raising through social media working with RMBC Digital Inclusion Officer to look at how technology can be more accessible to different communities.

Protecting People from Violence and Organised Crime

Domestic and Sexual Abuse

What we did in 2022-2023

The transformation of domestic abuse services was completed in October 2022 with Rotherham Rise becoming the “one front door” pathway for all domestic abuse referrals. This ensures a domestic abuse victims/survivors are provided with the correct support service to meet their needs. From October 2022 to March 2023 Rotherham Rise received 1543 referrals. The Council’s Domestic Abuse Assertive Outreach Service provides support for individuals with the most complex needs.

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meetings take place fortnightly and are attended by 9 core agencies – Police, Domestic Abuse support service, Adults Social Care, Children’s Social Care, housing, probation, mental health services, substance misuse services and health. The meetings allow focused partnership discussions to take place about high-risk victims and share information to increase the safety, health and well-being of victims/survivors and their children. Risk management plans are constructed and implemented, providing professional support to all those at risk and reducing the risk of harm. MARAC meetings also determine whether alleged perpetrators pose a significant risk to an individual or the wider community and reduces repeat victimisation

There have been improved links with partners such as MESMAC, Sheffield Working Women’s Opportunities Project (SWWOP) and The Amber Project Doncaster which has enabled discussions in relation to better working practices and relationships across the County.

The Homelessness Prevention fund for Domestic Abuse Victims has supported nearly 100 victims and families at risk of being made homeless with essential financial support, including help with paying rent arrears to allow them to secure their own property as well as paying for removal and storage costs for victims fleeing domestic abuse. The fund provides essential items to allow victims at risk to feel safe secure and comfortable in their property including bed’s, mattresses and curtains, white goods and emergency basic supplies including food, utensils and toiletries. The fund has also paid for over 100 properties to be target hardened to allow victims to feel secure and safe and allow them to stay in their own properties or to safely move on to a target hardened property.

A revised booklet ‘Rape and Serious Sexual Offences – Next Steps’ has been completed and made available to victims through the SYP website.

Next Steps

The Domestic Abuse Homelessness Officers are providing 1:1 support for all domestic abuse victims presenting as Homeless, all of the 13-specialist local authority domestic abuse properties are up and running and occupied, these were set up to as an alternative to victims being placed in hotels or temporary accommodation and provide victims with their own independent safe accommodation to create a strong foundation for the victims to re-build their lives. The success of these projects and the work of the homelessness prevention officers has seen the number of domestic abuse victims in hotels and temporary accommodation fall from 21 at the start of 2022 to 11 at the start of 2023.

Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Learning Event

A Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) learning event was completed in March 2023 and attended by 74 partners from a range of public health and safeguarding services from across the borough following the death of a young woman in Rotherham and the subsequent DHR.

The event allowed for discussion and responses to the important learning from the domestic homicide/suicide review. The learning event drew on National and International research and local information on the prevalence of death by suicide, the need to better understand support available for victims and perpetrators who have disclosed suicidal ideation and actions we can take when responding to a disclosure and the support available for everyone.

Feedback from this has been positive and recommendations have been shared with all partners to improve joint working practices.

Protecting People from Violence and Organised Crime Domestic and Sexual Abuse

Domestic Abuse Partnership Showcase Event

The Rotherham Domestic Abuse show case event took place on the 15th of November 2022.

The event raised awareness of the ongoing commitment from all services within Rotherham in tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse and particularly shed a light on the new Domestic Abuse pathway and one front door service provided by Rotherham Rise, who received 258 referrals within the first month.



Current and emerging challenges

We continue to regularly review data for protected characteristic groups to identify and address and barriers to access to support services. Data is monitored within the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership Group (DSAPG) meetings.

Understanding the full demographic of victims who need sexual abuse support remains a challenge. This is being addressed by continuing to work with Sheffield Working Women's Opportunities Project (SWWOP) to understand the demographic of workers living in Rotherham and movement of sex workers within the county.

An emerging issue is engaging with victims of Sexual Abuse; therefore work continues with South Yorkshire Sexual Violence Partnership to understand engagement rates, age groups and types of crimes in Rotherham.

What we need to do

We are working to ensure those fleeing domestic abuse are able to access safe accommodation and appropriate support and we need to continue to monitor homeless data to identify appropriate early interventions around themes/trends and the reasons why victims become at risk of homelessness.

Improving the use of criminal justice measures is key to better protect victims and tackle perpetrator behaviour therefore we will try to improve the reporting of sexual offences in a timely manner to increase forensic opportunities.

Ensure we continue to monitor domestic abuse services to ensure they are in line with the partnership strategy to improve outcomes for victims and ensuring partnership approaches are in place to tackle repeat perpetrators. This will be done by mapping out current provisions and looking at best practice from across the region to implement improvements locally. Review and refresh the sexual abuse delivery plan focusing on victim engagement and gaining an understanding of sexual abuse in Rotherham.

Case study of support – Outreach Helpline

The client is a white British female in her 30s who has been suffering from emotional abuse and lived with the perpetrator and a child aged 5. She contacted the Outreach Helpline asking for a face to face appointment. The client felt it was difficult with the emotional abuse as there are no bruises to remind her of the damage but by talking to a worker she realises that the emotional abuse is not only damaging to her but also her child witnessing the abuse. The paperwork was completed and safety planning advice discussed so mum could make an informed choice and look at her options for leaving an abusive relationship.

The client was supported by being given all options including refuge/ housing/ housing support services safety planning and recognising the emotional abuse was damaging for them both. She stated she had a clearer picture in her mind of what she wanted and was leaving our office to go to Rotherham Council to discuss housing options feeling more empowered.

Protecting People from Violence and Organised Crime Male Violence Against Women and Girls

What we did in 2022-2023

We have raised awareness of Male Violence Against Women and Girls (MVAWG) through social media campaigns promoting Ask for Angela, Drink Spike awareness, Domestic and Sexual Abuse services and the regional No More campaign produced by South Yorkshire Police (SYP).

Links have been established with key partners such as Rotherham Youth Cabinet and the Violence Against Women and Girls Independent Advisory Group.

During 2022 The South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit (SYVRU) undertook a scoping and mapping exercise focused on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) with organisations and partners in South Yorkshire set out in the agreed terms of reference and identified through the VAWG listening events hosted by the SYVRU as well as major organisations and partners.

Rotherham Council has pledged their commitment to the South Yorkshire Violence Against Women and Girls Statement of Intent to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls. This is building a collaborative approach and bringing different organisations together around a shared set of principles to address VAWG.

Rotherham Safer Venues Together

Rotherham Safer Venues Together events have been held in July and November 2022 and January 2023. These are multi-agency partnership events for staff and Managers working within licensed premises and door security staff.



Events have focused on safeguarding adults and children through utilising campaigns such as Ask for Angela and Drink Spike Aware, improving search techniques and responding to violence or serious incidents at licensed premises. The events have also been used to distribute drinks protectors, campaign materials and knife wands.

Lighting in Clifton Park

Following funding from the Government's Safer Streets Fund, Rotherham Council installed a series of innovative lighting columns along a popular route in Clifton Park to help residents to feel safe when walking through the park. The Safer Streets funding aims to improve the safety of public spaces for all with a particular focus on areas of potential concern to women and girls.



The new lighting senses when someone walks near and signals to the lights to shine brighter. The lights also include CCTV which tracks people as they walk through the park, helping to protect individuals from potential harm but supplying us with vital evidence should someone commit a crime.

Feedback has been received from park users saying that the lighting has improved the area, increased the times which they can use the park and look attractive within the surroundings.

Protecting People from Violence and Organised Crime

Male Violence Against Women and Girls

Reclaim the Night



Reclaim the Night is an annual walk which takes place in many towns and is a stand against violence against women and girls. Reclaim the Night in Rotherham began in 2015 and took place in 2022 on 25th November. The walk started at Clifton Park Museum and followed the path which has recently had the new lighting installed and into the Town Centre culminating in speeches by local women at Hygge in Rotherham Rise.

Current and emerging challenges

Bringing together available data is essential to understanding the safety concerns of women and girls. StreetSafe is a service provided by the Police for anyone to anonymously inform them of public places where they have felt or feel unsafe. The app has been promoted through Community Safety social media and we are working alongside Police to identify hotspot locations which will assist with planning future actions. We are also exploring ways to translate promotional materials to make them more accessible.

The South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit (SYVRU) carried out a mapping exercise which provided recommendations and areas of focus for across South Yorkshire. A key area identified within this report highlights a need to increase the understanding of cultural difference and barriers facing women and girls from ethnic minorities and under-represented groups. SYVRU funding has been secured by 4 organisations within Rotherham to address this area of challenge, working to break down barriers with women and girls from Yemeni, Chinese, African, Indian and Slovak/Roma communities

What we need to do

Previous MVAWG campaigns have worked well however we will also be exploring ways in which we can use key messages to build and support men's confidence to encourage them to help end MVAWG alongside promoting an alliance between men and women.

Continue to work with partners to look at ways in which we can engage with young people to raise awareness of MVAWG and promote safety campaigns which are relevant to them such as Safe Places, a National scheme which provides the nearest registered safe location via their app. There are currently 22 registered venues in Rotherham.

Deliver awareness raising events, projects and promotions aimed at improving women and girls' safety and feelings of safety including further Rotherham Safer Venues Together events for licensed premises staff and door security and supporting the organisation of Reclaim the Night.

Use available data to focus on hotspot locations and repeat perpetrators.



Protecting People from Violence and Organised Crime

Violence and Organised Crime

What we did in 2022-2023

The Rotherham Violence Reduction Partnership Manager, working with the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit, brings together the police, council, health and community sectors to deliver a plan of action to tackle violent crime and its root causes.

In line with the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) commitment to reduce anti-social behaviour and violence within key hotspot areas of the borough, a variety of voluntary and community sector organisations delivered a vast array of positive educational diversionary outreach and engagement activities to over 800 children and young people (aged 5 – 25 years) within 21 areas of the borough.

During 2022–2023 key partners worked together to expand the 'Rotherham Together: Reducing Violence' programme, working towards making the evening and night-time economy safer for all. As a result, over 100 individuals including door supervisors, licensees and bar staff accessed training to increase their knowledge and confidence across a spectrum of risks including: search awareness, knife wands and safe weapon storage, responding to serious violence incidents including knife attack, acid attack and terrorist attack, safeguarding vulnerable adults and children and violence against women and girls.

Key partners from across multiple agencies have formed an Organised and Violent Crime Group working together to address organised crime & serious violence.

Further development of the successful partnership cannabis grow work has seen achievements in the mapping of organised crime groups and the targeted partnership action around them.

Outreach and Engagement with local Boxing Gym

A local boxing and fitness gym is providing a safe space for people to come together and engage in fitness and well being. They work with children and young people on the importance of being respectful to others, whilst also tackling issues such as bullying, teaching life skills and self-defence.



Funding from the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit has enabled the gym to provide outreach and engagement across a number of projects including a pupil engagement programme with Oakwood High School and projects in Ferham with the Islamic Cultural Centre Rotherham Mosque.

Across the various projects delivered by them, almost 700 young people have taken part in activities including weekly sports sessions at Ferham Park, boxing and fitness delivered within the Mosque and alternative education sessions via boxing and fitness.

Serious Violence Duty

The Government announced it would bring forward legislation introducing a new Serious Violence Duty intended to ensure relevant services work together to share information and collaborate on interventions to prevent and reduce serious crimes within their local communities. This Duty has now been brought into law as part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.

For each area an assessment took place to look at how the requirements are met. The outcome for South Yorkshire was very positive with the classification 'Ready and Engaged' awarded - this means in South Yorkshire we are meeting the core elements of the Duty.

Protecting People from Violence and Organised Crime

Violence and Organised Crime

What we did in 2022-2023

Increased information and education about crime types such as county lines, carrying weapons, child criminal exploitation and cuckooing has been provided to professionals to aid reporting and early interventions as well as targeted inputs by South Yorkshire Police's Community Safety Team into schools.

Consistent communication and sharing are key to being impactful so introducing regular insights in varied formats has increased understanding of organised crime and what role partners play. A monthly Organised Crime Bulletin is shared with Community Action Partnership meetings across Rotherham that have representatives from across the Safer Rotherham Partnership as well as elected members, to support understanding and action around tackling organised crime

Current and emerging challenges

Whilst there was an increase of 3% in serious violence offences in 21/22, our priority is to put early interventions in place to prevent people from becoming involved in violent offending.

A key challenge has been accessing a broad scope of data from partners (known under the Serious Violence Duty as 'Duty Holders') to build the multi-agency performance data set for the Organised and Violent Crime Board – Senior Leadership Team have continued to drive forward and remove the barriers to ensure all partners have access to key multi-agency data adopting a public health approach to serious violence

Knowledge and understanding between professional partners around organised crime and powers that can be used to tackle it are a challenge. We have increased partner participation and attendance at organised crime meetings, increased the communication between partners and increased education around the organised crime theme and various ways it can be targeted as a joint approach.

There remains a requirement for increases in partnership intelligence to be sent directly into the police from professional partners. Consistent education and support around submitting intelligence is being rolled out across the Safer Rotherham Partnership, which builds the foundations for more action to be taken against criminals.

Cannabis production resulting in power outages in certain wards prompted swift action to identify and dismantle cannabis grows in residential properties. Our approach to tackling this issue received a national award and has been recognised as good practice now being used in other areas who are seeking to replicate our partnership working and problem solving. This work has been developed to identify professional enablers and continue investigations into links to organised crime groups, which will result in targeted action against those involved in its organisation.

What we need to do

Under the Serious Violence Duty local partnerships are required to produce an evidence based Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) to identify current and long-term issues in relation to serious violence and to understand emerging trends. This includes a mutual understanding of the cohorts that are most vulnerable to serious violence.

The duty also requires that an annual Serious Violence Strategy is produced by the local partnership which identifies the causes of serious violence in that area and details a range of new and existing actions to prevent and reduce serious violence and its drivers that have been identified and informed by findings of the SNA.

We will continue to drive forward the Rotherham Local Violence Reduction Unit action plan with a crucial focus on reducing the number of homicides, offences involving knives, sharps and firearms.

We will provide increased and consistent campaigning and communication with communities and other organisations working with our residents about organised crime.

Developing further collaborative work with partners to support tackling organised crime across the different contributing factors and further align all 4 South Yorkshire district approaches to tackling organised crime between partners including sharing more good practice.

Establishing gaps in services and initiatives to actively seek funding to develop impactful resources

Other Highlights

Community Payback

Community Payback is an alternative to a prison sentence for people who have committed a crime. Offenders carry out unpaid work to benefit communities as punishment and reparation.

Rotherham has a bespoke Community Payback Programme which provides a dedicated team to carry out work requested through communities and partners.

Projects completed in 2022/23 include:

- Continued work at Thrybergh Country Park including groundworks and ongoing work at Hope Fields
- Decoration of Sunnyside Foodbank and Community Café
- Improvements to the areas around Thorogate Shopping Centre
- Decorating the pavilion at Wickersley Park
- Litter picking across the borough including town centre, Maltby and Swinton



We would like to thank Community Payback for coming to repair the stone wall near the pavilion in the park. They have done a good job. This had been a worry for quite a while and there was a risk of accidents when children were seen playing games on it. In the past Community Payback have helped us with various work, and we hope that you will continue to come to our park and support us with future projects

Feedback from The Friends of Greasbrough Parks
December 2022



The team last week and the week before that helped set up for the swimming event and were excellent. Their input really helped us get ready and make the event a great success, please pass on my thanks. We also had some great comments from the public about how hard they worked

Feedback from Thrybergh Country Park
June 2022

8819
offender
hours
completed

A value of
£96,127.10
based on
real living
wage

Other work that has taken place through Community Payback



Bench painting in Clifton Park



Litterpicking in Wickersley



Groundworks at Brinsworth School

Other Highlights

Communications and Engagement

The Community Safety team manage social media pages across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We regularly share information through these channels linking to local and national events, issues or awareness days to take safety messages into the community. Information we post is also shared through wider channels such as the Councils corporate Facebook page and through other organisations such as South Yorkshire Police.

The Community Safety Team also attend and organise events and projects throughout the year to share safety information and support partner agencies to deliver community safety messages.

Below are some examples of the work we have done this year:



16 days of action against gender based violence
This included promoting the No More campaign, domestic abuse support services and views from women and girls in Rotherham and what we can all do to help make people feel safe. Links to local and national support were also included. Posts on Community Safety Facebook page reached almost 7,000 people.



Safer Internet Day
We shared information with partners on the theme for Safer Internet Day - 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'. We also sent information to schools and encouraged this to be shared with parents with advice on starting conversations with young people about their online lives to encourage openness.



Hate Crime Awareness Week
We supported Remedi and Rotherham United Community Sports Trust to raise awareness of hate crime and its impact during a dedicated Rotherham United match. We also shared information on our social media including how to report hate crime and support available for those who have suffered from the impact of hate crime.

 www.facebook.com/Rotherhamcommunitysafety

 www.instagram.com/rmbccommunitysafety

 www.twitter.com/RmbcSafety

Other Highlights

Hate Crime Awareness Book Project with local schools

Students from Swinton Academy designed an exercise book cover to raise awareness of hate incidents and bullying in schools and to help teachers introduce the subject in class.

All of the cover designs submitted were displayed at Swinton Library to enable residents to see how local young people understand the harm hurtful comments and discrimination can cause. Head of Community Safety, Emma Ellis, and Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Councillor Alam, then chose two designs for the book cover.

3000 books were produced and distributed to Year 7 pupils in 12 secondary schools across the borough and to Year 6 pupils from primary schools who attended our event at Magna Science and Adventure Centre where hate related bullying was discussed.

The books have opened up discussions around hate and bullying. Ward members have also attended some schools to show support for the school in its work to address hate and discrimination. We have received some positive feedback from pupils and teachers. Our work with schools has enabled us to identify future projects around hate, discrimination and radicalisation and provided the opportunity to improve understanding and awareness on hate issues and the importance of reporting.



Funding Overview

The organisations that make up the Safer Rotherham Partnership allocate considerable resources each year to protecting children and vulnerable adults, preventing and reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, and building safer and stronger communities as part of their day-to-day services. However, by working together, partner organisations have extra opportunities to share resources and provide additional activities to tackle the highest local crime and community safety risks and concerns.

The Safer Rotherham Partnership Board seeks to maximise resources available to meeting its priority commitments. This is achieved through collaborative working, joint commissioning and pooling resources of multi-agency partners and services. Examples of successful collaborative working include:

- The continuing development of locality based multi-agency teams which have improved the ability to share information and provide swifter responses to neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour, demonstrated in part through the positive impact of new partnership problem solving approaches.
- Continuing investment in upgrading CCTV in the Borough, maximising external funding opportunities such as Safer Streets Funding.
- The multi-agency Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority Group has facilitated the involvement of a wide range of partners in the transformation of domestic abuse services. The group has also been a key consultation group in developing recommendations for the allocation of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DHLUC) domestic abuse duty grant funding.
- Community safety partners are engaged in the development of the Combatting Drugs Partnership and Combatting Drugs Strategy, led by RMBC Public Health.
- The Rotherham Police Safer Neighbourhood Service coordinates partnership processes for responding to and mitigating risks to vulnerable adults and has a dedicated Police Officer hate crime coordinator.
- The Council's Adult Social Care service provides up to four social workers to work jointly with the Police Safer Neighbourhood Service to manage risks and provide support to vulnerable adults.
- RDASH continue to resource the dedicated Mental Health Clinical Specialist, based within the Police Safer Neighbourhood Service.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner has secured Home Office and Ministry of Justice funding for a number of South Yorkshire wide programmes, including for domestic abuse support services, youth justice services and many community-based support services.
- The Council's Community Safety team provides support to the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board and Strategic Priority Leads across the full range of SRP priorities, coordinating the development and delivery of priority action plans and providing performance reports to monitor progress. The Community Safety team also leads partnership strategy and coordinates delivery of statutory duties such as counter terrorism (Prevent, Channel and Protect Duties) and domestic abuse.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner awards a grant each year to the Safer Rotherham Partnership to address local crime and community safety priorities and to contribute to achieving the aims of the Police and Crime Plan. The Safer Rotherham Partnership Board allocates this funding to enhance work to tackle key areas of risk. This year the grant has supported an Organised Crime Partnership Coordinator to work across the partnership to support achievement of organised crime priorities. Funding has also supported the Cranstoun Inspire to Change programme which is an important component of our domestic abuse priorities. Other projects supported are the Community Payback Service, training and communications work and problem-solving interventions to tackle neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour.

Our priorities for 2023-24

Protecting Vulnerable Children

Objective	Commitments
Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	<p>Work together with partners and the public to reduce the risk of CSE and CCE and ensure accurate recording of investigations and quality outcomes</p> <p>Increase understanding of CCE and CSE, reporting and responses, with professionals and the public through training and awareness raising</p> <p>Increase understanding of CSE and CCE, how it affects our communities and how our actions as a partnership improve the lives of children</p> <p>Develop and promote training and awareness for professionals and parents/carers to better understand online abuse and exploitation (links with online safety objective areas under safer stronger communities)</p>
Child Abuse	<p>Increase understanding of the potential signs of neglect and child abuse through training and awareness raising with partners</p> <p>Raise awareness with the public around the signs of early abuse and mechanisms for reporting</p>

Protecting Vulnerable Adults

Objective	Commitments
Substance Misuse	<p>Increase engagement and positive outcomes from substance misuse treatment services for offenders within the criminal justice system</p> <p>Increase understanding and awareness of substance misuse issues, harm minimisation techniques and the referral pathways for staff within the Criminal Justice System (CJS).</p> <p>Support the Combatting Drugs Partnership Action Plan.</p>
Mental Health	<p>Review the use and impact of mental health treatment requirements in the criminal justice system</p> <p>Review dual diagnosis pathways to support service users with mental health and alcohol/drug use treatment needs</p>
Modern Slavery	<p>Increase understanding of of modern slavery through training and awareness raising with partners</p> <p>Raise awareness around the signs of modern slavery and mechanisms for reporting</p>

Our priorities for 2023-24

Safer Stronger Communities

Objective	Commitments
Making communities safer – tackling community safety priority locations	<p>Monitor and evaluate the partnership approach to problem solving in local neighbourhoods, including thresholds and methodology for partnership activity</p> <p>Seek appropriate external funding opportunities and support and participate in partnership bids to secure additional funding for activity in the borough</p>
Preventing hate crime	<p>Focus on the use of education and engagement to prevent hate crime by tackling the drivers of hate</p> <p>Improve victims' experiences of reporting hate crime and incidents</p>
Online Crime	Explore innovative ways in which partners and the public can be educated around online safety and digital technologies and develop engagement with young people, families and older people

Protecting People from Violence and Organised Crime

Domestic Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Male Violence Against Women and Girls (MVAWG)

Objective	Commitments
Domestic Abuse	<p>Monitor Domestic Abuse services, ensuring they are in line with the partnership strategy, to improve outcomes for victims.</p> <p>Ensure all those fleeing domestic abuse are able to access safe accommodation and appropriate support.</p> <p>Improve the use of criminal justice measures to better protect victims and tackle perpetrator behaviour.</p>
Sexual Abuse	<p>Review and refresh the sexual abuse delivery plan, focussing on victim engagement.</p> <p>Improve timely reporting of sexual offences to increase forensic opportunities.</p>
Male Violence Against Women and Girls (MVAWG)	<p>Reduce male violence against women and girls by focussing on hot spot locations and repeat perpetrators</p> <p>Deliver awareness raising events, projects and promotions aimed at improving women and girls' safety and feelings of safety</p>

Our priorities for 2023-24

Protecting People from Violence and Organised Crime Violence and Organised Crime

Objective	Commitments
Organised Crime	<p>Identify and implement a whole system partnership approach to tackling Organised Crime</p> <p>Prevent individuals and emerging groups from becoming involved in Organised Crime</p> <p>Build stronger information sharing structures between partners and communities</p> <p>Target our partnership approach to those causing the highest harm to individuals and groups in our communities</p> <p>Disrupt Organised Crime via a partnership approach utilising the national 4P framework</p>
Serious Violence Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)	<p>Provide ways out for those already entrenched in violence, or who have been previously incarcerated, to support effective rehabilitation</p> <p>Reduce violence through victim identification, care and support programmes</p> <p>Reduce availability and access to lethal weapons</p> <p>Work to change cultural and social norms that support violence</p> <p>Encourage all professionals and organisations to continue to work toward becoming trauma-informed, to an approved standard for South Yorkshire</p>
Counter Terrorism	<p>Reduce the risk of terrorism by taking a partnership approach to the Prevent, Protect and Prepare workstreams of the UK Contest Counter Terrorism Strategy</p> <p>Achieve compliance with the Channel, Prevent, Protect and Prepare duties (under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015) demonstrated through self-assessment using Home Office toolkits</p>



THE SAFER ROTHERHAM
PARTNERSHIP

For further information visit the Safer Rotherham Partnership website at www.saferrotherham.org.uk or follow

us on social media for our latest news and updates at:

 www.facebook.com/Rotherhamcommunitysafety

 www.instagram.com/rmbccommunitysafety

 www.twitter.com/RmbcSafety

If you would like this information in another language or format, please ask us. You can contact us through our website or by emailing community.safety@rotherham.gov.uk

