

Rochdale Borough **'Safer Lives Together'** Safeguarding Adults Board

Strategic Plan 2025-2028

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Glossary of terms

- RBSAB** - Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adults Board
- RBSCP** - Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children’s Partnership
- MSP** - Making Safeguarding Personal
- SAR** - Safeguarding Adult Review

Chair’s introduction to Rochdale Borough’s Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy 2025-28

Brad Howe Chair, Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adults Board

The Rochdale Borough ‘Safer Lives Together’ Safeguarding Adults Board (RBSAB) wants a community where people can live safely, free from harm and abuse, make their own choices and where abuse of adults will not be tolerated. We want to ensure that we work together, listening to the views of individuals, intervening early to prevent abuse happening and being clear in our response when abuse does occur. We will do this by ‘Making Safeguarding Personal.’

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the RBSAB’s strategy, which lays-down our priorities for the next three years. We are a strong multi-agency partnership with the three statutory partners, (Rochdale Borough Council, NHS GM Integrated Care Board (HMR), Greater Manchester Police) supported by several non-statutory organisations including Probation, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, Housing, commissioned care providers, voluntary and community sector partners. All have contributed to this Strategic Plan, which focuses on reducing abuse of adults at risk across Rochdale Borough through Prevention, Engagement and Confident Practice.



The strategy has been devised with the use of a range of information. This has included learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) and consultation with our partners. The results have influenced our strategic priorities and will help the RBSAB, and subgroup members deliver actions and evidence our response to safeguard adults at risk of abuse.

Our strategy will be reviewed annually to ensure we are doing what we said we would, whilst allowing us to remain flexible in adapting to new and emerging themes.

Our overarching desire is to work closely with people with lived experience, seeking out seldom heard groups and laying the foundations for a sustainable co-production model.

Together, we will work to improve the lives of adults across Rochdale Borough, to reduce risk and drive a community culture focussed on wellbeing and ensuring that ‘safeguarding is everyone’s business’.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to everyone involved in developing this strategy and I look forward to working with you all.



Our vision

Together we will be outstanding in delivery of safeguarding services for adults across Rochdale Borough with care and support needs, ensuring that they live safely, free from harm and abuse, and are able to make their own choices.

Making Safeguarding Personal

The Six Principles

In line with the six key principles from the Care Act 2014, we are focussed on developing a safeguarding culture centred around personalised outcomes desired by people with care and support needs who may have been abused. Key to this is embedding 'Making Safeguarding Personal' (MSP) across all agencies. The principles are:

1. Empowerment

People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.

“ I am able to make my own decision about my care and support and asked what outcomes I want. ”

2. Prevention

It is better to act before harm occurs.

The RBSAB will share, learn, and respond to what is happening in the community to increase awareness of safeguarding issues, intervening early to prevent people at risk from harm and abuse.

“ I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help. ”

3. Proportionality

The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

The RBSAB analyses data, reflecting and acting on any highlighted trends and themes.

“ I am sure that the professionals will work in my best interests, and they will only get involved as much as needed. ”

4. Protection

Support and representation for those in greatest need.

Over the last 12 months we have seen increases in both adult concern submissions as well as safeguarding enquiries.

The RBSAB will use data and information from its performance dashboard to analyse these increases and identify emerging themes to support effective responses.

“ I get help and support to protect me from abuse and neglect. I get help so that I can take part in the safeguarding process. ”

5. Partnership

Local solutions through services working with their communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting, and reporting neglect and abuse.

The data shows that referrals of safeguarding concerns continue to rise from the various areas:

- **Adult Social Care**
- **Health Services / Health Providers**
- **Emergency Services**
- **Family/Friends/Neighbours**
- **Housing**
- **Education/Training/Workplace.**
- **Other (which relates to the referrer being a member of the public, bank, or a charity).**

The RBSAB aims to raise more awareness and support people's understanding of safeguarding and how to refer any safeguarding concerns across all agencies and organisations that operate across Rochdale Borough.

“I know that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, sharing what is necessary. I am confident that professionals will work with me to get the best result for me.”

6. Accountability

Transparency and accountability in delivering safeguarding.

Making Safeguarding Personal is about defining the desired outcomes, which are the wishes of the adult at risk or their representative, which has been voiced by the adult at risk during the initial conversations. Achieving desired outcomes can depend on what the desired outcome is and what is possible. However, it is a good indicator that MSP is central to the safeguarding process with a high proportion of people drawing on care and support having been asked.

“I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they.”



Why do we have a Safeguarding Adults Strategy?

This strategy allows partner agencies to collectively work to agreed priorities for the betterment of adults with care and support needs across Rochdale Borough. It supports development of the ‘Safeguarding is everyone’s business’ ethos, helping to change attitudes in the process and creating a culture of zero tolerance to all types of abuse. Key definitions used in this paper can be seen in Appendix 1.

We want to make sure everyone can recognise abuse and know how to report it. Our strategy is a shared commitment as to what the RBSAB will do over the next three years. By working together on the priority actions laid down in this strategy, we aim to achieve our vision of delivering outstanding safeguarding services. The different types of abuse can be seen in Appendix 2.

What might some of our challenges be?

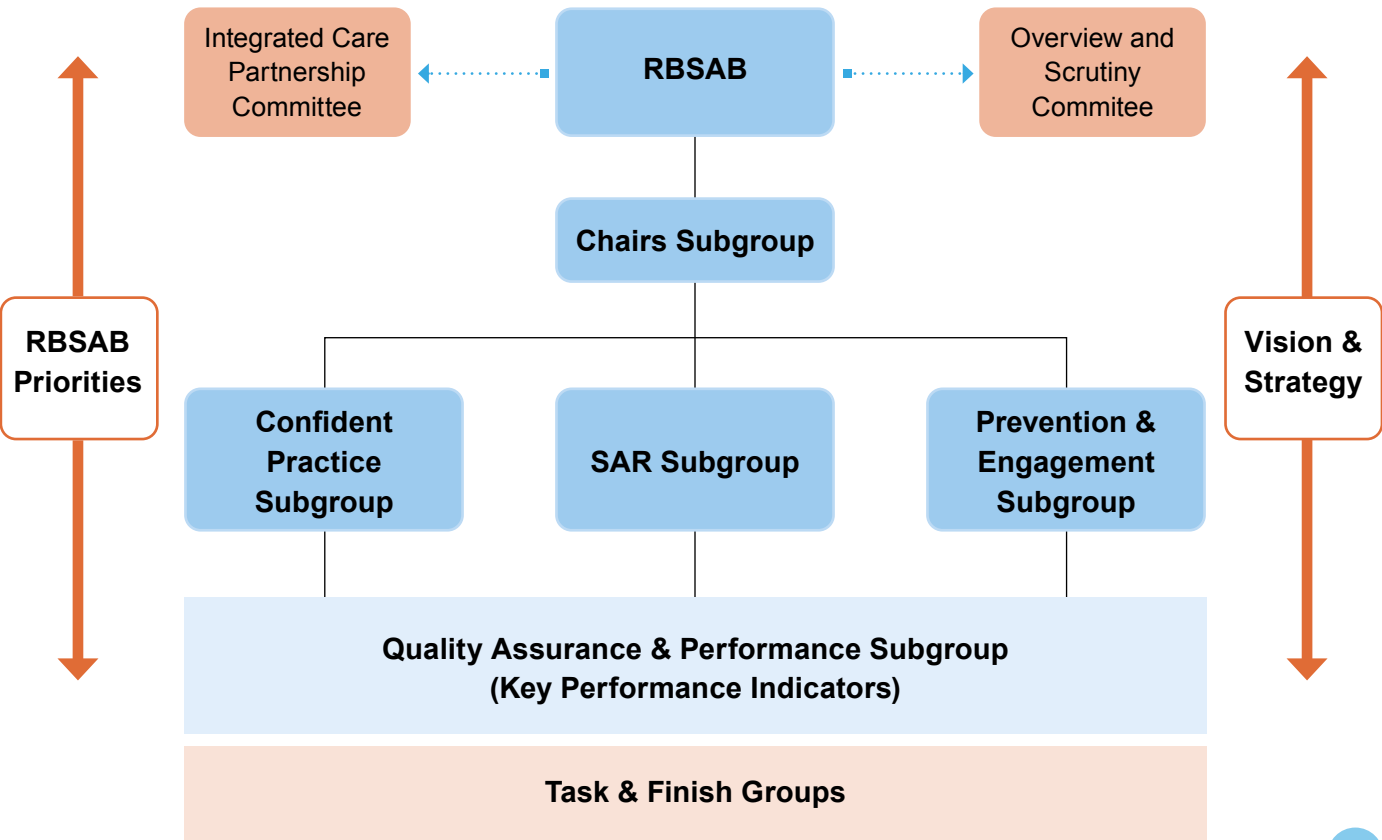
- **Resources**
- **An ageing population**
- **Promoting diversity, wellbeing and health equalities**
- **Emerging trends such as digital abuse**
- **Cost-of-Living Crisis**

The RBSAB will be dynamic in responding to emerging trends and themes, ensuring that the business delivery plan reflects those changes.



What is Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adults Board and its role?

Rochdale Borough’s Safeguarding Adults Board (RBSAB) is a multi-agency partnership which has statutory functions under the Care Act 2014. It brings together organisations that work across Rochdale Borough to ensure that safeguarding arrangements work effectively to help protect adults with care and support needs from abuse or neglect.





Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs) have three core duties. They must:

1. Publish a Strategic Plan setting out how they will meet their objectives and how their member and partner agencies will contribute
2. Publish an Annual Report
3. Commission a Safeguarding Adult Review for any case which meets the criteria, in accordance with Section 44 of the Care Act 2014

As a Board we are also directed to hold partners to account by taking an active presence in discussions to ensure that strategies to reduce rough sleeping, seek outcomes which promote the integration of experience informed practice into service delivery.



Who are we?

The Board has an independent chair and is made up of the following partners:

- Rochdale Borough Council (RBC) Adult Social Care
- Greater Manchester Police
- Integrated Care NHS Greater Manchester
- RBC Children Services
- RBC Commissioning
- RBC Community Safety Partnership
- RBC Public Health
- RBC Strategic Housing
- Rochdale Boroughwide Housing
- Probation Service (Rochdale)
- Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

- Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust
- HMP Buckley Hall
- North West Ambulance Service
- Rochdale MIND
- Turning Point
- Action Together
- Healthwatch
- Caring and Sharing Rochdale
- Rochdale Council of Mosques
- Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service
- Together Advocacy



The Board's Priorities for 2025-28

1. Prevention

We will work with partners to ensure we understand the key themes, issues and risks relating to adult safeguarding across Rochdale Borough developing preventative responses and early intervention.

What we will do:

- We will ensure that all practitioners and staff are confident in identifying the signs of abuse and neglect and know how to report it and respond.
- We will strengthen our collaborative approach to safeguarding practice for young people to ensure that transitional planning arrangements are robust and support early intervention.
- We will strengthen our collaborative approach to protecting adults at risk of abuse and neglect because of rough sleeping and homelessness.
- We will seek out and share innovative practice to prevent abuse and neglect. Whilst remaining flexible to adapt to new and emerging themes to safeguard adults at risk of abuse.

2. Engagement

We will ensure the voice of our customers, staff, and wider communities is heard and influences how we safeguard adults at risk of abuse and neglect across Rochdale Borough.

What we will do:

- We will work with adults with care and support needs, their families and carers together with community led groups so that their voices are heard, and they contribute and influence the work of the Board.
- We will identify and engage with diverse communities, including those who are seldom heard, using culturally appropriate and accessible channels to communicate and consult.
- We will strengthen our mechanisms to improve engagement for our residents, practitioners, staff, and local communities to influence our practice, and promote a collaborative culture of 'safeguarding is everyone's business'.

3. Confident Practice

We will learn from experience to ensure our staff are knowledgeable and confident in their adult safeguarding roles and responsibilities.

What we will do:

We will ensure the RBSAB training and development offer reflects local learning and priorities.

- We will deliver a person-centred response through embedding Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP).
- We will reflect on, and incorporate local, national and regional learning to support local practice developments.

- We will support practitioners to be confident and consistent in promoting a culture of continuous improvement.
- We will implement our Quality Assurance & Performance Framework including data analysis to understand areas of good practice, areas for development and our key safeguarding risks.



How will we know we are making a difference to prevent abuse or harm?

We will have an annual business plan which lays down our actions. Our overall approach will be data-led to ensure that actions are evidence-based, with clear targets to show the impact we are having.

We will capture the voice of adults with care and support needs, their families, and carers so that lived experience and feedback about what works well and what does not, informs our future practice.

We will engage more effectively with practitioners so that barriers to service delivery can be identified, understood, and addressed.

We will continue to look at learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), taking a themed approach to ensure learning stays relevant. We will utilise the learning from SAR's and be assured that Board members are embedding the learning, change to local, regional and national learning.

The recommendations, actions and learning taken from our thematic review of SARs since 2020 have highlighted some of the themes bullet pointed which the RBSAB will continue to work on as part of our priorities:

- Mental Capacity assessments
- Sharing of information across all agencies
- Self-neglect
- Social isolation/loneliness
- Hoarding
- Partner agencies working together to escalate situations of concern
- Working with Rochdale Borough Children's Safeguarding partnership on Transitional Safeguarding for young people 18-24 years old



What can you do?

Your Help in identifying and reporting abuse and poor practices is an important part in keeping people safe, for you, your family and anyone using adult social care or health services now and in the future.

Safeguarding adults is everyone's business. This means you, your friends and families, your neighbours, as well as the people who work for organisations like Rochdale Borough Council, the Police, the NHS, Community and Voluntary organisations, faith groups, education settings and others, have important roles to play to help adults at risk in our community stay safe from abuse or harm.

We want to work with you or the person you are concerned about to make them safe. We want to show you the vital role you can play to stop adult abuse from happening across Rochdale Borough.

Here are three things you can do to prevent abuse:

- Be informed – read about the different types of abuse so you can recognise them visit our website www.rochdalesafeguarding.com
- Take an active interest in your community, your neighbours, extended family and offer help and support where possible.
- Do not ignore it, report it – if you see something that you think is abuse or that worries you, report it straight away. If you or someone you know is being abused or if you suspect abuse, visit our website. In an emergency always call 999. See our website which offers guidance in various languages

Appendix 1

Key Definitions

Abuse

Abuse is a violation of a person’s human and civil rights by any other person or persons and is a crime.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding means protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop the experience of abuse or neglect.

Who is an “Adult at risk”?

All adults who are over 18 years of age who have care and support needs, and who are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect, and are unable to protect themselves.

An adult with care and support needs may be:

- An older person,
- A person with a physical or learning disability or a sensory impairment,
- Someone with mental health needs, including dementia or a personality disorder,
- A person with a long-term health condition,
- Someone who misuses substances or alcohol to the extent that it affects their ability to manage day-to-day living,
- A carer, providing unpaid care to a family member or friend.
- Adult safeguarding applies whatever setting people live in, and regardless of whether they have mental capacity to make specific decisions at specific times.
- An adult at risk could also include someone who does not receive community care services but because they have been abused or are at risk of being abused, they could become vulnerable. The adult may not be able to protect themselves against harm or abuse.

Safeguarding Enquiry - Section 42, Care Act 2014, Enquiry by local authority.

- (1). This section applies where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult in its area (whether or not ordinarily resident there):
 - a). has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),
 - b). is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
 - c). as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.
- (2) The local authority must make (or cause to be made) whatever enquiries it thinks necessary to enable it to decide whether any action should be taken in the adult’s case (whether under this Part or otherwise) and, if so, what and by whom.

Homelessness

Legally, a person is considered homeless if they do not have accommodation that they have a legal right to occupy, which is accessible and physically available to them (and their household) or which it would be reasonable for them to continue to live in. Rough sleeping is one form of homelessness.

Rough Sleeping

The most acute and extreme form of homelessness that is characterised by someone about to, or actually, bedding down in the open air (such as on the street, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments) or places not designed for habitation (including cardboard boxes, stairwells, cars and other makeshift and not fit for purpose places). Rough sleeping does not include instances of those in hostels, shelters, recreational shelters such as campsites or spaces of protest, squatters, and travellers.



Appendix 2

Types of Abuse

Physical abuse

Where physical acts of violence or threats of violence or intimidation are used against a person, including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions.

Modern slavery

Slavery typically occurs where people are being exploited or controlled by another person and are unable to leave their situation. There are eight key forms of modern slavery: Forced labour, debt bondage prostitution, domestic servitude, criminal exploitation, child exploitation, forced marriage and organ harvesting.

Self-neglect

Is defined as an extreme lack of self-care to the extent where it may threaten someone's health and safety. This covers a wide range of behaviours: neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes hoarding.

Domestic abuse

Is an incident or pattern of behaviour which are violent, controlling, coercive, threatening or degrading towards a person who is or has been a close intimate partner or family member. Including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; 'honour' based violence; and coercive control which is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation, and intimidation.

Sexual abuse

This is abusive sexual behaviour towards another person, it can cover a range of behaviours including rape, sexual assault, "harassment", inappropriate looking or touching, subjection to pornography or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting and publishing sexual images without consent.

Psychological abuse

This involves frequent and deliberate use of words and non-physical actions with the intention of manipulating, scaring, or hurting an individual. Including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks.

Financial or material abuse

Is when someone takes or misuses someone else's money or belongings for their own gain. Including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions, or benefits.

Discriminatory abuse

This exists where abuse is targeted towards someone because of their age, gender, sexuality, disability, religions, class, culture, language, race, or ethnic origin.

Organisational abuse

This constitutes the mistreatment of an individual(s) due to poor or inadequate practices, systems, or care within a care setting. Including neglect and poor care practice within an institution, unsafe handling and the covering up of incidents.

Neglect and acts of omission

Is when a person(s) fails to do something which can cause harm to the individual. Including ignoring medical, emotional, or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition, and heating.

Other types of abuse

Hate crime

Acts of violence or hostility directed at people because of who they are or who someone thinks they are. Hate incidents and hate crime happen because of prejudice or hostility based on a person's disability, race, religion, sexual orientation, or transgender identity.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Also known as female circumcision or female genital cutting, is defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as "all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.



Would you like to know more?

Email: RBSB.Admin@rochdale.gov.uk

What should I do if I think someone is being abused?

If you are worried that an adult is at risk of or is experiencing abuse, neglect, or exploitation: please call **0300 303 8886** and select option 1 Safeguarding, or email: adult.care@rochdale.gov.uk

If you think an adult is in immediate danger, you should call the police on **999** (urgent) or dial **101** (non-urgent).



RBSAB

ROCHDALE BOROUGH
SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD