Rotherham Place Partnership Update: March/April 2026

Accelerating Neighbourhood Working: Rotherham's Progress and Learning from the National Neighbourhood Health Improvement Programme (NNHIP) Leeds Event

Representatives from Rotherham attended the second NNHIP event in Leeds at the end of March, providing a valuable opportunity to connect with peers, reflect on progress, and share learning across systems.

A key highlight for Rotherham was hearing from Minal Bakhai, who shared her seven principles for neighbourhood working, developed through direct engagement with local sites.

These principles offer a clear and practical framework to further strengthen Rotherham's neighbourhood approach:

- **Empower people** – Enable staff and system partners to take ownership and act
- **Build trust** – Foster credible, meaningful partnerships across organisations
- **Think system-wide** – Develop a clear neighbourhood model with strong, shared decision-making on priorities and roles
- **Lead collectively** – Bring leaders together to address shared challenges
- **Strengthen place** – Ensure the right local structures are in place to support delivery
- **Commission for impact** – Create commissioning routes that support prevention and a shift towards earlier intervention
- **Align nationally** – Embed neighbourhood working as business as usual across the system

The event also provided valuable time to pause and recognise progress. Over the past six months, Rotherham has made significant strides in a relatively short period - an achievement that reflects the commitment and collaboration of partners across the system.

There is clear momentum building across Rotherham's system, with strong foundations now in place to support continued development in the months ahead.

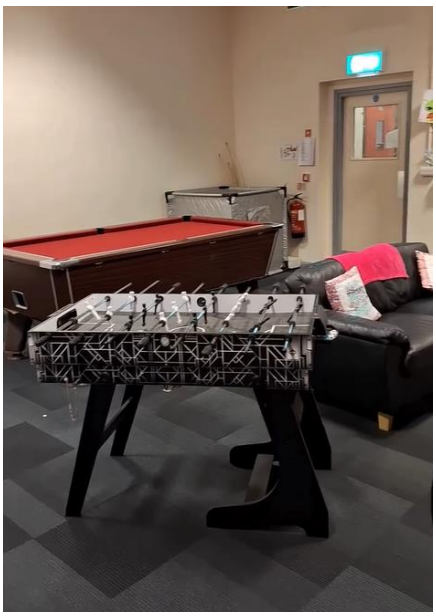
Update on the SEND Hub

Rotherham Parent Carer Forum have re-located to create a new SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Hub in Rotherham Town Centre.

Based at the Eric Manns building, the SEND Hub offers recreational activities for children and young people, as well as being the main site for delivery of the NHS South Yorkshire peer support contract. The space has been designed with modern activity rooms, a specialist changing room and calm sensory spaces.

Support and activities at the Hub will be run by the Rotherham Parents Forum Limited (RPFL), which is made of Rotheram Parent Carers Forum and the Autism and ADHD Peer Support Service. RPFL will be providing specialist support tailored to the needs of each individual parent, carer, child, young person and adult.

Further information about the support and services available for children and young people with SEND is available on the SEND Local Offer page at www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org.uk



Case Study - Proactive Care Rother Valley South PCN

Below is a short case study demonstrating the impact of proactive care on a Patient who was experiencing housing issues, lifestyle issues and loneliness. It describes her initial assessment, the interventions made and the positive outcomes.

Initial assessment - found the patient was facing multiple interconnected challenges that were affecting their wellbeing:

- **Housing instability** due to eviction notices and rent arrears, worsened by rising living costs and resulting stress.
- **Poor housing conditions**, with the property requiring repairs.
- **Broken disability aids**, limiting mobility and ability to access the community.
- **Severe social isolation and loneliness**, alongside reduced confidence using a wheelchair, preventing independent outings.
- **Emotional distress linked to bereavement**, low mood, distrust of services, and unresolved past experiences.
- **Lifestyle concerns**, including smoking 30 cigarettes a day, impacting both health and finances.
- **Dissatisfaction with current care provider**, leading to reduced confidence in support services.

Interventions – creation of a comprehensive support plan addressing the patient's housing, wellbeing, mobility, emotional health, and social needs. Key actions included:

- **Housing stability:** Engaged with the landlord to pause eviction proceedings, supported the patient with a payment plan, and explored bedroom tax support.
- **Property repairs:** Liaised with the landlord to arrange essential repairs, including unsafe front and rear doors that were causing cold and insecurity.
- **Mobility and confidence:** Referred patient to the Enabling Service to rebuild confidence using their wheelchair and to help them access local social groups, including exploring nearby bingo groups.
- **Social connection:** Contacted Sight Loss for telephone befriending to reduce loneliness.
- **Equipment repairs:** Liaised with Medequip to arrange repairs to the patient's wheelchair.
- **Emotional wellbeing:** Discussed a referral to Mind (via RSPS Commissioned Counselling) to support bereavement, sadness, and coping strategies.
- **Lifestyle support:** Referred the patient to Rotherham Healthwave for smoking cessation support.
- **Safeguarding and wellbeing concerns:** Informed RMBC Adult Services of concerns regarding the patient's wellbeing.
- **Accessibility improvements:** Requested RMBC Housing to install a new safe box at a suitable height for a wheelchair user.

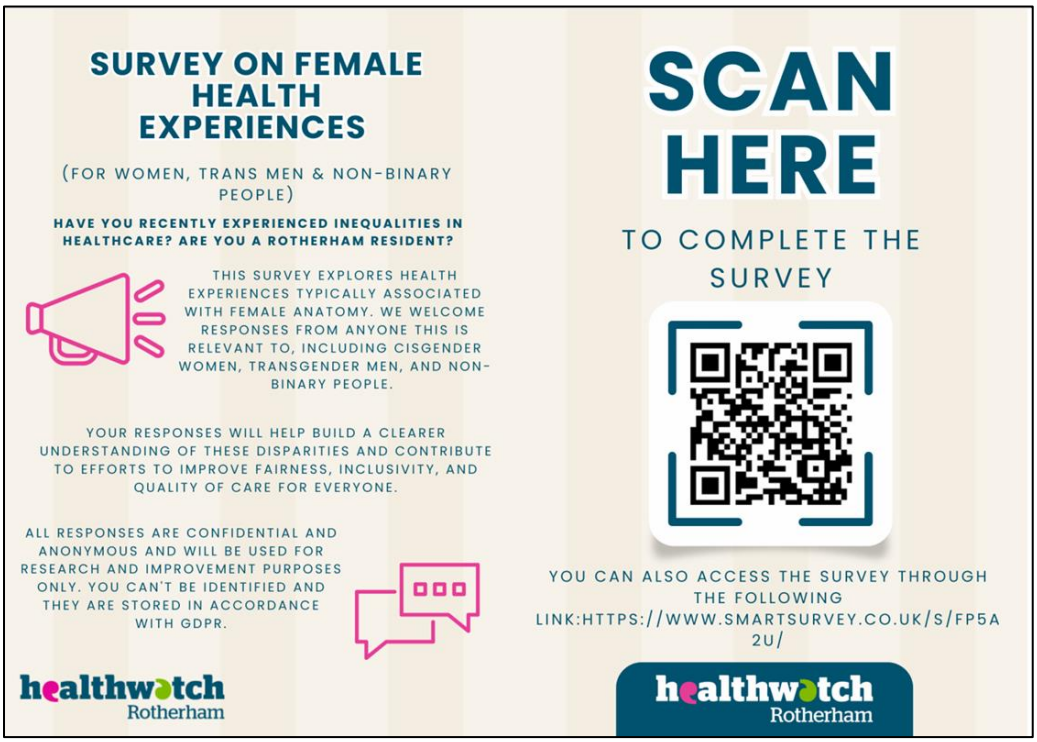
Outcomes – follow up review showed significant improvements across the patient's housing situation, emotional wellbeing, mobility, social connections, and lifestyle:

- **Housing stability:** A payment plan for rent arrears has been set up, enabling the patient to consider alternative housing options once arrears are cleared.
- **Property safety and comfort:** A new handle and lock have been fitted, improving safety. A replacement door has been approved, and the landlord awarded £140 compensation.
- **Accessibility:** A new key safe has been installed at an appropriate height for wheelchair access.
- **Reduced loneliness:** The patient is receiving weekly befriending calls from Sight Loss, which she enjoys and finds beneficial.
- **Social confidence:** The Enabling Service (Live Inclusive) has made contact and will begin visits soon. The patient is excited about joining local groups, including bingo sessions at the Learning Community Hub and Library.
- **Improved care support:** Following liaison with Adult Services, the patient now has a new, more reliable care provider for social days, boosting her confidence in addressing future challenges.
- **Emotional wellbeing:** The patient has begun counselling and is already feeling more positive.
- **Health and finances:** With help from the Stop Smoking service, the patient has switched to vaping, improving her breathing and saving around £60 per week. Weekly check-ins help her stay on track.
- **Mobility:** The wheelchair has been repaired, including a new battery installed by Medequip. The patient is awaiting Enabling Service support to rebuild confidence, which is expected to increase independence and wellbeing.

Inequalities in healthcare related to female health

Healthwatch Rotherham is currently carrying out a survey to gather vital insight for an upcoming report exploring inequalities in healthcare related to female health. They are seeking responses from Rotherham residents to help ensure the report genuinely reflects lived experience across our borough.

The research focuses on health experiences typically associated with female anatomy, and they are keen to hear from anyone for whom this is relevant. It provides an opportunity to share experiences linked to female health and anatomy. Responses are welcome from cisgender women, transgender men, and non-binary people whose healthcare needs fall within this area.



Your feedback will help to:

- build a clearer picture of where inequalities exist
- highlight gaps in care and access
- inform recommendations to improve fairness, inclusivity, and quality of care across Rotherham

Take part in the survey

👉 Complete the survey here: https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/FP5A2U/

Saying Goodbye

Between March and June South Yorkshire ICB will say goodbye to around 150 staff who are leaving on voluntary redundancy.

Some of the Rotherham Place Team celebrated with an *'End of an Era'* night out. Emotions were high for both those leaving and those staying – many staff have worked together for a very long time.

Best wishes to everyone with their next chapter!