

THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS

Keepsafe Two Operations carried out across the borough to keep young people safe

As a service, Early Help Outreach & Engagement agreed that it was still essential to engage with Rotherham's young people to ensure that they are keeping safe and also to reassure the community that services are all still working collaboratively to promote safety, with regard to both concerns raised around anti-social behaviour in the area and those around the pandemic.

Following from this, the team planned some Keepsafe Two operations to ensure young people in the borough are safe. The purpose of these Keepsafe Two operations is to focus on engaging with young people and is not about enforcement.

The team worked collaboratively with the Council's partners from South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue, Rotherham Council's Housing Services, Barnardo's, Rotherham United Community Sports Trust and have also worked with local elected Members.

The team have carried out 28 Keepsafe Two operations throughout the borough and have engaged with over 1,000 young people. On the whole, young people have been very receptive to the presence of the team, partners and ward members and have engaged very well. The purpose of the Keepsafe Two operations was explained to young people who discussed their perceptions about communities, the area they live in and the services and activities available to them within it, and education and aspirations. The team



The Early Help Outreach & Engagement North team conducting a Keepsafe Two operation with South Yorkshire Police and Barnardo's in Wath.

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also had discussions about the pandemic and dispelled some myths that young people had.

The success of the Keepsafe Two operations has led the team to continue delivering these, as well as beginning to gradually open their face-to-face provisions for Rotherham's young people.



The Early Help Outreach and Engagement South Team ready for their Keepsafe Two operation with South Yorkshire Police in Maltby.



The Early Help Outreach & Engagement Central Team ready for their Keepsafe Two operation with South Yorkshire Police, Barnardo's and local elected Member in Ferham.

BETTER HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Almost £1million worth of vouchers will be provided to 10,000 children eligible for free school meals this summer holiday.



Almost £1million worth of vouchers will be provided to 10,000 children eligible for free school meals this summer holiday as the Council extends support to families on low incomes.

Continuing the provision made throughout the last four school holidays to families who are struggling in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis, the Council is providing £90 supermarket vouchers for each child to cover the six-week break. The money is roughly equivalent to the cost of providing a child with a free meal at school.

The food vouchers can be redeemed at local supermarkets and will be provided to 10,802 pupils from 119 schools across the borough, totalling £970,785 in funding (two schools are closing for five weeks only).

The Council has chosen to make the provision by using the Government's Covid Local Support Grant.

Through the summer, the vouchers will be complemented by the Rotherham Healthy Holidays scheme which provides activity days with

healthy school meals to all children in the borough.

The Rotherham Healthy Holidays programme has been organised by the Council with a range of partners to offer activities ranging from football and cycling through to arts and first aid throughout the summer. Each activity day includes a healthy meal and families who are entitled to free school meals can book a place for free.

The Council is working in partnership with local schools, who will distribute the vouchers to eligible families on its behalf and also promote the free places on the Rotherham Healthy Holidays programme.

Councillor Victoria Cusworth, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, said: "As the number families relying on low incomes continues to rise, we are stepping up our efforts to make sure that nobody in the borough will go hungry. The Covid pandemic made it extremely difficult for some families to make ends meet and we want to do as much as we can to help them.

"The Council first stepped in last October to provide food vouchers to local children during the school holidays when the Government failed to provide the support needed, and we are glad to be able to put the current funding to such an important purpose. Once again, we are extremely grateful to schools for helping to get this support to the families that most need it.

"We will keep pressure on the Government to ensure these are permanent arrangements in the future and, earlier this year, the Council adopted a motion which calls for the right to food to be incorporated into the national food strategy – enshrining in law that nobody in this country should go hungry."

HOPE AND CONFIDENCE

The Great Big Rotherham To-Do List

The brief was to create a resilience toolkit to capture the positive behavioural changes made by people during the pandemic. The result is The Great Big Rotherham To-Do List (TGBRTDL) – a fun, engaging, vibrant and comical fold-out guide to remind people of the positive things they're already doing for their mental and physical wellbeing, and to inspire them to try new things. The guide also shows how these activities relate to the Five Ways to Wellbeing – a nationally recognised, evidence-based set of actions that help people function and feel at their best.

Co-production

All content for TGBRTDL was gathered from residents and staff following a call out for people to share the great things they'd been doing through the lockdown. An enthusiastic response

produced more than enough ideas: jumping in puddles, learning to knit, finding a pen pal or simply listening to the birds.

The production of the guide was funded by the Council and NHS Rotherham Clinical

Commissioning Group and distribution funded by The Welcome Back Fund. The Welcome Back Fund provides councils across England with a share of £56 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to help build back better from the pandemic.



HOPE AND CONFIDENCE

Formats

The TGBRTDL has been created as a pocket-size fold-up guide that can be opened and stuck on the fridge for all the family to see and engage with. It is also available to download and print off in the original design and an accessible Word version from:

The Great Big Rotherham To-Do List – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

The webpages provide links to further information and support including:

- Rotherhive
- Be the One
- Five Way to Wellbeing
- CAMHS
- With Me in Mind.

Making a Big To-Do over feegood stories

European Union European Regional Development Fund
HM Government

Creative Rotherham folk discovered new simple pleasures when lockdown forced them to take a break from the norm. Now an alternative guide is bringing together some of those passions, and encouraging people to share their own, as Michael Upton reports

FAY HALL: "Joining Rotherham CLIC (Creative Learning Communities) during lockdown enabled me to have some time for myself whilst working from home and home schooling my daughter. I have used my new skills to create gifts to give to family members, to boost their spirits during the pandemic."

KATHY WRIGHT: "I studied for three months to gain a new qualification in teaching English as a foreign language during lockdown. I wanted to help others become more proficient in English as it's the most spoken language in the world. I hope to retire somewhere warm and sunny and maybe work as a TEFL teacher a few times a week to keep my pension topped up!"

CLAIRE MOSELEY: "To keep myself happy during lockdown, I went walking with friends to visit Rotherham's woodlands, fields and waterways."

KATE GREEN: "Exploring places close to home, making dens in the woods and climbing trees with my six-year-old son have kept myself happy during lockdown. We visited Canklow Woods and got lost in thought and play... then actually got lost because they're huge!"

WILL BREEZE: "During lockdown, I have successfully germinated fennel and orange seeds and have given the seedlings to friends and family, which we call Covid trees."

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
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Trying and learning new things are great for our health and wellbeing! If you've been thinking about taking up a new hobby but aren't sure what you want to try, check out The Great Big Rotherham To-Do List packed with loads of fun activities!

"I studied for three months to gain a new qualification in Teaching English as a Foreign Language during lockdown. I wanted to help others become more proficient in English as it's the most spoken language in the world. I hope to ret... See more

2,490 People reached
23 Engagements
+1.5x higher Distribution score
Boost Unavailable

Distribution and publicity

Upwards of 34,000 people have received a hard copy of TGBRTDL since it's July launch. Twenty thousand copies were inserted into Home Matters – the magazine for council tenants and leaseholder. A further 14,000 copies were given away free with the Rotherham Advertiser.

The guide is available for free in libraries and will be handed out at events throughout the summer. It will also be used by practitioners. A social media campaign featuring the people who sent in their ideas is ongoing to raise awareness of the guide.

Rotherham Director of Public Health Ben Anderson, said: "We hope people will keep it handy and use it to inspire everyday moments of calm, kindness, fun and fascination - because those little actions can make a big difference to how we feel today, and our ability to adapt and cope when times are tough."

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