

CHILDREN'S CAPITAL OF CULTURE.

FESTIVAL YEAR 2025

* ROTHERHAM * THE WORLD'S FIRST CHILDREN'S CAPITAL OF CULTURE

Created by Rotherham's children and young people. For everyone to enjoy. childrenscapitalofculture.co.uk

THIS SEASON'S BIG EVENTS

Flux Rotherham Presents Otherham

📍 Rotherham Town Centre
📅 24th – 26th January
🕒 4.30pm – 8.30pm

Welcome to Otherham!

A captivating trail of projection installations, the Otherham Winter Light Festival will transform Rotherham into a reimagined world, where nothing is quite as it seems...

Rotherham Music Presents Signals Festival

📍 Across the Rotherham Borough
📅 14th – 23rd February

Signals will fill Rotherham with music. Look out for our free town centre festival, which showcases the very best of our borough's young talent. There'll also be pop-up musical performances in communities across the borough.

RMBC Events Presents Roots: Rotherham Street Carnival

📍 Rotherham Town Centre
📅 29th March

A celebration of Rotherham's flora, fauna, and green spaces. We'll be working with 100s of children, young people, and families to craft dazzling puppets, banners, and costumes. Come and be part of this colourful parade!

Flux Rotherham Presents Gallery Town

📍 Across the Rotherham Borough
📅 All Year Round

Local children and young people will work with artists to create new artworks. Look out for murals, sculptures, and other playful creations displayed in the town centre and across Rotherham.

WHAT'S ON



RECURRING EVENTS

Roots Creative Build-up Workshops

📍 Across Rotherham Borough
📅 Throughout February and March

Four professional artists will work with children and young people across the borough. They will create four brilliant banners announcing our programming themes. We'll also be writing poetry, crafting puppets and creating costumes!

Gallery Town

📍 Across the Rotherham Borough
📅 All Year Round

Gallery Town will transform Rotherham into an outdoor art gallery, championing creative talent.

Rotherham United Creative Match Day Programme

📍 Rotherham United Community Trust
📅 All Year Round

Join Rotherham United Community Trust on Saturday's home matchdays! Our talented trainees will be offering free creative activities for all the family.



More information and booking — childrenscapitalofculture.co.uk

JANUARY

Sheffield DocFest Screening Tell Them About Us

📍 Unity Centre
📅 18th January
🕒 4.00 – 7.00pm

Rand Beiruty's film depicts a group of teenage girls in Germany who navigate hidden discrimination. They also bond through friendship, sisterhood, and creativity. Join us for the screening and a free drop-in creative workshop.

More info and booking — childrenscapitalofculture.co.uk

Flux Rotherham Presents Otherham

📍 Rotherham Town Centre
📅 24th – 26th January
🕒 4.30pm – 8.30pm

A stunning trail of projections inspired by the borough's young residents. Rotherham town will transform into a reimagined world like never before.

Holocaust Memorial Day Activities

📍 Libraries & Neighbourhood Hubs
📅 Leading up to 27th January

Working with a textile artist, children and young people will create art to convey standing up for what is right and making their voices heard.

FEBRUARY

Sheffield DocFest Screening Ladies Only

📍 Riverside Library
📅 8th February
🕒 12.00 – 3.00pm

A documentary about the stories shared in the women-only train compartments in Mumbai. There will be a poetry workshop to follow.



Rotherham Music Presents Signals Festival

📍 Across the Rotherham Borough
📅 14th – 23rd February

Back for its third year in 2025, and bigger and better than ever before. Rotherham's annual festival of music will showcase the very best of our borough's young talent.

Rotherham Museums, Arts and Heritage Presents The Furnace

📍 Catcliffe Glass Cone
📅 22nd – 23rd February
🕒 2.00 – 7.00pm

As part of this year's Signals Festival, the glass cone will be fired up again! Come play The Furnace, a musical machine built of memory, melody, and light. Created by Paperfinch Theatre, Catcliffe families and community groups.

Sheffield DocFest Screening Anhell69

📍 Arc Cinema
📅 27th February
🕒 8.15 – 9.30pm

A self-defined trans film, *Anhell69* is neither documentary nor fiction. The film depicts the lives and deaths of a group of queer twentysomethings in Colombia.

Traditional Tales Untraditionally Told

📍 Libraries & Neighbourhood Hubs
📅 Leading up to 21st February

Using a mix of craft and iPads, we're working with multilingual families to celebrate Mother Language Day. We'll create digital renditions of traditional tales recorded in their heritage language.

MARCH

RMBC Events Presents Roots: Rotherham Street Carnival

📍 Rotherham Town Centre
📅 29th March

A life-affirming celebration of nature and our borough's green spaces. Look out for local dance troupes, BMXers, brass bands, choirs, youth drama groups and more!



SPOTLIGHT

HAVE YOUR TIME IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

We want to celebrate all the amazing activities that already exist for children and young people across the borough.

Do you, or somebody you know, help to run an activity open to children and young people? Let us know so we can share it!

Send the name, location, date, time, a short description and any booking information to abi.cobb@rotherham.gov.uk

Spotlight On: Grimm & Co

Children's literacy charity Grimm & Co open their magical doors for writing sessions for young people of various ages.

Creative Writing Workshops

Groups aged 7–11 and 12–16 delve into all kinds of art forms at these after-school projects. Outcomes vary from books to professional theatre productions.

Saturday Clubs

Running each term, these regular sessions bring children together to explore a range of creative projects. With groups for ages 3–7, 7–11 and 12–18.

www.grimmandco.uk

Spotlight On: Fives and Under

Libraries Rhyme Time

Join libraries across the borough for free stories, rhymes and songs – old and new – for babies and preschoolers.

www.rotherham.gov.uk/libraries/children-families-1/2

Nelson's Cub Club

Explore museum objects through stories, songs and play at Clifton Park Museum's free club for little cubs and their families.

www.cliftonpark.org.uk/events

Mini Melodies

Children can immerse themselves in a different theme each week, in these music and creative movement sessions from Rotherham Music.

www.facebook.com/MiniMelodiesRotherham



STILL TO COME IN 2025...

We hope you enjoy the first three months of Children's Capital of Culture 2025. But we've only just begun! Here are some of the headline events planned for the year ahead.

Grimm & Co. Presents Festival of Stories

A two-week festival to celebrate Rotherham stories of all shapes and sizes.

Clifton Park Museum Presents Identity Exhibition

Young people and artists explore what 'identity' means to the people of Rotherham.

Wentworth Woodhouse Presents House of Fun

Wentworth Woodhouse is being transformed into the House of Fun. Expect play, joy, laughter – and noise!

Yorkshire Sport Foundation and RMBC Events Presents UPLIFT

For three days in July, Rotherham will be transformed into an urban playground. Look out for BMXing, skating, parkour, street dance and more.

Rotherham Music and the Royal Ballet and Opera Presents The Rotherham Opera

Rotherham Music and the Royal Ballet and Opera will deliver a landmark new project. Inspired by themes of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and our borough's industrial heritage.

TELL US YOUR IDEAS!

Do you have a brilliant idea for an event or activity that you'd like to run as part of Children's Capital of Culture in 2025?

Our open call for proposals for the year is still live. Get in touch to receive our expression of interest form and tell us about your idea. Email us at ccoc@rotherham.gov.uk



Find us on socials   

Sign up to our newsletter — childrenscapitalofculture.co.uk

INTRODUCING ROTHERHAM CHILDREN'S CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2025

FREE EVENTS

CHILDREN'S CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2025 HAS BEEN CREATED BY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE. FOR EVERYONE. RIGHT HERE IN ROTHERHAM.

We're giving every child and young person in Rotherham a chance to help shape their borough's future. To get hands-on with creative activities. Be dazzled by performances and art, music, and magic. There will be dance and drama, films and food, exhibitions and events. And there will be a few surprises along the way! We're also working with schools and local businesses.

Together, we're giving young people in Rotherham life-changing training and skills opportunities.

We're going to create a whole year of excitement, inspiration and fun. There'll be free events and activities, opportunities, ideas and creativity.

And you're all invited.

Join us!

THE STORY SO FAR



WHO CHOSE ROTHERHAM TO BECOME CHILDREN'S CAPITAL OF CULTURE? ITS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE DID!

In 2017, writing charity Grimm & Co asked local children and young people: "If you were in charge of Rotherham, what would you do?"

Thirty young ambassadors created a response: a manifesto for the borough's future.

They took it to the borough's change-makers – the Council and cultural organisations.

These change-makers saw that local children and young people were passionate about where they lived. And they wanted to nurture this passion. So they set an ambitious new goal – for Rotherham to become the world's first Children's Capital of Culture in 2025.

Children's Capital of Culture isn't an award given by the Government, or part of a national culture bid. Instead, it's an ambition that comes from the children and young people of Rotherham.

Children's Capital of Culture shows Rotherham's commitment to giving children and young people a voice. To them playing an active role in the borough's future. And to making Rotherham a place they are proud to call home.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council is the lead delivery partner, supported by a huge number of organisations. All of them are working to turn that ambition into a reality.

These partners provide financial support to Children's Capital of Culture 2025.



GET INVOLVED

Creative Learning Projects

Together with our partners, we are offering new creative learning projects for children and young people. These will take place across nurseries, schools, colleges, and more. We're creating professional development opportunities for teachers and artists. There'll also be celebration events for communities.

Look out for our new film festival, *RePlay*. The creation of a record-breaking animation. A brand-new celebration of dance and movement. As well as exhibitions, installations, creative writing, and more!

If you would like to find out more about how your organisation can take part in our Creative Learning programme, email our Creative Learning Manager: becky.parry@rotherham.gov.uk



Calling All Businesses!

Become part of the world's first Children's Capital of Culture!

Sponsorship opportunities are currently open. Your support will contribute to shaping Rotherham and our next generation. To placemaking and investing in the workforce of the future. It will facilitate investment in community and diversity and showcase your commitment to Rotherham.

To find out more, email our Strategic Partnerships Manager: rachel.stothard@rotherham.gov.uk

Volunteer With Us

You can volunteer with Children's Capital of Culture from age 16 – and there's no upper age limit!

Want to help us organise events? Or support schools and families at our festivals and activities? Our volunteers are an essential part of Children's Capital of Culture.

Here are some of the benefits of volunteering:

- ★ Learn and experience event management and how events run.
- ★ Experience rich culture and the creative industry.
- ★ Gain confidence and experience in a public-facing role.
- ★ Give back to your local community.

Help us celebrate culture and young people in 2025 and become part of our amazing team of volunteers.

For more information or to register as a volunteer, email ccoc@rotherham.gov.uk



MEET THE TRAINEES

WE WORK WITH OUR HOST ORGANISATIONS TO PROVIDE PAID, PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT TO YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16-25.

Are you a creative organisation in South Yorkshire interested in hosting trainees? Or a young person passionate about culture who's looking for their first step into the creative industries?

To find out more about our traineeships programme, email ccoc@rotherham.gov.uk



ACHIEVE YOUR ARTS AWARD WITH US

We're proud champions of Arts Award – a celebration of young people's creativity.



Arts Award is an accredited national qualification for ages five to 25. It gives you a unique opportunity to pick up valuable skills in arts and leadership. All while gaining a certificate that's highly regarded, right across the country.

Depending on your age and ability, you can go for five different levels: Discover, Explore, Bronze, Silver, and Gold.

We'll be running activities all around the borough, giving you chance to achieve an Arts Award throughout our Festival Year in 2025.

“Without opportunities provided for free like this, my child wouldn't have been able to take part and have had the experience she had – making new friends, increasing her confidence and self-esteem and gaining a recognised qualification whilst having fun!”

“The team were skilled and flexible enough to care and support the girls, without the rigidity of the traditional classroom.”

With thanks to our partners

