Guidance Booklet

Risk Outside The Home (ROTH)

Multi-Agency Training

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Risk Outside The Home (ROTH) information booklet

This document has been devised to give information to practitioners who are working with or could be working with children and young people at risk of exploitation, to make sure that everyone recognises and responds to risks outside the home as safeguarding issues which require a multi- agency safeguarding response. A different response is required to reduce risk to children where the risks are outside the home, rather than relating to factors within the family/ home.

This document seeks to provide guidance to enable a clear understanding of the language, process and expectations relating to CP-ROTH. It is to be used in conjunction to the full day ROTH multi-agency training.

What is Risk Outside The Home?

Risks outside the home, also known as contextual safeguarding or extra-familial harm, covers various threats to children's well-being beyond the family environment. This can include sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation by individuals or organised groups (such as county lines and financial exploitation), serious youth violence, online harm, modern slavery and human trafficking, teenage relationship abuse and Child on Child Abuse. We recognise that children can be vulnerable to harm in diverse social contexts such as schools, neighbourhoods, and online. The importance is addressing these risks through multi-agency collaboration and community involvement.

It is thought that adolescents are more vulnerable to ROTH as they are allowed more freedom and have more independence. Peers have much more influence over them and family influence declines. When we look at these factors and the fact that adolescents are going through massive changes in their bodies, from the physical, emotional and cognitive changes, it is no wonder they are more open to risky behaviours.

Sometimes parents might be unaware that their child is at risk, or they may be really struggling with trying to keep their child safe. It is the factors that are being offered to the child that is tempting towards the risk. We call these **pull factors**.

Sometimes, though, it can be parental neglect or lack of supervision that can cause exposure to ROTH. We know that children who have instability or unrest at home are less likely to want to be there, and more likely to spend time away from the home. We call these **push factors**.

Modern Slavery:

Child exploitation is a type of modern slavery. When a child or young person is **trafficked**, they are a victim of modern slavery. We can convict perpetrators of trafficking and modern slavery under Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Types of modern slavery are:

- Forced labour
- Sexual exploitation
- Criminal exploitation
- Organ harvesting
- Domestic servitude

Trafficking is the illegal trade of human beings for the purpose of exploitation. People can be trafficked 'internationally' from one country to another or 'internally' within this country, from one street to another or one town to another. If the movement of that person is against their will and they are being exploited after they have been moved, they are a victim of trafficking.

The National Referral Mechanism:

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is the framework through which potential victims of trafficking in the UK are identified, so that they can be supported and protected. In the case of a child, the child's best interests will be a primary consideration in the decision to make, or not to make, a referral into the NRM

Referrals into the NRM can only be made by selected agencies known as 'first responders'. If you are not a first responder, then you will need to refer the person to a first responder in order for them to be referred into the NRM.

If we have concerns that a child has been trafficked, we have a duty to make an NRM referral and we should be referring to ICTG (Independent Child Trafficking Guardian). ICTG can attend strategy discussions if you are trying to work out if trafficking is an issue or wondering about making an NRM referral.

Referrals to the ICTG Service can be submitted via an online referral form www.barnardos.org.uk/what-we-do/protecting-children/trafficked-children/ICTG-service-referral-form or by calling the Guardianship Assessment Team on: 0800 043 4303

What is Child Exploitation?

Child Exploitation is a form of abuse where a child is forced or coerced into doing things for the benefit of others, it is often a gradual process and people may not even recognise that they are being exploited until their situation becomes very serious.

The child or young person is groomed by being given money, gifts, drugs, alcohol, attention or a sense of belonging. This is usually in exchange for either carrying out sexual activity (child sexual exploitation) or for criminal activity (child criminal exploitation).

Child exploitation can take many forms and can take place in a range of situations. It can happen anywhere and can affect any age, gender, or ethnicity.

Abusers will use their power and control over the child or young person, making them feel that they have no choice in any of this. They will coerce and manipulate them and even hold them indebted to them.

Every child caught up in exploitation must be seen as victims of the abuse, it is not their fault and they are not to blame.

Remember CCE is NOT just county lines: we are seeing children being forced to carry knives, guns, acid and CS spray. Either have them to transport or to use them for protection. They are also being forced into growing cannabis (quite often they are trafficked into UK and forced to do this to repay the cost of travel) They are held against their will in a property and forced to water and tend to plants. Children who

are independent, living in a place of their own are being targeted for forced home invasion or "cuckooing". We are also seeing a rise in financial exploitation – both online and offline, using children's bank accounts, on social media or gaming platforms. YP are tempted by fake job adverts and coerced into sharing bank details, they are also being duped into relationships where YP are manipulated in to holding money for their 'partner', Crypto currency is used along with travel cards, promise of credit or 'skins'.

Serious Youth Violence

The rise in serious youth violence is a complicated issue driven by a complex relationship of factors, including poverty, economic inequality, lack of trust in authorities, and the impact of public service cuts. We are also seeing a rise of other factors such as childhood trauma, mental health issues, school exclusions, and the influence of social media and county line drug gangs. Gangs are evolving, drug markets are changing and social media is being used to encourage our children into SYV.

(for more information on this topic look out for the new Serious Youth Violence training that South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership is offering)

Legislation

Statutory guidance on dealing with abuse outside the family is still being developed and the lens for this is changing as we get to grips with it better. **'Working together'** was originally written with a focus on keeping children safe within families. It was updated in 2018 and then in 23 to include risks to children outside the family home.

'Working together' is clear that a strategy discussion should be held when a child is suspected of suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm. This is so that partners can determine the child's welfare and plan rapid action.

When children are at risk of significant harm outside their families, the same principles must apply. What matters is that there is a prompt multi-agency planning discussion between the relevant agencies

WT 2023 states within its definition of what abuse is:

'Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or extra-familial contexts by those known to them or, more rarely, by others'

It also has definitions of – extra familial harm, extra familial contexts, CCE, CSE, county lines and serious youth violence.

WT 2023 guidance now clarifies the multi-agency response to extra-familial harm, emphasizing the importance of considering children at risk of harm outside the home in all assessments.

The Children's Act 1989 requires local authorities to make enquiries if they believe a child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, significant harm. This applies equally to risks outside the family.

In **KCSiE 24** it talks about abuse, neglect and exploitation and that all staff should be aware of the indicators and that they are not standalone events, that staff should consider whether children are at risk of exploitation in situations outside their families and that EFH takes many different forms.

It also has sections covering specifically CSE, CCE

Modern Slavery Act 2015 The act also introduced a statutory defence for slavery or trafficking victims who are compelled (in the case of an adult) or forced (in the case of a child) to commit certain criminal offences: section 1 – slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour.

Tackling exploitation practice principles

These multi-agency principles are designed to support effective partnership working. They provide a framework for better responses and support for young people who are or at risk of child exploitation and extra-familial harm. There are 8 practice principles that have been devised. These principles are derived from discussions with young people themselves, parents, carers and professionals, so are evidenced-informed and take a holistic approach to tackling child exploitation and extra-familial harm. The 8 principles are interrelated and interdependent and taken together will offer collaborative and creative responses to CE and extra-familial harm.

The Practice principles:

1. **Put children and young people first**: All children are entitled to support and protection that is child-centred. This has not always been done when it comes to exploitation and extra-familial harm. It means keeping the CYP in focus when making decisions about them and working with them and their parents/carers.
2. **Recognise and challenge inequalities, exclusion and discrimination**: Discrimination can come in many different forms, from racism, sexism, ageism, homophobia, transphobia and ableism to name but a few. Inequalities and marginalisation can be both a driver for, and a consequence of child exploitation and extra-familial harm. It means we have to create an inclusive environment where people feel respected regardless of their race, culture, ethnicity, sex, gender or social characteristics. We must allow those that feel marginalised to have a voice and to not tolerate injustices.
3. **Respect the voices, experiences and expertise of children and young people**: All CYP have a right to have their say and to be listened to. Listening, hearing and responding to what CYP say means that we can build a trusting relationship, which in turn allows professional to better engage. This then can lead to increase safety. When we listen and respond to children and young people we are working with them rather than 'doing to them'.
4. **Be strength-based and relationship-based**: We need to see the strengths in the children and young people's lives and work holistically with them, rather than just focussing on the risks that they face or being harmed. We can then build relationships with them and better understand their lives. This way it enhances protection, safety and resilience.

5. **Recognise and respond to trauma**: The impact of trauma is wide reaching and so understanding this and responding to it in an effective way, is key. What professionals see from children and young people through their behaviour and their ability to develop trusting relationships can be a result of the trauma that they have suffered.
6. **Be curious, evidence-informed and knowledgeable**: We must be professionally curious in order to respond to the complexity of child exploitation and extra-familial harm. We need to critically think about what is happening and analyse the information that is presented to us, in order to build an accurate picture of what is unfolding in the area with regards to child exploitation and extra-familial harm. We need to also understand what is happening in the child's life and to keep up to date with new developments and thoughts around the issue.
7. **Approach parents and carers as partners wherever possible**: Parents and carers can offer invaluable expertise about their child and what is happening to them, and the context of where it is happening. They can provide information about the exploiter, unsafe places and what is happening within the community. Working in partnership with parents and carers can improve agencies support with children and young people and to keep them safe.
8. **Create safe spaces and places for children and young people**: In order to tackle child exploitation and extra-familial harm successfully, we need to think about the context of where the harm is coming from. We need to engage in these places and spaces that children and young people spend their time in. When we are looking at these places, we need to consider what potential harms are there and what we can do to address these. Working in this way allows professionals to consider the wider pattern of harm and to see a bigger picture of everyone that might be using the space. We can then think about how we could potentially prevent this harm or address the issues.

Missing episodes:

Children who go missing from school, placement or home are very vulnerable to abuse and pulled into exploitation and this must be seen as a risk indicator.

Missing episodes impact not only on the child's health, education and development but also on their families and communities.

When children go missing we must follow South Glos Missing Protocol. If children go missing regularly then a trigger plan can be initiated. Trigger plans are used to provide a structured and coordinated response when a specific event or circumstance happens. This makes sure that a quick and effective response occurs, minimizing potential harm and maximizing positive outcomes.

A Return Home Interview must be carried out after a missing episode, within 72 hours. They provide an opportunity to uncover information that can help protect the young person from the risk of going missing again, from risks they may have been exposed to while missing or from risk factors in their home.

Consideration should be given to further intelligence gathering around young people at risk of CE following the return from missing periods. A follow up phone call or contact with parents/guardians a few days after return is likely to reveal

additional information that was not collected from the missing person immediately following their return.

Often parents/guardian will be confided in by the missing person or there may be further observations made about their behaviour, whether they have returned with gifts or money which will inform the intelligence picture and risk assessments.

Barriers to identification or disclosure

Children find it extremely difficult to inform people that abuse is happening to them so as professionals, we must try and break down the barriers. It is important to step in children's and young people's shoes and understand why they don't tell.

Reasons can vary but may include:

- **Barriers for victim**: feelings of shame, fear, embarrassment. Attitudes around sexuality, masculinity and gender.
- **Barriers from perpetrators**: grooming, their position in authority, threating behaviour, isolating victim, making victims feel like it is their fault, they are complicit or responsible.
- **Institutional barriers**: poor record keeping, lack of information sharing, inadequate ways for allowing disclosure.

Additional risks

Adultification: discrimination and bias where children are presumed to be older and less vulnerable compared to others.

Disproportionality: in this context, means that a particular racial or ethnic group is represented in child welfare systems at a rate that is significantly higher than their percentage in the general population.

Intersectionality: recognising that children's vulnerabilities are shaped by multiple, overlapping identities and social positions, such as race, ethnicity, gender, disability, and socioeconomic status.

neurodevelopmental differences: such as ADHD or autism, may struggle with social cues, impulse control, and understanding complex situations, making them more susceptible to manipulation and exploitation.

School exclusion: Children who are outside of mainstream education are more vulnerable to becoming the victim of childhood criminal exploitation. Children who have experienced exploitation will be more vulnerable to exclusion and may be disproportionately impacted by exclusion.

Mapping

Peer mapping is a valuable tool as it helps professionals understand what may be contributing to a child's vulnerability or involvement in harmful situations.

Pre-Mapping: This is the work you need to do with the child before any mapping meetings. To get to know the child do an **ecomap:**

- Put the child at the centre of the map and get them to talk about themselves, who they socialise with, where they hang out. Place these people and places near or far depending on their importance.

Undertaking this exercise may enable you to put in place some interim safety planning for a child who you feel may be at risk of harm.

Peer mapping meetings:

Anyone can hold these, they are not intended to replace strategy meetings but should inform assessments and focus safeguarding towards a more contextual way of thinking.

Once peer mapping has been completed, considerations should be made towards the identified risks or strengths of the group. Appropriate safeguarding measures should be followed to address any risks identified.

SGCP-Practice-Guidance-Peer-Mapping-1.pdf

The CP-ROTH process

The process for holding a CP-ROTH is exactly the same as any other CPC (child protection conference); the only difference is the type of conference to be held at the outcome of a s47 enquiry depending on the assessment of risk ascertained through the process of the enquiry. A CP-ROTH should be convened where the primary risks identified relate to risks outside of the home to the child.

Children's Social Care will be the lead agency convening a CP-ROTH, Social Workers must also consider who else may need to be invited for a CP-ROTH eg licensing, youth services, BACE etc.

It is expected that the LSU (Lighthouse Safeguarding Unit) in the Police will complete the usual checks – depending on the identified risks, an OIC (officer in charge)/EIT (early intervention team) officer/NPT (neighbourhood police team)/Police Mis Per Coordinator could also be invited

Peer mapping and a ROTH-Tool needs to have been done.

Read the CP-ROTH guidance

RTG – ROTH Tactical Group meetings

The RTG Meetings are coordinated through the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP). The primary focus is to intervene as early as possible where there are concerns about ROTH to children. The RTG Meeting (held fortnightly Tues afternoon) will use the **Victim, Offender, Location, Theme (VOLT) model** to consider risks to children and the wider community

All referrals to the SG RTG should be made to vrp@southglos.gov.uk

To access all ROTH resources inc the ROTH tool, the RTG referral form and other useful information please visit this link:
https://sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/children/i-am-a-professional/child-exploitation/

ROTH Tool

The ROTH Tool should be used by professionals who are working with children and young people where there are concerns or worries that a child or young person may be experiencing or at risk outside the home.

There are ten domains to explore, to enable an overall professional judgement to be made about whether a child or young person is at overall low, medium or high risk outside the home. There is guidance embedded in the tool in relation to all domains and to support thinking around next steps.

Always attach a copy of the completed ROTH Tool when making a referral to the Access and Response Team (ART) for a child or young person where there are worries or concerns about risk outside the home.

To access the ROTH -Tool

Direct work with children at risk of harm outside the home

Direct work with victims of exploitation is crucial because it addresses the immediate needs of individuals who have experienced abuse, providing support, interventions, and a safe space to recover. This work also informs prevention efforts and contributes to broader societal changes in combating exploitation.

We need to address the immediate needs and recovery by working on building trust and relationships and then we need to prevent re-victimisation and promote resilience.

There are many topics you might want to cover in the direct work you do, ranging from talking about consent, healthy relationships, trauma, grooming, online safety and vulnerability.

Disruption

Disruption activity is designed to reduce risks posed to young people under the age of 18 who are being sexually or criminally exploited. Disruption requires a range of different tools, deployed tactically by different agencies working together to disrupt the risks posed to them. Disruption is often undertaken without disclosures, which overcomes one of the most considerable barriers – disclosure of exploitation from a child.

The Home Office have produced a Home Office disruption toolkit that covers in detail all of the tactics, the legislation that it meets, how it can be used and the impact that it has.

It is split into 6 areas:

- ABDUCTION AND TRAFFICKING
- BEHAVIOUR
- SEXUAL OFFENCES
- LOCATION
- VICTIM CARE
- OTHER OPTIONS

When you are working with children at risk of ROTH think about:

- Share locations of concern
- Work with hotels/taxi drivers/NTE
- Communicate to licensing as they can close premises
- Work with housing – anti social behaviour
- Work with schools – training/allocate PO/ discussions about exclusions
- Work with care homes
- Be persistent
- Use small opportunities to influence change
- Involve the YP/ their parent and engage. Have YP ambassadors

Information sharing

Good information sharing across partner agencies is vital to safeguarding vulnerable children.

Effective early information sharing and intelligence gathering can:

- Help build a coherent picture of risk sources and potential targets for abuse
- Identify and support a child's needs at the earliest opportunity, reducing the duration of harm and escalation to more serious abuse
- Help identify and understand links between different forms of exploitation and hidden, or related, crimes
- Identify locations being used for the purposes of exploitation
- Identify networks or individuals who pose a risk to children
- Provide evidence in applications to the court for civil and criminal orders
- Enable quicker risk assessment of a potential victim of trafficking and development of an effective safety plan

Examples of information may include:

- Vehicle details including registration, make, model or colour
- Train tickets or other travel documentation
- Full descriptions including names or nicknames of suspected perpetrators
- Details and descriptions of unusual or regular callers to children's homes
- Phone numbers of suspected perpetrators or their associates
- Email addresses and usernames where known
- Address details of suspected perpetrators
- Details of addresses or localities that children at risk or being exploited may be being taken or where there has been suspicious activity
- Areas where children associate out of sight
- Unexplained gifts received by children
- Reported missing episodes and any absence from school
- Names of other children and young people they are friends with who could also be at risk of exploitation.

Activities to stimulate information gathering:

- Engage with young people potentially at risk via youth workers and voluntary sector community support agencies

- Work with local partners to build a network of young CSE and CCE prevention advisors and ambassadors (including survivors)
- Engage with hoteliers, bed and breakfast owners, and taxi drivers in areas where CSE or missing children may be a factor
- Work with agencies to build exploitation and perpetrator profiles which may result in enhanced intelligence gathering
- Encourage greater reporting of suspicious activity by relevant businesses and professionals
- Build links with trained GPs and A&E staff in identification of CSE
- Identify an area CSE or CCE champion who can act as a single point of contact and relay information

Useful links:

South Glos Children's Partnership information about ROTH:

https://sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/children/i-am-a-professional/child-exploitation/

South Glos CSPR Children Exposed to Serious Youth Violence:

CSPR Children Exposed to Serious Youth Violence August 2024

Children Exposed to Serious Youth Violence Learning Brief August 2024

Missing Children inc protocol: https://sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/children/i-am-a-professional/missing-children/

NRM Factsheet SGCP-Practice-Guidance-Child-Trafficking-Modern-Slavery-and-the-NRM.pdf

ROTH Tool South-Gloucestershires-Risk-Outside-the-Home-ROTH-Tool.pdf

Practice Guides Children's Partnership Practice Guidance - Risk Outside the Home and SGCP-Practice-Guidance-CP-ROTH.pdf

PIMM Referral Form http://sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/wp-content/uploads/sites/221/2015/05/PIMM-Referral-Form-1.pdf

Peer Mapping SGCP-Practice-Guidance-Peer-Mapping-1.pdf

Film about exploitation: Operation Henderson Young Person's video

Appropriate language
https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/information/professionals/resources/child-exploitation-language-guide

Why language matters NSPCC https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/why-language-matters/child-criminal-exploitation-recruited-working

Video about Victim Blaming Language Victim blaming language

Home Office Child exploitation toolkit Child exploitation disruption toolkit

Police Portal Give us information about a suspected vulnerable or exploited person | Avon and Somerset Police

Violence reduction partnership SG: https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/violence-reduction-partnership/ email at: VRP@southglos.gov.uk or VRP - contact April Augustin april.augustin@southglos.gov.uk

Violence reduction partnership police: https://asvrp.co.uk/our-violence-reduction-partnership/south-gloucestershire/

Research In Practice – Tackling Child Exploitation practice principles

https://tce.researchinpractice.org.uk/