



Risk Outside the Home (ROTH)

Practice Guidance

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South Gloucestershire's Children's Partnership Procedures outline practice guidance in relation to areas of risk outside the home including [Child Sexual Exploitation](#), [Child Criminal Exploitation](#), [Online Safety](#) and [Serious Youth Violence and Organised Crime](#). This practice guidance should be read alongside these Children's Partnership Procedures.

What is ROTH?

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#) recognises that some children and young people experience abuse and exploitation outside the home. This is often referred to as "extra-familial harm" and can include one or more of the following:

- Criminal exploitation
- Sexual exploitation
- Financial exploitation
- Forced labour
- Serious youth violence
- Trafficking

In South Gloucestershire's Children's Partnership there is recognition that a different response is required to promote safety for children and young people where the risks are primarily outside the home as opposed to relating to factors within the family/ home. This response involves a multi-agency approach to supporting the disruption of any person or place that is causing harm to a child or young person.

It is not always obvious to spot that a child or young person is experiencing extra-familial harm, or is at risk outside the home. As professionals working with children and young people, it is important to be aware of the signs that indicate a child or young person might be experiencing extra-familial harm and to know how to report worries or concerns. The Children's Society have a selection of [#LookCloser](#) resources to help increase awareness of child exploitation and to learn how to spot the signs that a child or young person is being exploited or is at risk outside the home.

What are the signs?

Resources

There is a [ROTH Tool](#) which has been developed for use by all professionals who work with South Gloucestershire's children and young people. This uses a traffic light scaling system to support professionals to make informed and evidence-based decisions in relation to level of risk outside the home to a child or young person. South Gloucestershire's Children's Partnership advocates for practice in line with the [multi-agency practice principles for responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm](#). There are further resources relating to ROTH for professionals available on [South Gloucestershire's Children's Partnership website](#).

Using the 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. The tool should be reviewed in a timely way as necessary and at least within 12 weeks where a child or young person is judged to be at overall medium or high risk outside the home.

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.

- You can contact the Compass Team who will help identify the right help for the child compass@southglos.gov.uk.
- You can complete a [Request for Help Form](#).
- If you are worried about a child being at risk of significant harm you should contact the ART Team on **01454 866000**.
- If you suspect a child may be in immediate danger, you should dial [999](#) immediately.

Reporting concerns