

Risk Outside The Home (ROTH) Multi- Agency Audit

December 2025

1. Put children and young people first

Strengths:

- There was diversion for two children as an alternate to the formal court system which gave them access to support from specialist professionals
- There was an example of a GP asking a child about their mental health even though this was not the presenting issue
- One child kept the same social worker even when they moved into a different social care team

Areas for development:

- One child was not recorded as a Child in Care on GP records
- There was limited curiosity evidenced at the asthma review for a child

4. Be strengths and relationship-based

Strengths:

- There was an example of a joint visit to a child with the Social Worker and Youth Justice Worker which helped the child to share their views
- There were lots of examples of positive relationships between children and professionals involved in their lives

Areas for development:

- Some interventions were short term which meant relationships were not always long lasting
- In some situations there could be greater exploration around where strengths lie to ensure interventions are targeted effectively

7. Approach parents and carers as partners, wherever possible

Strengths:

- For one family, the same Early Intervention Team Police Officer was involved over a lengthy period of time which enabled effective relationships and safety measures
- Parents' views regarding their child were consistently captured by Sirona

Areas for development:

- There was an example where a child's carers were not consulted in relation to their emotional health and there was no rationale for this recorded
- There was one example where it was difficult for professionals to get alongside parents' despite persistence

The audit group met in December 2025 to undertake a multi-agency audit for the Children's Partnership. This learning brief outlines the identified strengths and areas for development plus themes that were highlighted in accordance with the Tackling Child Exploitation (TCE) Practice Principles. There is a separate ongoing action plan that addresses the areas for development.

2. Recognise and challenge inequalities, exclusion and discrimination

Strengths:

- Communication profiles were often available for children
- SARI provided input to help a child explore their views around different cultures and ethnicities
- There was an example of a school adapting their approach towards a child to prevent exclusion
- There was evidence of appropriate use of language during an intervention with a child in order to promote positive relationships

Areas for development:

- There was continued evidence of children appearing to be treated/ seen as adults (adultification)
- There was some evidence that working with issues of ROTH where the family was perceived as 'affluent' was tricky for practitioners to navigate

3. Respect the voice, experience and expertise of children and young people

Strengths:

- One child was enabled by professionals to express themselves effectively across different environments
- There was evidence of children being comfortable to share their views with their CAMHS workers
- Generally relationships between children and professionals supporting them were open, trusting and mutually respectful

Areas for development:

- There was an example where a worker could have further explored some concerning comments made by a child

6. Be curious, evidence-informed and knowledgeable

Strengths:

- There was evidence of appropriate information sharing between agencies which was in the best interests of a child
- Professionals advocated for a child in relation to ensuring their behavioural needs were appropriately met

Areas for development:

- 'Spotting the signs' was not completed for two children where it should have been

8. Create safer spaces and places for children and young people

Strengths:

- Youth Detached Workers were given access to a local shopping centre to engage children
- There is a Winter Safer Streets campaign ongoing

Areas for development:

- One family was moved from a risky area to a new location which also contained risk factors
- It was possible that the free buses over the summer pushed children into more risky spaces

Agencies involved in this audit were:

Youth Justice Service; Children's Services; Safeguarding Advisor for Education; Police; Violence Reduction Partnership; CAMHS; BNSSG ICB on behalf of GPs; BACE; Educational Psychology; Probation; YUNO Sexual Health

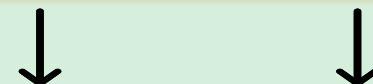
Talking About Child Sexual Abuse

Research and practice show that it can take years for a child to be able to tell someone about sexual abuse.

Children face a number of barriers in communicating about sexual abuse, such as feelings of fear, shame, guilt and responsibility, not having the language to communicate their concerns, or not recognising what has happened to them as abuse.

All children can communicate, and it is vital that the adults around them learn how to listen, understand and support them when they are concerned about sexual abuse. The communicating with children guide gives all people working with children guidance in talking to about child sexual abuse, to help give professionals the knowledge and confidence to act.

There is also a helpful signs and indicators template for identifying and recording concerns of child sexual abuse.



Communicating
with Children
Guide

Signs and
Indicators
Template

Castle Park in Bristol

Castle Park in Bristol City Centre is a known local exploitation hotspot. Professionals are advised to report using the police intelligence portal if a child talks about incidents or activities of concern happening in this location. Concerns can also be referred in to South Gloucestershire's ROTH-Tactical Group (RTG) Meeting for discussion.

Police
Portal

Refer to
South Glos
RTG
Meeting



Safeguarding in Affluent Communities

It is important to recognise how professionals' judgements and perceptions can be skewed when working with 'affluent' families.

Further reading around this theme can be accessed in the reports below.



Safeguarding
in Affluent
Communities



Emotional
neglect in
children with
affluent
parents

Other useful resources:

TCE Practice
Principles

Transitional
Safeguarding
Briefing

Multi-
Agency
ROTH Tool

From Exploited to Exploiter?

This report by Alliance for Youth Justice explores the criminal justice response to victims of child criminal exploitation as they transition to adulthood.

Members of the audit group used this resource as a basis for reflections around practice and exploratory conversations relating to the importance of being mindful that the risks and harms of criminal exploitation do not disappear when a young person turns 18, yet the systems designed to safeguard children often fall away precisely when young people remain most vulnerable. The report concludes that too often, those turning 18 face a stark cliff edge in support, safeguarding and protection from prosecution.

You can click on this box to read the full report.

