

# Risk Outside The Home (ROTH) Multi- Agency Audit December 2025

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.



## 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

## 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

## 5. Recognise and respond to trauma

### Strengths:

- There was an example of a trauma informed consultation between a GP and a child
- There was the offer of whole family therapeutic work for one child
- The CAMHS Worker considered trauma in the context of a child's substance misuse

### Areas for development:

- There was some evidence that professionals were uncomfortable talking to children about sexual abuse
- There was an example of a sibling's needs not being considered early enough

## 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

## 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

## 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.

### 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

Communicating  
with Children  
Guide

Signs and  
Indicators  
Template

### 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.*