

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

The audit group met in June 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.



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

Strengths:

- For one child there were disruption notices issued by the Police further to joint working with the social worker
- Creative meeting spaces plan for one child
- School is a safe space for some of the audit children
- Tailored times for meetings based on child's wishes

Areas for development:

- Not always evident that GP saw child alone
- Not clear what the safety plan is for a child who is attending 'free parties and raves'
- Social media rumours/posts naming children

7. Approach parents and carers as partners, wherever possible

Strengths:

- Persistent efforts to involve parents
- Multi-agency collaboration to involve parents
- There was evidence that one parent better understands risk to their child

Areas for development:

- There were some examples where the parent(s) were very keen for family focused therapeutic support for but their child did not accept the support
- For two children there was no evidence of contact with their fathers by some professionals

6. Be curious, evidence-informed and knowledgeable

Strengths:

- Evidence of curiosity by multiple professionals
- Philomena Protocol was in place for a child who had gone missing
- Regular reviews of Exploitation Identification Tools were taking place (now ROTH Tool)

Areas for development:

- For one child who was electively home educated, there could have been better exploration of the impact of this on their risk outside the home

1. Put children and young people first

Strengths:

- Examples of good school-based support to prevent exclusion and meet individual needs of children
- Therapeutic input offered to children
- There was a move closer to home for a child in care; her voice was heard
- There were good examples of appropriate information sharing about children

Areas for development:

- There was a number of different social workers for one child in a short space of time
- Cross border working could be more developed

2. Recognise and challenge inequalities, exclusion and discrimination

Strengths:

- Cultural and religious needs of one child were considered i.e. access to prayer mats in school
- There was an example of the police meeting with a child in a location where they said they felt safe
- There was persistent advocacy for a child by the professional network around them
- One child explored their early childhood traveller background with a professional

Areas for development:

- One child appeared to have been treated an adult (adultification)

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

Strengths:

- Generally the voice of children was captured by professionals
- Children had opportunities to speak to professionals alone
- Children had ownership of any interventions in their lives
- There were examples of tailored programmes based on children's wishes

Areas for development:

- There was an example where a child's trusted professional in school retired and this highlighted the need for children to have more than one trusted adult at any one time where possible

5. Recognise and respond to trauma

Strengths:

- Therapeutic offer is available via Violent Reduction Partnership – recognition that it is important to match this offer to children at the right time for them
- Evidence that trauma is recognised, but the professional response to this is sometimes unclear
- Trauma recovery training is in place for many practitioners
- Trauma flags adopted for children

Areas for development:

- Trauma informed support for professionals could be further developed
- Some evidence that greater relevant exploration could have taken place where children had parents who have offended

4. Be strengths and relationship-based

Strengths:

- There was consistent evidence relationship-based practice being adopted
- Good handover of information to ensure children do not have to re-tell their story
- Consistent GP for one child provided continuity

Areas for development:

- Do we have good exit plans so that children can succeed after our intervention? Do we effectively plan for closure?



Agencies involved in this audit were:

YJS; Children's Services; Safeguarding Advisor for Education; Police; VRP; CAMHS; BNSSG ICB on behalf of GPs; BACE; Educational Psychology; Probation; Pathways Learning Centre; YUNO Sexual Health

Vicarious Trauma

This has been described as the emotional residue of exposure to traumatic stories and experiences of others.

It is important to be aware of the signs of vicarious trauma and also some strategies for coping which may include: seeking support from colleagues/ your manager, finding out about your organisation's wellbeing offer, finding ways to manage a healthy work/life balance and increasing your self-observation.

There is a short film on recognising vicarious trauma in the workplace which may be of interest.

Recognising
vicarious
trauma

Safeguarding
Children in
EHE

Adultification

This is a type of bias which skews the perception of certain children leading to professionals viewing them as more grown up than their peers which can lead to lapses in safeguarding and unfair treatment.

There is an informative 7 minute briefing on adultification by Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership

7 minute
briefing



Children Who Are Electively Home Educated (EHE)

There were some indications that for children who were electively home educated, their risk outside the home was not always fully recognised or explored by professionals and that generally, they were less visible to services.

In 2024, The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel published a briefing on Safeguarding Children in Elective Home Education which while not specifically focused on risk outside the home, offers some useful wider context around themes emerging from a safeguarding perspective for children who were being educated at home. As an outcome of this audit, there are plans to produce a resource linked to this theme which will be made available to all partners.

Children Affected by Parental Offending (CAPO)

It is important to recognise how and ways in which children can be affected by parental offending.

In South Gloucestershire Every Family offer support for children aged 5-16 who are affected by family offending and imprisonment. They also have a range of resources which can support your work with children.

CAPO Leaflet

Other useful resources:

Latest VRP
newsletter

CP-ROTH
Practice
Guidance

ROTH Tool

Peer Mapping
Practice
Guidance