



Practice Guidance – CP-ROTH (Risk Outside the Home)

Introduction

From April 2025 the South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership will implement Risk Outside the Home (CP-ROTH) into our Child Protection Processes. This change is needed:

- to ensure that all organisations are recognising and responding to risks outside the home (ROTH)/extra-familial harm as safeguarding issues which require a multi- agency safeguarding response.
- in recognition that a different response is required to reduce risk to children where the risks are ROTH rather than relating to factors within the family/ home.

This document seeks to provide guidance to partners to enable them to be clear about the language, process and expectations relating to the CP-ROTH process.

Context

Risk Outside the Home can also be referred to as 'extra-familial harm' or contextual safeguarding. The CP-ROTH process will consider harm to children relating to:

- Sexual exploitation
- Exploitation by criminal and organised crime groups and individuals (such as county lines and financial exploitation)
- Serious youth violence
- Online harm
- Modern slavery (forced labour) and human trafficking (please also see [National Referral Mechanism \(NRM\) Guidance](#))

NB The CP-ROTH Process does not cover concerns related to radicalisation or terrorism – this is covered through the Channel Process details of which can be found [here](#)

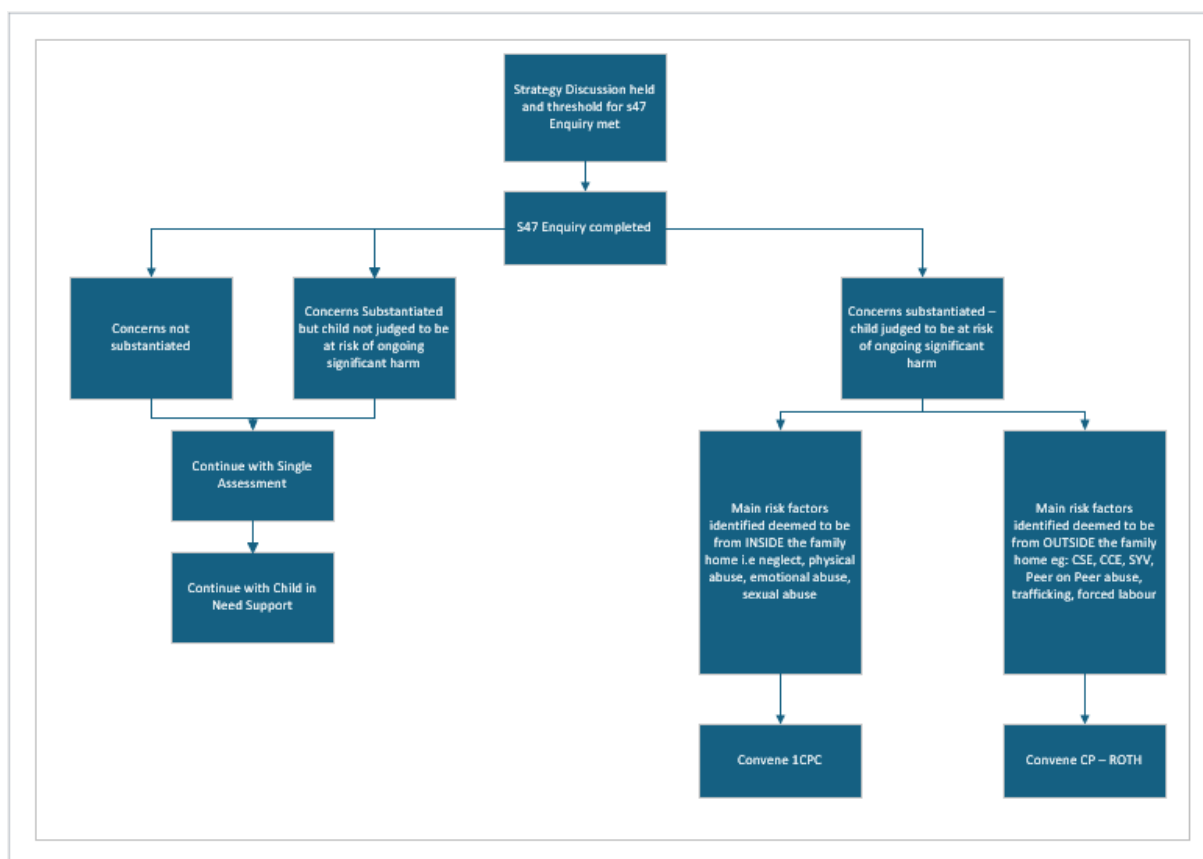
When we are responding to these risks to children we have to identify, assess and intervene within the contexts of where the harm is happening to them – this may be a particular location, a park/shopping centre/online platform; it could be due to peer relationships that a child has; it could also be due to adults linked or connected to a child who may be exploiting them.

As such for CP-ROTHs to be effective, partners need to give careful consideration to who is best placed in their organisation, to disrupt any person or place that is causing harm to the child and able to support the child through this process. It is likely that in this context, practitioners from agencies who we may not usually work with in traditional child protections processes may need to be part of meetings to safeguard and promote the welfare of a child. For example, it may be helpful to include licencing if we are concerned about a particular venue or detached youth workers if we are worried about locations that young people use/'hang out'.

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.

NB CP ROTHs can and should be convened for any child regardless of their care status; as such, children in care can be made subject of a CP ROTH.



Convening a CP ROTH/Preparation for the meeting

Children's Social Care will be the lead agency convening a CP-ROTH. CP5/CP6 should be used in the same way for all CPCs. Social Workers must also consider who else may need to be invited for a CP-ROTH and add these as **'additional invitees'**. Agencies to consider for CP-ROTH that may be different include, for example:

- Licencing
- CME (children missing education) team
- Youth Services
- Brooke sexual health
- BACE – **Barnardo's** against child exploitation

NB: it is expected that key partners – Police and Health agencies/organisations ensure that appropriate information is gathered from their agency as well as considering if others need to be in attendance based on information shared.

Where the child is a Child in Care (CIC) you should invite the CIC health team, and it is **likely that the child's** foster carer and the supervising social worker should also be invited. You should also **consider if the child's parents should be part of any or all of** the meeting.

It is expected that the LSU (Lighthouse Safeguarding Unit) in the Police will complete the usual checks but it may also be appropriate depending on the identified risks that there is an OIC (officer in charge)/EIT (early intervention team) officer/NPT (neighbourhood police team)/Police Mis Per Coordinator that should be invited; in this circumstance it is expected that the LSU pass the details of the CP ROTH to them for their attendance at the meeting.

It is expected that where possible/necessary some Peer Mapping work has been undertaken to consider the risks and strengths in the network for the child. Guidance for partners regarding Peer Mapping can be found [here](#).

It is also expected that there will be a completed ROTH-Tool (risk outside the home tool); this should have been completed as part of the s47 but *MUST* be ready for the CP-ROTH as it will have identified the key areas of concern relating to risk outside the home.

All partners should complete their reports and ensure they are returned in the timescale expected for the CP-ROTH. **All information relevant to the child's safety** should be openly shared. Agencies should advise the chair in advance of the meeting if there is information that should not be shared with certain members at conference. This may be particularly relevant if there is intelligence that the Police hold that is pertinent to safety planning for the child but cannot be shared with family members due to the sensitivity of the information.

CP ROTH Meeting

The chair of the CP-ROTH will be an independent CP chair as with all Child Protection Conferences (CPCs) in South Gloucestershire. The meeting will follow the same format as all CPCs, considering strength and safety, support networks etc but being clear about risks and where this risk originates from in order that the safety planning for a child is appropriate to risk outside the home.

Therefore the meeting must consider:

- What/who is the risk to the child?
- Where the child is at risk?
- How often is this risk deemed to be present?
- Are there circumstances or people that increase or decrease the risk at any point, how/why?
- What or who reduces the risk to the child?
- Where the child feels safe?
- What we need to know more about?
- What would safety look like in the contexts the child is deemed to be at risk?
- Intervention/support offered to the child or family?
- Who is responsible for the intervention/support?
- When will identified actions be achieved?
- What intervention offered to the contexts i.e. disruption work or work to make the contexts safer – for example, training staff at hotels, training security staff at venues, additional lighting, increased police presence in an area, removal of a licence if it is being breached, police action such as CAWNs.

- Does an NRM need to be made?

Having this information should enable effective safety planning to take place for the child.

There is a disruption toolkit that can be used to consider options available at any CP ROTH. This can be found [here](#).

As with all CPCs, scaling will be used to determine the risk outside the home to the child and if the child should be made subject to a CP-ROTH plan. Where the decision is made that a child should be made subject to a CP-ROTH plan, the categories of harm to the child have to be the same as those for all CPCs i.e. Emotional, Physical, Sexual, Neglect.

As a guide where primary concerns relate to:

- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) – Sexual abuse should be used
- Child Criminal Exploitation – Physical or emotional abuse is likely to be the most appropriate (this will need to be decided dependent on information shared)
- Serious Youth Violence – Physical abuse
- Forced Labour – Physical or emotional abuse is likely to be the most appropriate (this will need to be decided dependent on information shared)
- Financial abuse – likely to be emotional abuse
- Trafficking could be part of any of the above and should be noted if this is thought to have taken place.

We also know that ROTH does not occur in isolation, as such decisions about categories will need to be based on the main source evidence of harm provided at the time of the meeting.

Where threshold is met, the first Core Group meeting should develop the plan made at the CP ROTH. It is imperative that members of the core group are identified at the CP ROTH. Where there is ongoing police work, it is expected that the police should form part of the core group. Where actions have been taken by agencies perhaps not usually associated with CP processes, for example, licencing, these agencies should also be invited to the core group (at least until any disruption work has been achieved).

Reviews

CP-ROTHs will be reviewed in the same way as any other CPC. It is noted that as more information is known, concerns about the safety of any child may mean that there needs to be a reconsideration as to whether the primary risks to the child remain outside of the home or if there are increased concerns about inter-familial harm. The CP chairs are able to re-categorise the risk of harm to a child at any CPC.

Ending CP-ROTHs

Ending CP-ROTHs will happen in the same way they do for any other CPC. However, it is recognised that at times, disruption of people or places can mean that ROTH to children can decrease rapidly at times. On occasions, such as these, it would be appropriate to end plans sooner for children; this will be done by reconvening early.

Additional notes for CP Chairs

When recording CP ROTH decisions in Mosaic there is also an expectation that you 'tick' all subcategories of harm for the child at each CP ROTH meeting, you can tick as many that are present.

If concerns are highlighted in any CP ROTH about O, L, T (offender or person of concern, a location, a theme), please ensure you complete the Microsoft Form to notify the PDMs (Practice Development Managers). PDMs will be responsible for sharing this information with the members of RTG (Risk outside the home tactical meeting).

March 2025, Revised Jan 26.

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