

South Gloucestershire's Risk Outside The Home (ROTH) Tool

The Risk Outside The Home (ROTH) Tool is a multi-agency tool designed for use by all professionals who work with children and young people. It should be used when there are concerns or worries that a child or young person may be at risk of, or experiencing one or more of the following:

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

South Gloucestershire's ROTH Tool uses a traffic light scaling system where 0 means there is evidence to indicate that the child or young person is at significant and immediate risk outside the home and 10 means there is no evidence to indicate that the child or young person is at any risk outside the home.



The tool provides ten domains to explore using the traffic light scaling, to enable you to make a professional judgement about whether a child or young person is at overall low (scale 8, 9, 10), medium (scale 4, 5, 6, 7) or high (0, 1, 2, 3) risk outside the home. For each domain there is guidance to support you to make an informed decision around scaling in relation to level of risk. The ten domains are as follows:

1. Education, Training and Employment	2. Health	3. Accommodation	4. Going Missing	5. Peer Relationships and Abusive Adults
6. Social Media and Technology	7. Places and Spaces	8. Drug and Alcohol Use	9. Unexplained Items and Rewards	10. Serious Youth Violence and Offending Behaviour

Prior to completing the ROTH Tool, it is advisable to access the accompanying ROTH Practice Guidance available on the [South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership website](#), along with various resources to support professionals working with children and young people thought to be at risk outside the home.

When completing the ROTH Tool:

- **Be specific about details** that can help identify and consider harm that may be happening to a child or young person for example, names of places, people, shops, car registration numbers, websites.
- **Use appropriate language.** Language implying that a child or young person is complicit in any way or responsible for the abuse that has happened or may be happening to them, should be avoided.
- Include the views of the child or young person, their parents/ carers or any other involved professionals where possible however, be mindful that this tool is primarily designed to help structure the information you have and to **support your professional judgement** about the level of risk to a child or young person outside the home.
- In accordance with a **Signs of Safety** approach, remember to balance worries and concerns with strengths and safety factors where possible.

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Basic Information

Please provide the following basic information relating to the child or young person who you are concerned or worried about.

Child or Young Person's Name:			
Child or Young Person's Date of Birth:			
Name, Role and Organisation of Professional Completing Tool:			
Date Tool Started:		Date Tool Completed:	
Is this an initial ROTH Tool or review of a previously completed ROTH Tool?	Initial		
	Review		
How and with whom has this ROTH Tool been completed?			
What are the worries/ concerns that have led to completion of this ROTH tool?			
Please indicate which forms of risk outside the home you are worried about:			
Child criminal exploitation			
Child sexual exploitation			
Financial exploitation			
Forced labour			
Serious youth violence			
Trafficking			
Is this ROTH Tool being completed to inform a CP ROTH Conference?	Yes		
	No		

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1. Education, Training and Employment



High Risk

- Persistent absence from school or no school placement, permanent exclusion, Electively Home Educated (EHE), Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET).
- Less than part-time timetable being offered/ accessed.
- Whereabouts unknown when absent/ missing from school.
- Education provision unsafe for this child or young person; they are at risk of retaliation, violence, sexual assault, harassment in the provision.
- No specialist school placement identified/ specialist school placement at risk of breakdown.

Medium Risk

- Irregular or low attendance or unexplained/ unauthorised absence.
- Breakdown in education placements or pattern of suspensions/ incidents.
- Noticeable change in attendance, performance, presentation or behaviour in school.
- Part-time timetable/ off-site provision/ Alternative Learning Provision which is having limited/ no impact.
- Education provision does not have a good culture of inclusion and responds in a punitive way to concerns.
- Appears to have unmet learning needs that are not identified/ delays in assessments relating to special educational needs and disabilities.
- Concerns around possible illegal working/ employment.

Low Risk

- Mainly engaged in employment/ school/ training.
- Accessing full time education.
- Meeting age related expectations in the context of education.
- Where applicable, Education Health and Care Plan is effective and regularly reviewed.
- Mainly positive relationships in education.
- Possibly some low level concerns e.g. internal truanting or authorised absence.

Indicate scaling:	
Outline the information which has led to this scaling:	

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2. Health (including physical, mental and sexual)



High Risk

- Recognised or suspected mental health needs.
- Symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder/ highly dysregulated presentation.
- Regular self-harming, overdosing, previous suicide attempts/ suicidal ideation.
- Causing serious physical/ emotional harm to others.
- Serious unexplained injuries.
- Repeated Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), pregnancy linked to adults or other physical symptoms suggestive of sexual assault.
- Child is under 13 and sexually active (statutory rape).
- In a sexual relationship with an adult/ there is a wide age gap.

Medium Risk

- Significant low self-esteem, expressions of despair, self-harm, overdosing, eating disorder, noticeable change/ decline in emotional health.
- Demonstrates threatening behaviour/ violent outbursts/ emotional and behavioural dysregulation.
- Unexplained injuries.
- Pregnancy, STIs known to be via sex with peers (if child is over 13).
- Untreated STIs; not accessing sexual health support or practising safe sex.
- Unable to discuss sexuality with others.
- Additional needs or other health issues that could increase vulnerability to experiencing harm outside the home.

Low Risk

- Low self-esteem, low mood, struggles to verbalise feelings.
- Some signs of anger.
- Seeking a sense of belonging and acceptance.
- Repeated presentations within health services.
- Sexually active in consensual peer relationship.

Indicate scaling:	
Outline the information which has led to this scaling:	

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3. Accommodation



High Risk

- Often stays elsewhere, is homeless or sofa surfing.
- Known to be going to address/es of people where there are/ have been concerns regarding exploitation, serious youth violence or other forms of harm outside the home.
- Accommodation is in an area which is currently being targeted by perpetrators of exploitation or other forms of harm outside the home.

Medium Risk

- Unsuitable, unstable, overcrowded or temporary accommodation.
- Other peers in the accommodation are at risk of harm outside the home or pose a risk to other peers.
- Accommodation is in an area known for criminality.
- Child or young person is unhappy with their accommodation.

Low Risk

- Some accommodation issues but overall accommodation meets the needs of the child or young person and they feel safe.

Indicate scaling:	
Outline the information which has led to this scaling:	

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4. Going Missing



High Risk

- Frequently goes missing for short or prolonged periods and whereabouts often unknown through the day/ night.
- Pattern of street homelessness.
- Missing with other young people assessed as at risk outside the home.
- Looking either well cared for or particularly unkempt on return from missing episodes.
- Located in unfamiliar areas or unexplained locations.
- Found/ been at an address which appears to be cuckooed.
- Found with or accompanied by older non-related adults believed to be involved criminality.
- Being collected/ picked up by people unknown.
- Frequent travel on public transport or by taxi/ Uber. In possession of lots of train tickets with no obvious explanation or means of paying for travel.
- Located using national transport networks (trains/ motorways).

Medium Risk

- Frequently staying out late or overnight without permission or explanation.
- Repeat episodes of going missing.
- Going missing from home or school sometimes for prolonged periods (and whereabouts unknown).
- Parents/ carers not reporting child or young person missing.

Low Risk

- May often come home late.
- Missing during school day (but whereabouts known).
- Whereabouts unknown on occasion for short period (anytime of day).

Indicate scaling:	
Outline the information which has led to this scaling:	

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5. Peer relationships and Abusive Adults



High Risk

- Found with/ accompanied by/ evidence of association with adults/ older peers believed to be perpetrators/ victims of grooming or exploitation/ drug dealing.
- Appears in online videos (e.g. drill music) with individuals known to be involved in criminality.
- Identifies as a member of a peer group (gang) which has links to organised crime and exploitation by older adults.
- Violence within peer group (involving weapons).
- High risk of retaliation between peer groups.
- Significant age gap in interpersonal relationships.
- Considers themselves to be in a "relationship" with controlling coercive individual.
- Excessive phone calls/ messages from unknown people coinciding with going out of the home.
- Tattooing. Forced imprisonment/ abduction. Forced criminality to pay for debts.
- Disclosures of physical/ sexual assault and then withdraws allegations.

Medium Risk

- Extensive use of phone/ phone use has changed (late at night, secret use) and/ or use of more than one mobile phone.
- Spending time with older peers and/ or other children deemed to be at risk outside the home.
- Involved in anti-social behaviour and low-level offending alongside peers.
- Violence within peer group (not involving knives or firearms).
- May have peers who self-define as in a "gang" or specific group but child or young person is not central to this group.
- Appears to be 'controlled' or negatively influenced by others.
- Financial debts young person cannot pay back.
- Shows fear of certain others.

Low Risk

- Known safe friendship groups which act protectively. Positive friendships.
- Friendship group informs adults if there are concerns.
- Friendship group is known to parents/carers.
- Parents/ carers are in touch with each other and share worries/ concerns.

Indicate scaling:	
Outline the information which has led to this scaling:	

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6. Social Media and Technology



High Risk

- Use of social media or the internet to share sexually inappropriate content.
- Inappropriate images/ videos being stored or shared electronically.
- Evidence that there is online exploitation taking place via the internet or evidence that the child or young person is being groomed online.
- Use of social media or the internet to meet unknown adults or peers in person.
- Known or suspected use of the 'dark web'.
- Participation in online communities relating to 'gangs' or organised crime.

Medium Risk

- Child or young person has poor understanding of how to remain safe online.
- Poor parental oversight around child or young person's internet use.
- Parents have limited knowledge of their child's internet use/ presence on and use of social media.
- Communication with unknown adults or peers via social media or the internet (parents unaware).
- New, hidden or unfamiliar apps on electronic devices
- New interest in 'gang' related music e.g. 'drill' or 'trap' music.
- Extensive or secretive use of social media or the internet.
- Has more than one mobile phone or SIM card.

Low Risk

- Uses the internet responsibly.
- Young person has a good idea of how to keep themselves safe online and how to report abuse.
- Parents/ carers have oversight of child or young person's internet use.
- Parents/carers have a good understanding of online tools available to keep young people safe, i.e. tracking software, child's passwords are known to parents and child allows parent to look through their mobile phone.

Indicate scaling:	
Outline the information which has led to this scaling:	

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7. Places and Spaces



High Risk

- Spending time in/ known or suspected to be taken to an area/ location where there is known trap houses/ cuckooing/ street sex working/ other forms of harm suspected.
- Spending time in a location where there are not any safe adults who would step in if concerns were identified.
- Known to have been at parties or raves organised at premises for purposes of exploitation.
- Evidence of financial abuse by others linked to securing premises for the purposes of exploitation.
- Asking to be dropped off in vague areas, i.e. not a specific address.

Medium Risk

- Living in a neighbourhood or spending time in an area where children are known to be at risk outside the home.
- Going to/ spending time at premises not known to parent/ carer including hotels and Airbnbs.
- Attending or being taken to illegal 'free raves'.

Low Risk

- Spending time where antisocial behaviour is known to take place.
- Visiting establishments that adults frequent (e.g. pubs, clubs, bars).

Indicate scaling:	
Outline the information which has led to this scaling:	

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8. Drug and Alcohol Use



High Risk

- Evidence of heavy/ dependant/ worrying substance use (including alcohol) which impacts on relationships and daily life.
- Concerns for use/ dependency/ increase of use/ funding of usage.
- Alcohol/ drug supply is from unsafe sources.
- Child or young person has a debt or owes someone for alcohol/ drugs (possible debt bondage).
- Child or young person is selling substances. Child or young person is harmed/ assaulted when using substances.

Medium Risk

- Evidence of regular substance (including alcohol) use.
- Concerns for use/ dependency and change/ increase of use.
- Alcohol/ substance use in environments where there is limited safety.
- Concern that child or young person may be gifted drugs, alcohol or cigarettes/ vapes as part of a grooming process.

Low Risk

- Low level use of substances (including alcohol).
- Alcohol and substances used in locations and peer groups where there is safety.
- Substances acquired from a relatively safe source.

Indicate scaling:	
Outline the information which has led to this scaling:	

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9. Unexplained Items and Rewards



High Risk

- Significant concern regarding unaccounted for monies and/ or goods.
- Has unexplained use of or access to non-tangible goods e.g. travel cards/ gym/ fast food.
- Talks about gaining status/ protection/ belonging from a group or individual in a position of power.
- Has unexplained use of multiple mobile phones/ SIM cards.
- Child or young person has significant debts and these debts are used to control the young person (debt bondage).
- Unexplained transactions in banking account(s).

Medium Risk

- Some unexplained items/ "gifts" that child or young person cannot fund and no explanation given, or explanation does not fit.
- Funding use of drugs/ alcohol/ tobacco/ vapes/ food/ transport fares through unknown sources.

Low Risk

- Possible unaccounted for small amounts of monies and/ or goods.
- Known ability to fund goods such as food/ travel.

Indicate scaling:	
Outline the information which has led to this scaling:	

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10. Serious Youth Violence and Offending Behaviour



High Risk

- Repeat offences, particularly related to drugs, violent crime and/ or weapons.
- Arrested/ charged/ convicted of possession with intent to supply drugs or with large amounts of drugs.
- Arrested away from own home area.
- Arrested/ found at an address which is of concern to police/ other agencies.
- Arrested with or accompanied by older non-related adults believed to be involved in drug dealing.
- Displays harmful sexual behaviour which may not be motivated by peer pressure.
- Places others at risk outside the home via friendships/ associations/ places.

Medium Risk

- Known to police due to involvement in antisocial/ criminal behaviour.
- Peers known to police.
- Known to Youth Justice/ Youth Offending Service.
- Arrested for weapon offences/ found with weapon/ may carry weapons in the community.
- Sexually inappropriate behaviour directed towards others.
- Concerns that child or young person might expose others to risky situations.
- Bullying and threatening behaviour.
- Displays violence towards others (including family members and carers).
- Wearing balaclavas or similar attire even in warm/ hot weather.

Low Risk

- Starting to associate with problematic peer group.
- Some anti-social behaviour.
- Low level concerns about influence on other young people.

Indicate scaling:	
Outline the information which has led to this scaling:	

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Other Factors to Consider

Please explore any other factors relating to the child or young person and their family, which may indicate they are vulnerable to being at risk outside the home.

Family: Abuse and/ or neglect in family, parental substance misuse, domestic abuse, exposure to adult sex work, relatives or associates who are perpetrators or victims of exploitation or other links to criminality, sibling who is at risk outside the home.	
Child: Bereavement or loss, being in or leaving care, unaccompanied asylum seeking child or young person, special educational needs or other disabilities, experience of trauma.	
Details of identified/ suspected perpetrators (provide full names, nicknames and other identifiable information such as date of birth and/ or address or locations they are known to be frequenting):	
Details of identified/ suspected peers (provide full names, nicknames and other identifiable information such as date of birth and/ or address or locations they are known to be frequenting):	

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Details of and reasons for any locations of concern:	
Indicate locations of concern by Local Authority area/s:	
South Gloucestershire	
Bristol	
Bath and North East Somerset	
North Somerset	
Gloucestershire	
Other	
<i>If other, please specify:</i>	

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Overall Professional Judgement



High Risk

- There is evidence which indicates that the child or young person is at high risk of, or is experiencing risk outside the home (though they may not recognise this).
- Next steps may include one or more of the following: seek advice/ guidance from your designated safeguarding lead/ team; contact ART if there is not an allocated social worker; if the child or young person has an allocated Children's Services worker, a discussion should be held with them and the tool shared with them; consider, what is the plan to safeguard and support the child or young person; consider whether there is intelligence or information that needs to be shared with the police.
- If it is felt that a child or young person is at immediate risk of harm, the Police must be contacted on 999.

Medium Risk

- There are indicators that the child or young person is vulnerable to risk outside the home. They may be at risk of opportunistic abuse.
- Next steps may include one or more of the following: seek advice/ guidance from your designated safeguarding lead/ team; contact ART for a discussion/ to determine whether a referral for Children's Services input is necessary; share this completed ROTH Tool with any allocated Children's Services worker; consideration of referral for discussion in South Gloucestershire ROTH Tactical Group meeting.

Low Risk

- At this point there is little indication that the child or young person may be at risk outside the home.
- Next steps may include one or more of the following: seek advice/ guidance from your designated safeguarding lead/ team; contact Compass for information and advice; consideration of referral to ART for early help support; share this completed ROTH Tool with any allocated Children's Services worker. If the decision is for no further action, or to offer advice, support, guidance or intervention within the home agency and not to contact Children's Services, this should be recorded on the child or young person's record/ file.

Indicate overall scaling:		
Outline rationale for this overall scaling:		
Overall professional judgement:	Low Risk	
	Medium Risk	
	High Risk	

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Next steps: What are the things that need to happen to make things better and safer for the child or young person?	
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Manager's Authorisation

Where possible, your line manager should authorise this completed ROTH Tool and provide their oversight.

Manager's oversight/ comments:			
Manager's Name:		Date authorised:	