

Risk Outside The Home (ROTH) Pathways: Information-sharing template for partners

This document is designed to assist children's social care in developing an information-sharing document/ form for multi-agency partners who will participate in Risk Outside The Home (ROTH) child protection pathways.

This kind of document would be shared with partners prior to a ROTH conference or meeting, and would provide partners with an opportunity to share information relevant to an assessment and/ or plan for a young person (YP) at risk of significant harm outside the home.

This guide has been developed by combining ideas from existing documents developed by local authorities already piloting ROTH pathways and other data from the research conducted by the Global Centre for Contextual Safeguarding (GCCS) on the effective implementation of ROTH pathways.

Form introduction

In your introduction, describe:

- The approach that children's social care are taking to extra-familial harm. This might include wider practice frameworks that shape that approach, such as restorative approaches or Contextual Safeguarding.
- National and local service gaps for children and young people who are at risk of significant harm in extra-familial contexts/ relationships but who are relatively safe at home/with their families
- The purpose of a ROTH child protection pathway in addressing that gap and how it's informed by both local practice frameworks and national learning
- The purpose of this information document and any documents to be read alongside
- Definitions that are relevant to explaining a ROTH pathway – for example: significant harm, extra-familial harm
- Information on other resources relating to ROTH (for example, guidance on ROTH processes, legislative framework for ROTH pathways)
- Information-sharing agreements or guidance around what should and should not be shared
- Reminder of tone, language, and goals of ROTH conferences

Form notes

Early on in your information-sharing form template, provide notes that clarify the following:

- Who is expected to attend meetings on a ROTH pathway and whether a representative is expected in their absence
- When/ how written or verbal reports are expected during ROTH pathway activities – for example: ‘Each agency must provide a report, sent to x by x date’
- Timelines for sharing reports with both the chair of any ROTH meetings and the parents/ carers and young people involved in the ROTH plan – for example: ‘All reports for an initial ROTH meeting/ conference must be shared with parents x working days before conference, reports for a Review ROTH Panel must be shared with parents x working days before panel’
- Style and tone expected in report – for example: ‘Write the report to the young person (YP); avoid jargon, acronyms, or complex professional language’
- Where reports should be sent

Information-sharing form

Once the purpose of the form, key terms, and general guidance has been introduced, you can introduce the information-sharing form for partners to complete.

Children’s social care often collect introductory information in a table, including characteristic information about the YP supported via the ROTH plan.

Partner details	
Conference date	
Your agency/ organisation and role	
Your name	
Your job title	
Young person (YP) and family	
YP name and DOB	
YP ethnicity, nationality, primary language	
Family member details (parent(s)/ carer(s) and siblings if relevant) • names • relationships to YP	

Information about the contexts and the harm

The next three sections of the form are designed to collect information about safety and harm for the YP subject to the ROTH plan via assessing contexts, the YP's needs and any system barriers. Some areas have found that context weighting is a useful framework for organising that information, while others have used a series of question prompts, such as:

Context(s) Answer each set of questions for each context identified – add extra rows where needed	
Overarching question	Answer/ assessment
Please name a context where this YP spends their time and summarise what you know about this (add rows for each context) <i>What is life like for the YP in this context, with their friends, in the community etc.?</i>	
What about this context are you worried about for the YP? <i>What might be driving the behaviour of the YP in this context?</i> <i>What about this context puts the YP at risk?</i> <i>How might this context be unsafe for other young people?</i>	
How is this context one in which this YP might be, or be able to be, safe? <i>Is there existing or potential guardianship?</i> <i>What about the context is positive for the YP?</i> <i>How are other young people safe in this context?</i> <i>What kind of positive relationships does the YP hold in these contexts?</i>	

The young person (YP)'s needs

What do you know about them, how do you know it, and how can you support them?

Overarching question	Answer/ assessment
What is already helping to support the YP? • <i>How are you/ your service specifically supporting the YP currently?</i> • <i>Do you know of positive relationships they hold?</i> • <i>What activities do they participate in that you know of?</i> • <i>Do you know of safe spaces they spend their time? For example, home, school, youth clubs etc.</i>	
Have you talked to the YP recently? What are their views, thoughts, and feelings? • <i>How does the YP understand their own safety/ risk?</i> • <i>How do they find the ROTH process?</i> • <i>What are their experiences of your service?</i> • <i>Is there anything they have told you they'd like to be involved in or support they need that they don't currently have, such as activities, education support, mental health support?</i>	
Have you talked to their family/ parent(s)/ carer(s) recently? What are their views, thoughts, and feelings? • <i>What are they worried about for the YP?</i> • <i>What are they hoping to get from the ROTH process?</i> • <i>What are the best ways they can be supported by your service?</i>	

System barriers What might prevent your service from meeting this young person (YP)'s needs? What do you need from partners?

Overarching question	Answer/ assessment
What would you like to know to help increase the safety of the YP? • <i>Clarification from other professionals on what processes are already underway?</i> • <i>What the YP/ their family needs?</i> • <i>Clarity on ROTH processes?</i>	
Is your service/ system facing any barriers in providing support? • <i>How can the contexts be made safer?</i> • <i>Which services might help with this?</i> • <i>How might this make other young people safer too?</i>	
Have you ever faced challenges in trying to support this YP or context previously?	