

Risk Outside The Home (ROTH) adopting a Contextual Safeguarding approach.



1. What is it? Risk Outside The Home (ROTH) refers to the contextual safeguarding approach adopted in Swindon to understand, and respond to, young people's experiences of significant harm experienced beyond their families. Contextual safeguarding seeks to identify and respond to harm and abuse posed to young people outside their home, either from adults or other young people. [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2018\)](#) (updated December 2020), Chapter 1 paragraphs 40 – 44) refers to Assessment of Risk Outside The Home (ROTH).

7. What should we do? Engage with individuals/sectors who have a bearing on social contexts, i.e. shopkeepers, local policing, community leaders, to make environments safer. Consider any disruption activity e.g. Child Abduction Warning Notice (CAWN). Visit [SSP Child Exploitation](#) webpage for further information and resources.

6. What should we do? A Contextual Safeguarding approach aims to disrupt harmful extra-familial contexts rather than move young people away from them. The approach seeks to identify the ways in which professionals, adults and young people can change the social conditions of environments in which abuse has occurred.

5. What are the risks? There are a wide range of potential risks where the prime cause of harm is outside of the family. This list isn't exhaustive but includes: peer on peer abuse; exploitation and online abuse; missing episodes; gang involvement, county lines/local lines; radicalisation; trafficking and modern slavery.



2. Why is it matters. Traditional approaches to protecting children/young people from harm have focussed on the risk of violence and abuse from inside the home, and don't always address the time that children/young people spend outside the home.

3. Why it matters. As children move from early childhood and into adolescence they spend increasing amounts of time socialising independently of their families. The nature of young people's relationships, that they form in these settings, inform the extent to which they encounter protection or abuse.

4. Peer relationships. Research tells us that peer relationships are increasingly influential during adolescence. If a young person forms friendships in contexts characterised by violence and/or harmful attitudes these relationships will be anti-social and unsafe. However not all peer relationships will be unsafe some may be a positive influence.

Further information: Contextual Safeguarding: [Contextual Safeguarding Network website.](#)

SSP Resources: [SSP Safeguarding Adolescents Resource Pack](#)

Information and resources for professionals: [Child exploitation - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)

Child Exploitation Awareness eLearning: [Child exploitation - basic awareness training - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)