



Frequently Asked Questions Risk Outside The Home (ROTH) Meetings

For further information about Risk Outside The Home (ROTH) please visit the ROTH webpage [Risk outside the home \(ROTH\) - adopting a contextual safeguarding approach - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)

Will child protection conferences still be held if the risk is outside the home (ROTH)?

For those young people where the assessed risk is clearly outside of the home, there will be some changes to the current Child Protection Conference process and this is detailed below.

These changes will initially be subject of a pilot and further information will be provided in due course. If you/your agency is invited to attend one of these meetings there will be support available. If there are any additional queries, please contact the SQA team email sgateam@swindon.gov.uk.

What will the ROTH meeting look like?

- These will be young people focused; their participation is the primary outcome
- The priority is how we, as a multi-agency group can/will work with the young person and their family to effect change
- The inclusion of the community network will be a priority and this may involve contributions from non-traditional safeguarding partners, such as shopkeepers or library staff. They may have a reach into places and spaces, where young people are most at risk of harm and we need to use their expertise to keep young people safe from harm.
- These meetings will be held in the community – we will go to the young person and their family, instead of expecting them to come to us
- The young person will not be made subject to a Child Protection plan; they will remain subject to a CIN plan
- There will be 2 levels of risk – high and lower:
 - Lower will be chaired by the SW team manager
 - High will be chaired by CP conference chairs
- The meeting will be held within 20 working days of a strategy discussion
- The 'standard' professional invitees will be much more community based
- This will be a strength based model, but will include push/pull factors for the young person
- As an agency and as a group, you will be asked to think outside the box and to be solution focused as to how together, we can make a difference for the young person

If at any time in the process risks are identified in the home or for example, there are found to be parenting/adult vulnerabilities impacting on the child the ROTH process can cease, the usual Child Protection procedures can then be implemented.

How will the ROTH process work in Swindon? Will there be changes to the child protection processes?

Please be aware this is a pilot process being implemented and we know that changes may need to be made to how they are delivered. We therefore need the child, parents / carers and all professionals to complete the Feedback form. We will look at these and take on board all comments, so that we can adjust and improve the delivery of the service in light of these.

Why are we having ROTH meetings?

There are some children and young people whose parents are doing all they can to support and protect their child, but despite this, the child is being exploited in some form. For those children the risk is purely outside of the home, and we need to work with these children and families in a much more collaborative way, making sure the child's views are at the focus and we do not undermine them.

What will they be called?

Risk Outside The Home Meetings – ROTH. We will not be referring to risks, but worries, as we want to work with families as much as possible. However, this is not to minimise the concerns there are for the Child.

What will they look like?

The Chair will endeavour to meet with the Child prior to the ROTH meeting; this will include contacting them in various ways at different times, and it is hoped that the Child will respond to this. This chat will be to talk through the plan that the child wants. The Chair will use the [What's Happening Form](#) as a basis for this discussion. The ROTH Meetings themselves will be held in the afternoons, as we want the Child to be part of this as well. We are planning on this starting at 1pm, but we will need to keep this under review.

What will the changes mean for professionals?

The ROTH Meeting will be held within 20 days of the strategy discussion being held.

Pre conference

The [Multi-Agency Form](#) has been specially altered to include the worries around ROTH. Professionals are expected to complete these reports and **send them to SQA team at least 5 days prior to all ROTH Meetings**; they must also be shared / discussed with the child and family – we do not want ANY surprises in the ROTH Meeting, as our primary focus has to be working with the child.

As the pilot progresses it is anticipated that Professionals may instead be able to complete What's Happening Forms instead of the multi-agency format, but that will be reviewed during this pilot.

The Child and Parents are all being asked to complete 'What's Happening Forms', which will be visible in A3 formats and referred to in the ROTH Meeting.

- [Child what's happening form](#)
- [Parent's what's happening form](#)
- [Professionals what's happening form](#)

During the ROTH meeting

The ROTH Meeting will be more relaxed and held in a venue that suits the child – we are not expecting them to be held in Clarence House. We are not planning on having a big table in the room – we want the child to feel as supported as possible. Professionals will be expected to attend, but what this attendance looks like will be decided during a discussion with the young person, by the Social Worker. Professionals may also be asked to attend via MS teams and not face to face, which may include their camera's remaining off.

The Child and Parents are all being asked to complete 'What's Happening Forms', which will be brought to the ROTH Meeting, and visible in A3 formats so that they can be referred to in the ROTH Meeting.

The information from the multi agency forms will then be translated into one Multi-Agency What's Happening Form during the Conference. These will be colour coded by profession, so that the result is one What's Happening From, that includes all of the strengths and worries.

As the pilot progresses it is anticipated that Professionals may instead be able to complete What's Happening Forms instead of the multi agency format, but that will be reviewed during this pilot.

Agenda for ROTH initial and review meeting [click here](#).

Some information about Professional Roles and Responsibilities

It is important that you are well versed with the Child and how your agency has either worked with them, or attempted to work with them, including in the past. It is important that the Child feels important and the focus of all those of the ROTH meeting, including by those who have written reports, and who are attending.

There are multiple reasons as to why / how young people become exploited and the purpose of the ROTH meetings is not to judge or criticise. It is important that all participation , both written and verbal, is solution focused and presented in a supportive manner.

It is also important that there are NO SUPRISSES in a ROTH meeting. We know that surprises can de-stabilise children and parents, which is why it is so important to at least discuss your reports with the Child and Family before the ROTH meeting.

What is my contribution as a professional attending a ROTH Meeting?

You will be expected to share positives as well as worries in the Meeting; it is important to give a balanced view. With regard to the Plan, you must be prepared to suggest outcomes and actions that can support the child, within the Meeting. This can be in relation to your own agency, but also any ideas that you may have that may support the Child.

Post ROTH meeting

What is my contribution as a professional and the role of the ROTH Catch Up Group?

ROTH Catch Up Groups will be held in between the ROTH Meetings. This is to ensure that there is multi agency oversight and support for the child with regard to the plan. We know that children subject to ROTH may not accept that there are any worries. We all need to work with the child and family to explore this, but it must be done at the child's pace. If we try and rush this, it could result in the child not wanting to work with anyone, and that is not going to help reduce the concerns for the child.

What is my contribution as a professional attending the review ROTH Meeting?

Again, professionals will be expected to complete and share the [multi-agency report](#). It is important to include how you have worked with the Child, what has been successful and what has not worked. If the Child has not worked very well with your agency, it is your responsibility to re-think how you can approach the child and work with them. We do not expect 'Children to Engage with us' – we need to work with Children, and change what we are doing so that we can work with them.

Guidance on completing the report

For the [Multi Agency Report](#) there are tips in italics on what would be helpful to include in the report. It must include strengths and worries.

Guide to a good ROTH plan

For further information about this [click here](#).