

RISKS OUTSIDE THE HOME (ROTH) BRIEFING

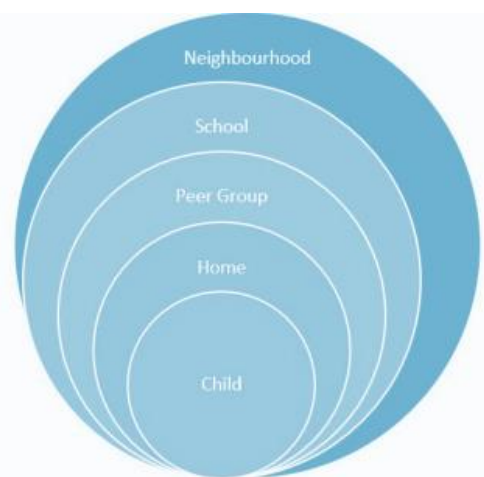


WHAT?

National and local child protection guidance and procedure recognise that children may experience significant harm beyond their family environment and be exposed to violence/exploitation in their school, community, or peer groups. Therefore, Child Protection arrangements should enable us to consider all situations where a child may be or is at risk of significant harm.

Child - for the purpose of all child protection procedures and guidance, a child is defined as a person up to 18 years of age, in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Risks outside the home (ROTH)- refers to abuse, exploitation or other harms that a child may be subject to in any social context outside of the home, such as neighbourhoods, schools and online spaces. This is also known and referred to as **extra-familial harm (EFH)** and the terms can be used somewhat interchangeably.



Throughout 2024-25 the Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding Oversight Group of the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee has been developing a Risks Outside the Home Guidance, which helps to provide a structure that enable practitioners to identify and respond to the needs and concerns of risks and harms children experience, away from family life.

The City of Edinburgh Contextual Safeguarding- [Risks Outside the Home \(ROTH\) Multi-Agency Guidance](#), was agreed by the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee on 6 October 2025, for immediate implementation.

You can find out more about the [Edinburgh Child Protection Committee](#) on the webpages.

WHY?

The ROTH Guidance and associated tools are informed by the principles of [Contextual Safeguarding](#) and form one strand of the Edinburgh Child Protection Committees work to embed Contextual Safeguarding approaches in Edinburgh that:

- Identify and address social conditions of abuse, including the value of peer groups for our elder children.
- Draw on a range of contexts, not just the home.

- Build preventative and responsive approaches to safety across a range of local partnerships and sectors.
- Measure changes in the nature of the places where children spend their time.

The ROTH Guidance was informed by the Contextual Safeguarding Pilot that operated in North West Edinburgh between July 2022-June 2023.

The ROTH Guidance is also intended to provide structures of support that are more suited to the needs and safety planning required in relation to complex and emerging risks and harms for our children, such as:



Please see [Practitioner Guidance on Criminal Exploitation \(Scottish Government, 2023\)](#) for more information.

HOW?

All agencies and services have to a duty to recognise and actively consider a child's needs, through [Getting it Right for Every Child](#) (GIRFEC) and identify potential risks to a child regardless of the focus of their involvement. Each organisation will have safeguarding arrangements in place, in line with GIRFEC and should follow these if they have concerns.

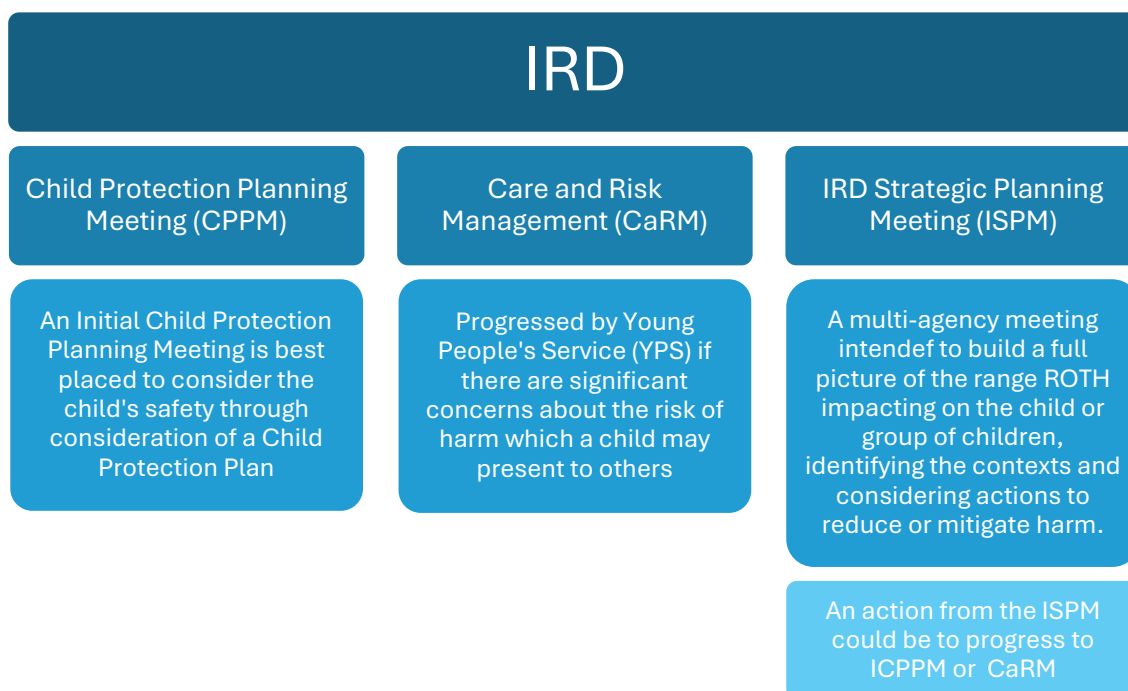
Where a concern does not meet the Child Protection threshold, Child Planning meetings should continue to take place and some of the tools within this guidance could still be utilised to inform and monitor the level of concern. [Early and Effective Intervention](#) (EEI) can also be employed in some circumstances.

A Child Protection referral should be made where a child is at risk of significant harm or significant harm has occurred, as detailed in the [Edinburgh and Lothians Multi-agency Child Protection Procedures](#). The receiving agency will make an initial assessment and, if significant harm is indicated, an Inter-Agency Referral Discussion (IRD) is initiated by the receiving agency.

While IRDs take place between the three Public Protection agencies, Police, Health and Social Work, as part of the IRD information from other organisations made be requested and fed into the discussion. Further for children attending school, education has a critical contribution to make around the child’s experiences and day-to-day safety planning.

Further guidance on IRDs and Interim Safety Planning (ISPs) can be found on the [Child Protection for Professional](#) webpage.

If it is agreed within the IRD that there are ROTH for the child, IRD partners will consider the following next steps:



TOOLS

Where there is concern for ROTH, there are a range of tools in the Contextual Safeguarding Toolkit can help to build up a picture and aid us in disrupting or minimising risk:

- [“What’s happening?” tool](#)
- [Context weighting tool](#)
- [Safety mapping tool](#)
- [School assessment tool](#)
- [All around me tool](#)
- [Peer Group Assessment tool](#)

In Edinburgh, we are also piloting a [ROTH Screening Tool](#) and completion by the key professionals around the child may also be agreed as part of the ISPM.