

Child in Need (Risks Outside the Home)

Service Manager: Safeguarding, Fostering Review and Allegations Management

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1. Overview

Risks from outside the home (sometimes called Contextual Safeguarding) is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over this, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.

To effectively respond to the needs of young people and families experiencing risks from outside the home, Somerset Children's Social Care have built upon existing Child in Need (Section 17, Children Act 1989) processes to provide a focused service specifically for children experiencing or at risk of contextual harm. The Child in Need (Risks Outside the Home) process will involve children, their families, friends, local community support and specialist Child exploitation support.

The Child in Need (ROTH) process is designed for children and young people who are assessed as being a Child in Need under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989. (Consent is needed from the parents and ideally the young person to work with Children's Services).

The process aims to provide a robust monitoring and review process delivered by an independent chair, which will drive forward the progress of the plan and ultimately reduce the risks of harm experienced by the young person.

The Child in need (ROTH) plan will not replace the Section 47 and Child Protection Conference process. Where risks to the young person are significant, the Strategy Discussion and Section 47 process should be followed.

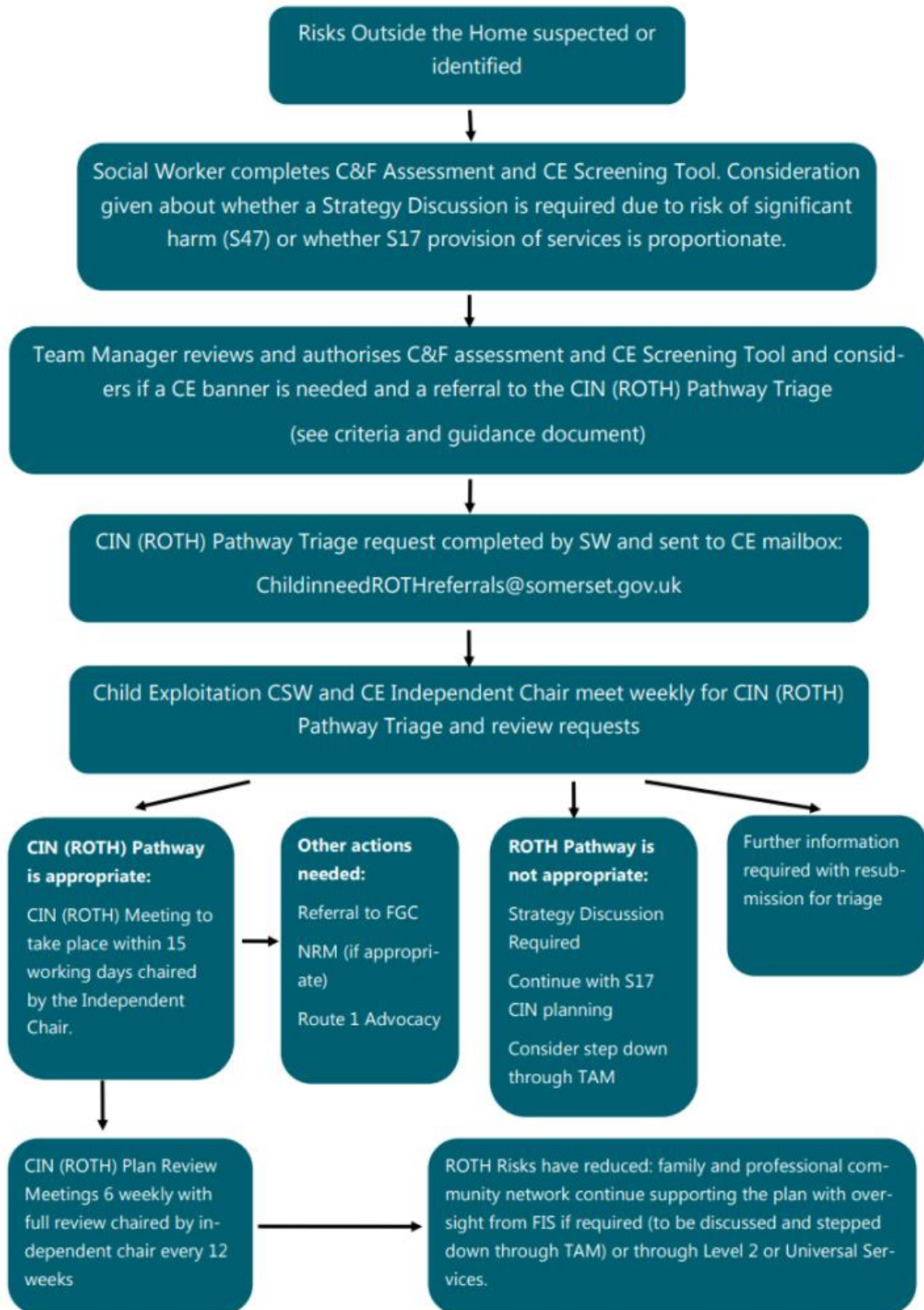
The Child in Need(ROTH) meeting will follow the same principles of a Child in Need meeting including expected participation from the multi-agency group, open and honest information sharing and contribution to the child's plan.

The Child in Need (ROTH) meeting will be chaired by an Independent Chair and will be held every 12 weeks with smaller multi-professional catch up meetings taking place 6 weekly.

The young person is invited to their meeting and encouraged to share their views and opinions.

The overall aim is to focus on safeguarding the young person and family from any contextual harm in the community and to prompt the multi-agency group to explore diversion for the young person and implement disruption where possible.

2. ROTH Pathway



3. Process for Allocated Social Workers and Independent Chairs

Allocated Social Worker (ASW) for the young person agrees a date and proposed venue with the **Independent Chair** for the Child in Need (ROTH) meeting.

ASW agrees the invitation list with the **Chair**. The **Chair** requests **Business Support** to **book the venue** and **invite all attendees**.

ASW makes a **referral to Route 1** for the young person to have advocacy for the meeting (if consent given).

Independent Chair sends a letter to the young person and their parents/carers introducing themselves and explaining their role and what to expect from the meeting.

The **Child in Need (ROTH) meeting** takes place, chaired by the **Independent Chair**.

The **ASW** takes minutes of the meeting and these are recorded in the CIN meeting pathway of LCS.

A CIN plan is agreed for the young person with a **CSC visiting frequency of fortnightly**.

The **minutes** of the CIN meeting are written up on LCS by the **ASW** and signed off by the **Chair**. Copies are sent to all attendees within **10 working days** by the ASW.

The **Independent Chair** writes an outcome letter to the young person, setting out the content of the meeting and the agreed plan. This is written on a Word document and given to the **ASW** to send out with the CIN meeting minutes within 10 working days. Letter will be added as a Document on LCS.

CIN (ROTH) review meetings take place a **minimum of 6 weekly**, chaired by the **ASW** and recorded as a **CIN review on LCS**. The **CIN (ROTH) plan should be updated**.

Full review meetings chaired by the **Independent Chair** will take place every **12 weeks** (start process again).

4. Templates, Guides and FAQs

The following template, guides and FAQs are available within CSC Toolkit and can be accessed [here](#):

- CIN ROTH Referral for Triage
- CIN ROTH Triage Discussion Prompts
- CIN ROTH Meeting Agenda (with scaling)
- CIN ROTH Child's Introductory Letter
- CIN ROTH Professional Invite Letter
- Ed of CIN ROTH Template Letter
- CIN (ROTH) Parent and Carer Guide
- CIN (ROTH) Professionals FAQ