



# North Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership Safeguarding Children Newsletter 2nd Edition (September 2023)

## Spotlight Bulletin

Revised policies are as follows:

1. non-mobile baby policy, and leaflets for parents and carers
2. safeguarding children annual report 2022-2023
3. child death overview report
4. LADO annual report
5. NSSCP annual report
6. family strengths & needs toolkit & practitioner & summary guidance.

[Learn more on the NSSCP website.](#)

## Safeguarding Update for all

Welcome to this second edition of our Safeguarding Children Newsletter. Please share widely within your organization.

This newsletter will now be available on the [North Somerset Safeguarding Children Website](#).

## Welcome to our new Interim Director, Assistant Director and our new Safeguarding Children Business Manager!

Dear Colleagues: Let me take this opportunity give a warm welcome to Carolyn Fair, our Interim Director of Children Services, and Jane Anstis who joined the team in August. Jane will be working alongside Matt Greenhalgh both as Interim Assistant Directors of Safeguarding and Support. Matt and Jane will be leading on specific areas but, as you would expect, will work hand in glove and the work they are both doing will support the system. Carolyn is keen to share ideas, views, and thoughts about what we might accelerate and change and are all energized and excited about the next stage of our journey.

We also want to welcome Zoe Gartland, our new Safeguarding Children Business Manager who started with us on 4th September. Zoe will be eager to contact as

many people as possible within the partnership so do take the opportunity to say hello.

I will be leaving the NSSCP shortly but would like to say it has been a privilege working with you all and I wish you every success in this exciting new journey ahead.

Maggie Lilburn – Interim safeguarding children business manager

[maggie.lilburn@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:maggie.lilburn@n-somerset.gov.uk)

## Meet the risk outside the home (ROTH)

We are very excited to announce the introduction of our new team – the Risk Outside The Home (ROTH) Team. Right now, our team is made up of Ruth Sutherland (ROTH Lead Practitioner) and Lauren Hill (ROTH Senior Social Worker). You likely already know Ruth, who has been in her role for 7 years and you may know Lauren from her previous role as a Social Worker in the Youth Offending & Prevention Service.

The ROTH team has been established to strengthen our response to children who experience extra-familial harm such as exploitation, grooming, gang associations, missing, trafficking and/or modern slavery across North Somerset. Ruth will continue to take the lead on all key operational tasks relating to extra-familial harm such as chairing mapping meetings and attending strategy and risk management meetings, and Lauren will be taking a more strategic role. Our team holds the weekly Missing Children Meetings, and we are currently in the process of setting up a ROTH Forum (more information below).

### Key points from ROTH forum

The Roth Forum is intended to facilitate multiagency discussions where there are specific concerns about extra- familial risks.

This forum can be used when such concerns are not already being addressed in other forums, or where additional multiagency support sharing is required.

Individual children, groups of children, or locations/ spaces can be submitted to the forum for discussion.

The agency making the submission must attend.

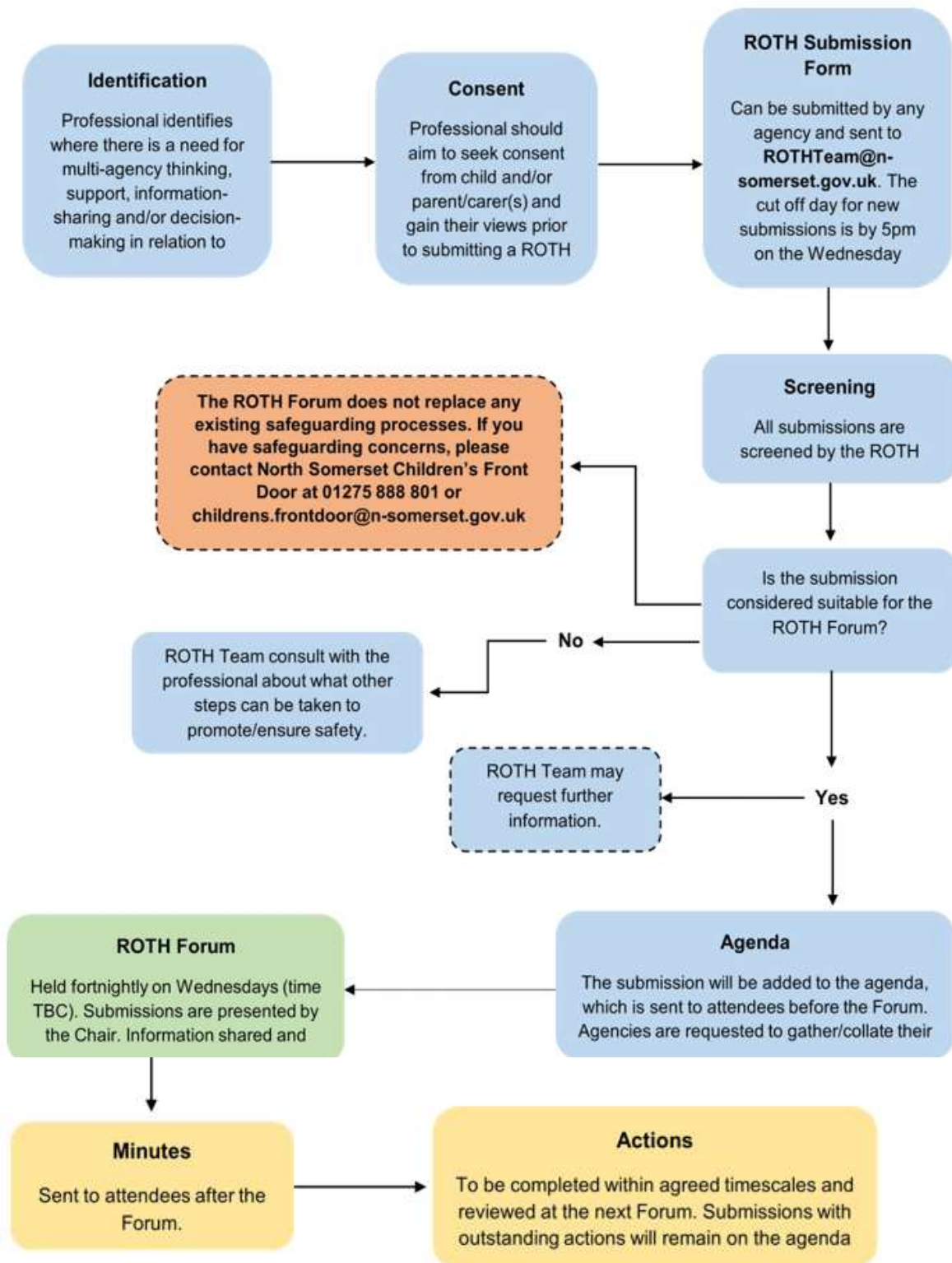
Please contact [lauren.hill@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:lauren.hill@n-somerset.gov.uk) or on 07385010119 if you would like further information about the new team, ROTH forum, or upcoming vacancies.

We are pleased to say that we will also soon be able to offer direct support to children aged up to 18, and their families, who are experiencing or considered to be at risk of extra-familial harm. This support will be available to children who are open to Children's Services as a Child in Care, Child in Need, or on a Child Protection Plan.

We will soon be advertising for two ROTH Family Support Workers to join our team and take over this direct work. Once we have recruited these roles and are able to

offer support, we will share details about how you can refer a child/family to the ROTH Team.

The ROTH Forum does not replace any existing safeguarding processes. If you have safeguarding concerns, please contact North Somerset Children’s Front Door at 01275 888 801 or [childrens.frontdoor@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.frontdoor@n-somerset.gov.uk).



The steps to process children's needs through ROTH are as follows:

1. Professional identifies where there is a need for multi-agency thinking, support, information-sharing and/or decision-making.
2. Professional should aim to seek consent from child and/or parent/carer(s) and gain their views prior to submitting a ROTH.
3. Can be submitted by any agency and sent to ROTHTeam@n-somerset.gov.uk. The cut-off day for new submissions is by 5pm on the Wednesday.
4. All submissions are screened by the ROTH. Is the submission considered suitable for the ROTH Forum? If no, ROTH Team consult with the professional about what other steps can be taken to promote/ensure safety. If yes, ROTH Team may request further information and the submission will be moved on to the next step.
5. The submission will be added to the agenda, which is sent to attendees before the Forum. Agencies are requested to gather/collate there.
6. Held fortnightly on Wednesdays (time TBC). Submissions are presented by the Chair.
7. Sent to attendees after the Forum.
8. To be completed within agreed timescales and reviewed at the next Forum. Submissions with outstanding actions will remain on the agenda.



## Office for Product Safety & Standards

### Office for Product Safety and Standards updates

Product Safety Alert: Baby Self-Feeding Pillows / Prop Feeders (PSA3)

OPSS has issued a Product Safety Alert for baby self-feeding pillows and prop feeders presenting a risk of serious harm or death. Consumers, local authority trading standards and businesses are asked to take specific action to cease use or remove them from the market.

**Risk Description** Baby self-feeding pillows are designed to enable babies to bottle feed without the assistance or supervision of a caregiver. This creates a risk of serious harm or death from: Choking on the feed and aspiration pneumonia.

Baby self-feeding pillow products are designed to enable a baby to be positioned on its back and attached to a bottle so that it may self-feed without the assistance of a caregiver holding the bottle and controlling the feed. This is inconsistent with [NHS guidance in relation to safe bottle feeding](#).

The General Product Safety Regulations 2005 (GPSR) require all products to be safe in their normal or reasonably foreseeable usage.

Background A baby, which is the intended user of the product, does not have the dexterity or cognitive ability to control the flow of bottle feed, or to know when to stop feeding, or to take action if it gags or chokes or to otherwise signal or raise alarm if something is going wrong. Crucial to this, gagging is characterised by noise and coughing, whereas choking is characterised by silence because of the blockage to the airway. The most common reason for babies to choke on feed is because the liquid is being dispensed faster than it can swallow.

The harm in relation to aspiration pneumonia follows a similar sequence of events, but a choking event does not occur. However, the baby does breathe in liquid which goes on to cause an infection resulting in pneumonia.

The risks from choking and aspiration pneumonia are entirely related to the design and intended use of the product – these risks cannot be mitigated by instructions.

Consumers, local authority trading standards services and businesses are asked to take specific action to cease use or remove these products from the market and dispose of safely. Consumers should immediately stop using these products and dispose of them safely.



**Babies Cry, You Can Cope!**

## ICON week 25 to 29 September

What do you know about ICON?

ICON is a vital tool for all professionals who work with families. When you work with a family with a new-born baby please talk to them about coping with infant crying. You don't need to be specially qualified or a health professional to share the ICON information. Everyone can and should do this.

On 19th April an amazing conference was held for practitioners in South Gloucestershire, Bristol and North Somerset. It explored ICON and included a presentation from Ellis's mum. It is an emotional story and you may find it distressing but it is a powerful reminder of why we need to share this messaging.

[Watch Ellis's story on YouTube.](#)

Although over 200 people attended the conference, lots of North Somerset professionals will have missed this opportunity.

Infant crying is normal and it will stop! Babies start to cry more frequently from around 2 weeks of age. The crying may get more frequent and last longer. After about 8 weeks of age babies start to cry less each week.

Comfort methods can sometimes soothe the baby and the crying will stop. Think about if they are:



- hungry
- tired
- in need of a nappy change

Try simple calming techniques such as singing to the baby or going for a walk.

Its OK to walk away if you have checked the baby is safe and the crying is getting to you. After a few minutes, when you are feeling calm, go back and check on the baby.

Never, ever shake or hurt a baby. It can cause lasting brain damage or death. If you are worried that your baby is unwell contact your GP or call NHS 111. Speak to someone if you need support such as your family, friends, midwife, health visitor or GP.

Abusive Head Trauma has featured in several local and national Serious Case Reviews. The themes from the [SCR Toby Review document](#), the [SCR Baby E&F review document](#) and [The National Panel review 'The Myth of Invisible Men'](#) were explored in the conference. The NSPCC have also produced a briefing '[Learning from Case Reviews' about Children under Two](#).

Have you heard of DadPad?



The conference also included a presentation from Julian Bose, the founder of DadPad have resources that are perfect to share with men when there is a new baby expected in a family. [Learn more on the DadPad website](#).

There is a DadPad App available to download onto phones that is free to use and when a postcode is added it populates with all the local information for the area.

NB For those who were unable to access the conferences now is your chance! Please click on the link below and Search for ICON Training

[Welcome to the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership website. \(bristolsafeguarding.org\)](http://bristolsafeguarding.org)



## Technology-Enabled Domestic Abuse, Stalking & Harassment

This 90-minute workshop addresses the issue of technology enabled abuse, stalking and harassment.

The session will cover:

- Legislation
- Being tracked
- Unauthorised access to devices and accounts
- Security of internet connected devices

- Wi-Fi and landline security
- Staying cyber aware Open to all – whether you work with adults or children.

[Use the Eventbrite system to book a place.](#) Friday 13th October 2023 at 12 noon  
Monday 23rd October 2023 at 11am.



## Multi-Agency Workforce Development CPD

Please note there are places available on the following event(s):

- Advanced Inter Agency Child Protection UPDATE – 12 September 2023 – 09:30 – 13:00
- WRAP Training a Workshop to raise awareness of Extremism and Radicalisation (Prevent Agenda) – 18 September 2023 – 09:30 – 11:00
- Young People and Substance Misuse Intermediate Level Training – 22 September 2023 – 09:30 – 12:30
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) (Awareness Raising) – 27 September 2023 – 09:30 – 12:30
- Advanced Inter Agency Child Protection (full 1 day course) – 29 September 2023 – 09:30 – 16:30.

[Book your places on CPD.](#)

This guidance has been developed by the North Somerset Safeguarding Children's Partnership in response to Working Together to Safeguard Children July 2018.

Children, young people, and their families will have different needs, which may change over time. This document introduces a continuum of need and gives examples of the factors that may indicate the need for additional support. This document now replaces the 'Threshold Guidance' and is designed to assist professional judgements in determining how to meet those needs.

North Somerset Safeguarding Children's Partnership recognises that every approach to supporting children and young people should involve parents, carers, professionals, and the wishes of the child wherever possible.

[Read a copy of the NSSCP guidance and additional resources.](#)