

SFJ EA2

Assess offenders for risk factors and levels of risk associated with their behaviour



Overview

This standard is about assessing the risks associated with an individual's offending behaviour in contribution to preventing the offending and/or reoffending of individuals. It includes involving the individual, wherever possible, in the assessment, and in informing the consequent factors and needs to be addressed.

Where an assessment tool is used, this can be paper-based and/or electronic.

'Risk' is taken to mean, 'the probability that an event or behaviour carrying the possibility of an adverse or negative outcome will occur', (Kemshall, 1998)

The resultant outcomes will then inform the development and implementation of appropriate intervention plans and activities.

In working with offenders you are expected to consistently display the skills of pro-social modelling, offender engagement and professional judgment to encourage offenders to desist from their offending behaviour and to reduce the risk of re-offending.

There are three elements

- 1 Gather information regarding the individual and their circumstances
- 2 Assess the information, identifying risk and protective factors
- 3 Identify the individual's need for appropriate interventions

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Gather information regarding the individual and their circumstances

- P1 describe your role and responsibility to the individual, explaining the information being sought, the reasons for seeking it, and with whom it may be shared
- P2 identify the individual's relevant circumstances including their
 - P2.1 living arrangements and environment
 - P2.2 family and personal situation
 - P2.3 education and employment situation
 - P2.4 physical and mental health
 - P2.5 attitudes, beliefs and motivation
- P3 collect information regarding the individual, their circumstances and behaviour, from a variety of sources, including factual and clinical data wherever possible
- P4 verify the information, wherever possible
- P5 communicate in a manner, and at a pace, appropriate to the individual, and which is free from discrimination and oppression
- P6 maintain accurate and up to date records including
 - P6.1 details of the individual's relevant circumstances
 - P6.2 patterns of behaviour
 - P6.3 possible key triggers of their risk-related behaviour

Assess the information, identifying risk and protective factors

You must be able to:

- P7 determine the rating of potential risk factors from the assessment tool, and
 - P7.1 provide evidence to show the basis for your decision
 - P7.2 explain the strength and nature of the link between a factor and the likelihood of reoffending
- P8 assess the relevant factors including the
 - P8.1 individual's living arrangements and environment
 - P8.2 family and personal situation
 - P8.3 education/ employment situation
 - P8.4 physical and mental health
 - P8.5 their attitudes, beliefs and motivation
- P9 use your professional judgement to assess the significance of both the total risk to determine the likelihood of offending/reoffending, and of risk related to particular factors, to identify priority areas for interventions
- P10 identify the nature of the individual's potential risk of harm to others, or to themselves
- P11 determine the likely outcome(s) of the risks identified, including whether there is a likelihood of reoffending, whether the individual is vulnerable to harm, and/or there is a risk of serious harm to others

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- P12 determine the factors likely to be contributing to the causes of the individual's offending behaviour
- P13 identify the factors that may trigger the offending behaviour
- P14 determine factors that might help to reduce, or prevent the offending behaviour
- P15 identify any life events, or circumstances which may mean that the individual is particularly vulnerable
- P16 identify where additional assessments are required, and make the appropriate arrangements, recording your reasons for the additional requirement
- P17 place your defensible risk assessment in the context of the individual's circumstances
- P18 use the appropriate assessment tool and set out the
 - P18.1 risks and protective factors identified
 - P18.2 likelihood of the behaviour/situation recurring
 - P18.3 likely imminence of such an event

Identify the individual's need for appropriate interventions

You must be able to:

- P19 involve the individual in the risk assessment, explaining the rationale for the resultant ratings
- P20 explain to the individual the impact of the risk and protective factors identified on their offending behaviour
- P21 explain the identified triggers of their offending behaviour, and actions that might be appropriate towards addressing these
- P22 identify with the individual areas of risk to be targeted, and inform them of objectives to be addressed in a subsequent intervention plan
- P23 select and record any external and internal controls that need to be implemented
- P24 identify protective factors to be strengthened
- P25 check that your analysis is justified and defensible, with a clear rationale for your conclusions, associated recommendations and subsequent plans
- P26 check that procedures are in place to monitor and review the assessed risk, with a frequency appropriate to the level of risk identified
- P27 alert relevant persons promptly where you identify concerns regarding the risk of harm by the individual to others and/or themselves
- P28 provide your report, including all relevant information, to the relevant person(s)

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Legislative, regulatory and organisational requirements

- K1 legal and organisational requirements which relate to undertaking risk-led assessment, and their impact for your area of operations
- K2 legislation, policies and procedures relating to data protection, health and safety, diversity and their impact for your area of operations
- K3 the role of your organisation and the services which it provides in relation to assessing the behaviour of offenders
- K4 the organisation's policy and procedures regarding confidentiality of information and the disclosure of information to third parties, and the specific circumstances under which disclosure may be made
- K5 the limits of your authority and responsibility, and the actions to take if these are exceeded

Working within the community justice sector

You need to know and understand:

- K6 the relevant assessment tool(s) and how to complete these
- K7 the information required towards making an assessment of individuals, appropriate to managing their risk of reoffending
- K8 the principles of risk-led practice based on specific descriptions of risk in terms of behaviour and circumstances
- K9 approaches to risk assessment, how to use these and their relative advantages and disadvantages
- K10 sources of relevant information regarding individuals and how to access these
- K11 methods of verifying and corroborating the information required
- K12 how to distinguish between directly observed evidence, evidence from reliable sources and hearsay
- K13 how to distinguish between prejudice and opinions that are backed by evidence
- K14 factors influencing the vulnerability of individuals
- K15 types of vulnerability, or levels of harm, used in assessing risk, their indicators and how to determine these
- K16 key risk factors for serious offending including
 - K16.1 the number of previous convictions
 - K16.2 the nature of any current offence
 - K16.3 patterns of harmful behaviour
 - K16.4 drug/alcohol abuse
- K17 circumstances requiring additional assessments and how to arrange these
- K18 circumstances where cases are considered to be very high risk, requiring a structured and detailed risk management plan, and how to progress such a plan

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K19 multi-agency arrangements including their definitions and associated actions

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