

## SFJ EA8

# Assess individuals for the principal types and levels of risk associated with their problematic behaviour



### Overview

This standard is about assessing the risks associated with an individual's problematic behaviour as part of managing these risks in preventing the offending and/or reoffending of individuals. It includes involving the individual, wherever possible, in the assessment, and in agreeing 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). Within youth justice, aspects of risk include:

- 1 Re-offending
- 2 Risk of harm to self, to others and from others

#### **There are three elements**

- 1 Gather information regarding the individual and their circumstances
- 2 Assess the information, identifying risk and protective factors
- 3 Agree the individual's needs from appropriate interventions

#### **Target group**

This standard is applicable to those with responsibility for undertaking risk-led assessments of individuals as part of managing their risk of offending/reoffending.

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#### Performance criteria

#### Gather information regarding the individual and their circumstances

*You must be able to:*

- P1 describe accurately your role and responsibility to the individual, and explain the information being sought, the reasons for seeking it, and with whom it may be shared
- P2 identify the individual's relevant circumstances, including:
  - P2.1 their living arrangements and environment
  - P2.2 family and personal situation
  - P2.3 education/ employment situation
  - P2.4 physical and mental health
  - P2.5 their attitudes, beliefs and motivation
- P3 explore the individual's own perception regarding their situation and behaviour, including its impact for themselves and others
- P4 collect available information regarding the individual, their circumstances and behaviour, from a variety of sources, including factual and clinical data wherever possible
- P5 verify and/or corroborate the information, wherever possible
- P6 check that your communications are free from discrimination and oppression and at a pace appropriate to the individual
- P7 maintain clear and accurate records, setting out details of the individual's relevant circumstances, patterns of behaviour, and possible key triggers of their risk-related behaviour

#### Assess the information, identifying risk and protective factors

*You must be able to:*

- P8 determine the rating of potential risk factors from the assessment tool, providing evidence to show the basis for your decision
- P9 explain the strength and nature of the link between a risk factor and the likelihood of offending/reoffending
- P10 assess the relevant factors, including the individual's:
  - P10.1 living arrangements and environment
  - P10.2 family and personal situation
  - P10.3 education/employment situation
  - P10.4 physical and mental health
  - P10.5 attitudes, beliefs and motivation
- P11 assess the significance and the likelihood of offending/reoffending using your professional judgement to identify priority areas for interventions
- P12 identify the nature of the individual's potential risk of harm to/from others, or to themselves
- P13 determine the likely outcome(s) of the risks identified, including whether there is a likelihood of offending/reoffending and whether the individual is at risk of harm to self, to others or from others
- P14 determine the factors likely to be contributing to the causes of the

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- individual's problematic behaviour
- P15 identify the factors that may trigger the problematic behaviour
- P16 determine factors that might help to reduce, or prevent the problematic behaviour
- P17 identify any life events, or circumstances which may mean that the individual is particularly vulnerable
- P18 identify where additional assessments are needed, make the required assessment arrangements and record your reasoning within required timescales
- P19 write your risk assessment in the context of the individual's circumstances so that it is defensible
- P20 complete the appropriate assessment tool, with clear and accurate records of:
  - P20.1 the risks and protective factors identified
  - P20.2 the likelihood of the behaviour/situation recurring
  - P20.3 the likely imminence of such an event

#### **Agree the individual's needs from appropriate interventions**

#### *You must be able to:*

- P21 involve the individual in the risk assessment, explaining the tool used and the rationale for the resultant ratings
- P22 explain to the individual the impact of the risk and protective factors identified on their problematic behaviour
- P23 explain the identified triggers of their problematic behaviour, and actions that might be appropriate towards addressing these
- P24 identify and agree the individual areas of risk to be targeted, and agree objectives to be addressed in a subsequent intervention plan
- P25 identify and record any external and internal controls that need to be implemented
- P26 identify and agree protective factors to be strengthened
- P27 justify your analysis so that it is defensible, with a clear rationale for your conclusions, associated recommendations and subsequent plans
- P28 put in place procedures to monitor and review the assessed risk, with a frequency appropriate to the level of risk identified
- P29 alert relevant people where you identify concerns regarding the risk of harm by the individual to others and/or themselves
- P30 provide your report to the relevant person(s), including relevant information, within required timescales

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#### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 legislation, organisational requirements and guides relevant to undertaking risk-led assessment
- K2 the relevant assessment tool(s) and how to complete these
- K3 the information required towards making an assessment of individuals, appropriate to managing their risk of offending/reoffending
- K4 the principles of risk-led practice based upon specific descriptions of risk in terms of behaviour and circumstances
- K5 approaches to risk assessment, how to use these and their relative advantages and disadvantages
- K6 sources of relevant information regarding individuals and how to access these
- K7 methods of verifying and corroborating the information required
- K8 how to distinguish between directly observed evidence, evidence from reliable sources and hearsay
- K9 how to distinguish between prejudice and opinions that are backed by evidence
- K10 factors influencing the vulnerability of individuals
- K11 types of vulnerability, or levels of harm, used in assessing risk, their indicators and how to determine these
- K12 key risk factors for serious offending, including:
  - K12.1 the number of previous convictions
  - K12.2 the nature of any current offence
  - K12.3 patterns of harmful behaviour
  - K12.4 drug/alcohol abuse
- K13 circumstances requiring additional assessments and how to arrange these
- K14 circumstances where cases are considered to be of a very high risk, requiring a structured and detailed risk management plan, and how to progress such a plan
- K15 multi-agency arrangements including their definitions and associated actions

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**Relevant occupations** Youth Offending Team Officer; Youth Offending Team Worker; Youth Justice Officer; Youth Justice Practitioner; Senior Youth Offending Team Officer; Senior Youth Offending Team Worker; Senior Youth Justice Practitioner; Youth Offending Team Manager; Youth Justice Manager

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**Suite** Youth Justice; Resettlement of Offenders

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