
Overview

This standard is about assisting in the assessment of the likelihood, nature and imminence of risk associated with individuals' problematic behaviour. It involves obtaining and recording relevant information, and assisting in planning for the assessment.

Problematic behaviour is considered to be anti-social, challenging or offending.

`Risk' is taken to mean, `the probability that an event or behaviour carrying a 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 two elements

- 1 Assist in the planning of assessments
- 2 Assist in reviewing the information obtained

Target group

This standard is applicable to those whose responsibilities include assisting in obtaining and reviewing information when undertaking risk-led assessments of individuals as part of managing their risk of offending/reoffending.

SFJ EA9

Assist in the assessment of individuals

Performance criteria

Assist in the planning of assessments

You must be able to:

- P1 obtain relevant and existing information regarding the individual to be assessed
- P2 identify further information required, and the likely sources for this information, confirming this with your line manager
- P3 agree the timescale and actions appropriate to gather the information required with your line manager
- P4 contact the sources agreed with your manager, in line with organisational requirements
- P5 describe accurately to those from whom you seek information:
 - P5.1 your role and that of your organisation
 - P5.2 the information sought
 - P5.3 the reasons for seeking it
 - P5.4 with whom it may be shared
- P6 make contact and acknowledge the role and expertise of those from whom information is sought
- P7 make arrangements for a meeting with the individual to discuss their circumstances, in line with requirements,
- P8 provide the individual with the relevant information needed to prepare for a meeting, including details of its time, location and purpose
- P9 refer any difficulties in obtaining information, or with arranging a meeting, to your line manager within required timescales
- P10 maintain accurate and up to date records of the actions taken and information received

Assist in reviewing the information obtained

You must be able to:

- P11 collate, record and organise the information received in a way which facilitates its use
- P12 review the available information, identifying any gaps and seek out further information to address
- P13 check that the information received is relevant and accurate
- P14 identify key factors relevant to assessing the likelihood, nature and imminence of risk associated with the individual's problematic behaviour
- P15 record identified key factors, obtaining verification and/or corroboration for the source information wherever possible
- P16 make an assessment of the likely significance of the key factors
- P17 discuss the information with your line manager, presenting it accurately, and set out the key factors identified and the reasons for your assessment
- P18 justify your assessment and check that it flows logically from the information obtained and your associated findings
- P19 follow procedures to alert your line manager where you identify concerns

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Assist in the assessment of individuals

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- regarding the risk of harm, including self harm or suicide
- P20 maintain accurate and up to date records, in line with your organisation's requirements

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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 tools used in making assessments of individuals
- 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 sources of relevant information regarding individuals and how to access these
- K6 methods for verifying and corroborating the information received
- K7 how to distinguish between directly observed evidence, evidence from reliable sources and hearsay
- K8 how to distinguish between prejudice and opinions that are backed by evidence
- K9 why it is important to research information efficiently and accurately
- K10 why it is important to agree aims, objectives and deadlines
- K11 why you should maintain a record of the sources which you have used and how to do so
- K12 how to organise information in a way that will help you analyse it, and the format required when reporting information

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