

SFJGC201

Assess the risk to the safety and security of offenders



Overview

This standard is about assessing the risk to the safety and security of offenders in the community. It includes involving the offender, wherever possible, in the assessment and in agreeing the consequent factors to be addressed.

There are three elements:

- 1 Gather information regarding the offender and their circumstances
- 2 Assess the information, identifying risk and protective factors
- 3 Agree the outcomes and appropriate interventions

Performance criteria

Gather information regarding the offender and their circumstances

You must be able to:

- P1 collect available information regarding the individual, their circumstances and behaviour, from relevant sources, including factual and clinical data wherever possible
- P2 describe clearly and accurately your role and responsibility to the individual, explaining the information being sought, the reasons for seeking it, and with whom it may be shared, confirming, where relevant, that they understand and consent to the process
- P3 identify the individual's relevant circumstances, including the nature of their offence(s) and those involved/affected, their available living arrangements and environment, financial, family and personal situation, employment situation, physical and mental health
- P4 determine whether the individual acknowledges responsibility for their offence and the harm caused
- P5 explore the individual's own perception regarding their situation and their concerns for their potential safety and security
- P6 obtain verification and/or corroboration for the information, wherever possible
- P7 communicate in a manner, and at a pace, appropriate to the individual, listening actively and checking for understanding, ensuring that it is free from oppression and discrimination
- P8 maintain clear and accurate records, setting out details of the individual's relevant circumstances

Assess the information, identifying risk and protective factors

You must be able to:

- P9 use appropriate assessment processes, where applicable, and assess the relevant factors, including the nature of the individual's offence(s), those involved and affected by the offence(s), their available living arrangements and environment, financial, family and personal situation, employment situation, physical and mental health, and their attitudes, beliefs and motivation
- P10 use your professional judgement to assess the evidence to determine the potential risk to their safety and security in the community
- P11 determine the potential risk factors arising from the assessment process, providing evidence to show the basis for your decision, and to explain the strength and nature of the link between a factor and the likelihood of harm to the individual
- P12 determine the likely outcome(s) of the risks identified, including whether the individual is at risk of particular and/or severe risk of harm or serious harm
- P13 determine the factors likely to be contributing to the causes of the

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individual's risk of harm

- P14 identify the protective influences which might help to reduce, or prevent the risk of harm to the individual
- P15 determine whether there are any issues which may prevent the individual from being released into the community
- P16 identify correctly where additional assessments are required, and make the appropriate arrangements promptly, recording your reasons for the additional requirement clearly
- P17 ensure that your risk assessment is placed in the context of the evidence, and is defensible
- P18 complete correctly the appropriate assessment, maintaining clear and accurate records, setting out the risks and protective factors identified, the likelihood of harm to the individual, and the likely imminence of such an occurrence

Agree the outcomes and appropriate interventions

You must be able to:

- P19 involve the individual in the risk assessment, where possible, explaining the process used and the rationale for the resultant outcome
- P20 explain clearly to the individual the impact upon themselves and others of the risk and protective influences identified
- P21 explain the potential causes of the risk to their safety and security, and actions that might be appropriate towards addressing these
- P22 identify and agree with the individual those causes of potential risk to be addressed
- P23 identify and agree those protective influences to be strengthened and actions which might be appropriate to achieve this
- P24 ensure that your analysis is justified and defensible, with a clear rationale for your conclusions, and associated recommendations
- P25 ensure that procedures are in place to monitor and review the assessed risk, with a frequency appropriate to the level of risk identified
- P26 alert relevant persons promptly where you identify particular concerns regarding the risk of harm to the individual, in line with agreed protocols
- P27 provide your report, including all relevant information, promptly to the relevant person(s), and where appropriate, ensuring that the individual understands the content of all reports and to whom they are available

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 assessments of the risk to the safety and security of offenders, and their impact for your area of operations
- K2 legislation, policies and procedures relating to human rights, data protection, health and safety, diversity and their impact for your area of operations
- K3 the role of your organisation and its services relating to public protection and to protecting offenders
- K4 the role of the principal agencies, and multi-agency arrangements towards assessing and addressing the risks to the safety and security of offenders
- K5 the limits of your authority and responsibility, and the actions to take if these are exceeded

Requirements particular to assessing the risk to the safety and security of offenders

You need to know and understand:

- K6 the relevant assessment process(es) and how to undertake these, including the limits of these processes, and how they are dependent upon the information available
- K7 the information required towards making an assessment of offenders, appropriate to addressing risks to their safety and security
- K8 sources of relevant information regarding offenders with whom you are working and how to access these, and methods of verifying and corroborating the information received
- K9 how to distinguish between directly observed evidence, evidence from reliable sources and hearsay
- K10 key risk factors for serious offending, including the number of previous convictions, the nature of the current abuse, patterns of abusive behaviour, and drug/alcohol abuse
- K11 common indicators that an individual may have problems relating to their mental health which are impacting adversely upon their behaviour, and the appropriate actions to take where you observe such indicators
- K12 agencies to which the individual might be referred for help and support with their mental health, and the procedures for progressing such referrals
- K13 typical types of information and areas of support sought by offenders at risk in the community, and the sources of information available to them
- K14 the types of interventions available towards addressing risk to the safety and security of offenders, and their relative advantages and disadvantages

- K15 circumstances where offenders are considered to be at very high risk, requiring referral to another agency, and how to progress such a referral

Requirements relating to communicating with offenders

You need to know and understand:

- K16 different styles and forms of communication that may be appropriate, including the importance of non-verbal communication, such as body language, and how different cultures use and interpret body language in different ways
- K17 possible barriers to communication, their causes, and ways to overcome them
- K18 the importance of being aware of your own values and beliefs, and their impact upon your ability to explore discriminatory or potentially damaging attitudes and behaviour
- K19 limits of confidentiality applying when dealing with offenders, and the circumstances when it is necessary to inform others including where you have concerns for the safety of others due to the offender's behaviour, and the persons who are entitled to relevant information

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