



## Final Warning Profile – Guidance



### Using Asset in practice

The shortened version of *Asset* for use at Final Warning stage does not prohibit the use of the full *Core Profile* if the circumstances of the case or the situation of the young person are particularly complicated. There are no strict guidelines on this point but it should be decided on a case by case basis, taking into account any relevant team procedures or protocols.

For the *Final Warning Profile* you must speak with a young person and his/her family, obtain information from a range of other sources and make a series of judgements about the factors which affect his/her offending behaviour.

The *Final Warning Profile* should **not** be used as an interview schedule, but it will clearly be important to keep the *Asset* framework in mind throughout the assessment. In view of the multi-disciplinary nature of Yots, most teams are likely to have staff with specialist knowledge who can provide advice and assistance regarding particular sections of *Asset* (e.g. health, education or substance misuse). Although the overall responsibility for completing *Asset* in any given case is likely to rest with one individual, a number of different people may all contribute to the assessment process.

If the 'Indicators of serious harm to others' provides evidence of the young person having, or being capable in the future, of causing serious physical or psychological harm to other people, the *Risk of Serious Harm* form should be completed. In all instances the young person should be asked to complete a *What do YOU think?* form.

## Personal details

### Unique ID

This refers to a unique identification number for each young person. In all cases this will be generated by the Yot's electronic case management system.

### Police National Computer number

This is essential for any future re-conviction studies. It should be found on the pre-convictions sheet.

### Address/Postcode

This refers to the young person's current address or the address to which she/he plans to return if in custody.

### Ethnic classification

This is the classification for the 2001 census. The categories are quite broad and some young people may wish to classify themselves more specifically (e.g. 'Welsh' rather than just 'British'). In addition, the categories do not easily accommodate certain groups (e.g. travellers). In such cases, please tick the box that most closely applies to him/her and use the space next to the 'Any other' box to give additional information. Where there is a significant difference between your view and that of the young person, please provide details.

## Offence details

### Primary index offence – Seriousness score

The Youth Justice Board's seriousness score relates to the most serious of the current offence/s. It is a 1–8 scale and is not the same as the gravity score currently used by the police. A copy is attached at Appendix B.

### Victim/s

#### Specific targeted victim

This includes any victim who is chosen for a particular reason (e.g. because they belong to a particular group – for instance a particular ethnic or religious group) or because the young person has a grudge against them. The key issue here is not whether the victim was already known to the young person, but whether she/he was selected for a specific reason.

#### Vulnerable victim

This includes the elderly, people with disabilities and children younger (or much smaller) than him/her.

## Criminal history

### Time since last Reprimand, Caution or Final Warning

If the young person has been previously Reprimanded, Cautioned or Warned at any time within the last 3 months, tick '3 months' option. If it occurred in between 3 and 6 months ago, e.g. 5 months ago, tick '6 months', and so on. If s/he has committed no previous offences, tick N/A.

## Care history

### Is the young person known to social services?

This refers to both current and previous care experiences – please use the 'details' box to give information about aspects of his/her care history which you consider relevant, including past events.

## Ratings

Once you have filled in the *Final Warning Profile*, you are requested to rate the extent to which you think each issue is associated with the likelihood of further offending by the young person. This question is *not* an overall assessment of the extent to which a particular factor is problematic. It is very specifically focused on offending and requires you to make a judgement about the link between the problems you have identified and the likelihood of him/her reoffending.

When giving a rating it may be helpful to consider the following questions.

- Was this issue linked to past offending? If 'yes', do you think it is more, less or equally significant now?
- Is it a *direct* or an *indirect* link with his/her offending?
- Is it always relevant to his/her offending behaviour or only on certain occasions?
- Is the effect on offending behaviour likely to be immediate or over a longer period?
- Is this issue problematic enough to lead to offending by itself or is it only likely to contribute to offending behaviour when certain other conditions exist?

The extent to which a section is associated with the likelihood of further offending is rated on a 0–4 scale.

- 0** – Not associated at all
- 1** – Slight, occasional or only a limited indirect association
- 2** – Moderate but definite association – could be a direct or indirect link. May be related to some offending, but not all. Tends to become offending related when combined with other factors.
- 3** – Quite strongly associated – normally a direct link, relevant to most types/occasions of his/her offending.
- 4** – Very strongly associated – will be clearly and directly related to any offending by the young person. Will be a dominant factor in any cluster of offending-related problems.

## Positive factors

As well as assessing problems facing the young person, it is also important to identify the positive aspects of the young person's life. This is essential for building up a complete picture of the young person and will also help to identify factors that may help the young person to curb or stop offending.

Sometimes there may be just one positive factor among a range of problems. A young person experiencing severe difficulties at school may have a good relationship with one particular teacher, for instance. Similarly, in a family setting there might be one relationship that has a stabilising influence on the young person.

As with the rest of *Asset*, this section is asking for *your* assessment of the positive factors in the young person's life. This may differ from the young person's perception and you may wish to use the evidence boxes to elaborate on the reasons for this.

If you cannot identify *any* positive factors for this young person, it would be helpful to put a note of explanation in one of the evidence boxes. If a colleague then looks at the case, they will know that these issues have been considered.

## Indicators of vulnerability

This section focuses on the possibility of the young person being harmed – either physically or emotionally. You must consider whether there is evidence of the following:

- the young person is likely to be vulnerable to harm as a result of the behaviour of other people, events/circumstances or his/her own behaviour;
- the young person is at risk of self-harm or suicide;
- are there any protective factors which might deter the young person from self-harm or suicide?

## Indicators of serious harm to others

If you believe the young person is at risk from serious harm, you should go on to complete the *Risk of Serious Harm* form. Answering 'yes' to a question in this section does not mean that you are labelling the young person as 'high risk'. It is simply saying that there are concerns about a possible risk of serious harm which need further consideration and analysis. Some cases are not as straightforward as they initially seem. In a case where there is no history of serious harm to others, for example, there may be factors about his/her current situation which indicate that s/he could soon begin to engage in harmful behaviour. It is therefore important that the '*Indicators of serious harm to others*' section is completed for all young people, even where the current offences may appear to be quite minor.

You should consider:

- any behaviour by the young person which resulted in serious harm actually being caused to others;
- any behaviour which indicates that the young person was intending or preparing to cause serious harm to others;
- any reckless or unintentional behaviour which indicates the young person was intending to do serious harm to others;
- the young person's attitudes;
- the young person's current interests or activities (This can include interests/activities which she/he pursues alone or with other people. The same activity can have contrasting implications for different young people and it is important to consider each case individually, e.g. a collection of military paraphernalia may reflect a legitimate interest in the armed forces or it may be a sign of a potentially dangerous preoccupation with weapons. Another example could be an interest in pornographic material involving young children.);
- concerns about possible harmful behaviour expressed by the young person;
- concerns about possible harmful behaviour expressed by other people;
- intuitive or 'gut' feelings about possible harmful behaviour.

## Final Warning Closure

*National Standards for Youth Justice* (2000) state that at the end of an intervention a re-assessment or closure *Asses*t should be undertaken. The information provided in the re-assessment may help your colleagues in any future work with this young person. Some brief guidelines on the information required are shown below.

### **Has the young person engaged well with this intervention?**

The level of motivation at this stage may be an indicator of his/her willingness to engage with any future interventions. It may help to explain why this initial intervention was/was not successful and help you to assess the effectiveness of this programme of work.

**Have there been any difficulties in arranging programmes or services?**

It is realised that programmes may not be very easy to organise and coordinate, especially if they only run at certain times. It would be useful to make a note of any such difficulties to provide evidence of the need for more programmes in the future or for changes to the existing schedules.

**Have there been any referrals to other agencies?**

Any issues passed on to other agencies should be highlighted and detailed here. This will again enable staff on any future contact to see what referrals were made and why. It will also be an important record of intervention on behalf of the young person. Other agencies may include drug support, child protection, housing associations, careers advice etc.

**Are you aware of any reoffending by the young person?**

Primarily this should include any offences for which the young person has been convicted or charged. It should be at the discretion of the *Asset* author to decide whether any other offences they know about should be included in this section. It may be that the young person has disclosed an offence which should be made known to other Yot staff working with the young person in the future.

**Please re-score the following sections based on your current knowledge of the young person.**

Even if you only work with a young person for a short period of time it is likely that you will know more about them when they leave than when they arrived for a first assessment. It is important to leave any files on the young person as up to date as possible for the benefit of colleagues who may work with him/her in the future and so that any positive (or negative) changes in his/her situation can be assessed. If a score has changed then evidence relating to this change should be provided. These changes may be due to further disclosure by the young person or a positive outcome to an intervention for example.

**Have there been any changes in the assessment of vulnerability/serious harm to others?**

If there have been any changes in these areas it should be noted here as further action may need to be taken by other agencies to protect the young person/other people.