



# **Gateshead Youth Justice Service**

## **Quality Assurance and Management Oversight**

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Author: Rachel Lacey, Assistant Team Manager

## **Statutory Court Orders**

Gateshead Youth Justice Service (GYJS) use an AssetPlus QA Tool, which is used by the Assistant Team Manager (ATM), Team Manager (TM) and Senior Practitioner (SP) when they complete quality assurance on an AssetPlus assessment that has been completed by a Case Manager within the GYJS. The QA form is used for all Statutory Court Orders, Pre Sentence Reports and Bail and Remand, where a young person is assessed as a medium risk or above in any of the three areas of risk, re-offending, serious harm to others and safety and wellbeing. It can be used in a variety of ways:

- As a checklist for Case Managers prior to submitting an AssetPlus stage for QA.
- As a tool for managers to quickly and defensibly record compliance with the Gateshead YJS requirements for the completion of a valid AssetPlus stage.
- As a tool through which managers can give highly detailed feedback to Case Managers where there are practice issues to address.

Actions that result from the completion of the AssetPlus QA form (most commonly that amendments need to be made for the AssetPlus to satisfy QA or that a referral into a specialist agency is required in response to the contents of the AssetPlus) are shared with the Case Manager, saved within the young person's folder in the m drive and a case diary is recorded on Childview detailing the management oversight.

Where a young person is assessed as low risk in all three areas, the case is taken to a risk panel meeting, which is chaired by ATM, TM or SP and attended by the GYJS Police Officer and Case Managers. The case is presented by the Case Manager focusing on factors for and against desistance and the risks are agreed within the meeting. The AssetPlus is then completed by the ATM, TM or SP. If the risk levels are challenged within the meeting with no agreed outcome is reached or the risk is deemed to be medium or above in one or more of the risk areas, the ATM or TM will undertake quality assurance using the AssetPlus QA Tool.

All Youth Rehabilitation Orders are discussed and reviewed in GYJS risk meeting every 3 months to review progress on the intervention plan and ensure effective risk management. Referral Orders are subject to review every three months through the Referral Order Panel process, unless non compliance or good progress occurs and a further Panel will be convened.

## **Out of Court Disposals**

Out of Court Disposals are assessed using the Out of Court Disposal Assessment Tool to identify desistance factors for and against offending and determine the risk of re-offending, serious harm to others and safety and wellbeing. The assessment includes the Case Managers proposed intervention plan, as discussed with the young person. This is submitted for QA-ing at least 3 working days prior to panel and QA'd by the ATM, TM or SP. The case is presented to the weekly Out of Court Disposal Panel which is chaired by an ATM, TM or SP and attended by the GYJS Police Officer, a community volunteer, Family Gateway, Platform Gateshead, Early Help, YJS Case Managers and other relevant agencies to the individual case, such as Children's Services. The disposal type and intervention plan are collectively agreed. If a Youth Conditional Caution or a Youth Caution 2 is the disposal outcome, an AssetPlus is undertaken by the Case Manager and the asset is completed with the agreed risk levels.

## **Cases of Concern (CoC)**

The cases of concern meeting ensures a robust assessment and intervention plan is undertaken with the most high risk cases in both risk of reoffending and serious harm to others. Safety and wellbeing cases can also be discussed however a representative from Children's Services should be involved.

The meetings take place every 4 weeks. If immediate risk management is required, this should be implemented outside of the meeting by the Case Manager and agreed by the Manager.

## **Audits**

Regular case audits are undertaken by Managers and Case Managers using the HMIP Inspection Audit Tool. Feedback is then provided to case managers in order to acknowledge good practice and identify areas for improvement. The periodic analysis of completed audits can be undertaken in order to produce reports in relation to practice within the service.

## **Compliance Panels**

GYJS run a 'compliance panel', to consider non-compliance and whether breach should be actioned or 'stayed' to support young people to continue to engage with their Order; Decrease the number of young people being returned back to Court; Reduce the amount of time spent processing breaches with 'order to continue' proposals as these could be 'stayed' at the Breach Panel, thereby freeing up front line staff to deliver face to face work with service users and provide the opportunity for GYJS to ensure that all efforts are being made to support young people's compliance and promote flexible ways of engaging young people.

The Panel provide a forum for young people and their carers to give direct feedback to GYJS management about the quality of service provided and any suggestions for improving service delivery, thereby contributing to Gateshead's Thrive agenda.

The Panel consist of YJS manager and case manager and all decisions are recorded onto Childview by Business Support Officer in order to evidence management oversight of any approval not to breach. During the panel, the assessment and engagement of the young person is reviewed and an action plan is developed (in line with risk, vulnerability, progress, history of non-compliance etc.) and a panel date is set for the review of the action plan