

15. Pre-Sentence Report

15.1 Purpose

The Pre-Sentence Report template can be completed without pre-population or be pre-populated with information from other areas of the assessment which can provide a starting point for its completion. The Pre-Sentence Report module is not compulsory for use in AssetPlus.

It is important for practitioners to note:

- changes made here will not be reflected back in the source section of the information, it is important to ensure that the source sections of the core framework are up to date before starting the Pre-Sentence Report process; and,
- if the report is pre-populated, a review and edit of the material will be required in order to present the information in the form of a coherent report.

Please see section 5 of YJB Case Management Guidance (2014) for specific guidance on How to Use Reports⁶⁰.

Practice Point

Although AssetPlus has extended the range of information that can be gathered on a young person's welfare issues it is important that staff completing the PSR remain mindful of the principles of sentencing used by youth courts:

'Offence seriousness is the starting point for sentencing. In considering the seriousness of any offence, the court must consider the offender's culpability in committing the offence and any harm which the offence caused, was intended to cause or might foreseeably have caused. In imposing sentence, the restrictions on liberty must be commensurate with the seriousness of the offence'.

Criminal Justice Act (2003)⁶¹

This balance and principle of proportionality between the offence committed and welfare issue needs to be reflected in the PSR recommendations.

15.2 Overview

There are a possible eight sub-sections to complete:

- **Front page**
- **Sources of information**
- **Offence analysis** (including the impact of the offence on the victim/s)

⁶⁰ [Case management guidance - GOV.UK](#)

⁶¹ [Criminal Justice Act 2003](#)

- **Assessment of the young person**
- **Assessment of the need for parenting support**
- **Assessment of the risk to the community** (including the likelihood of reoffending, risk of serious harm to others and risks to the young person's safety and well-being)
- **Conclusion and proposal for sentencing**
- **Assessment of dangerousness**
 - Likelihood of committing further specified offences
 - Impact of further specified offences

15.3 Section guidance

15.3.1 Front page

Young person's details are pre-populated from the Core Record and Offending and Anti-Social Behaviour sections where available. The offence information is pre-populated with the offences linked to the sentence hearing. However, there is an additional question that is not pre-populated:



Court name

15.3.2 Sources of information

Sources of information details are pre-populated from the Core Record where available.

15.3.3 Offence analysis

Offence analysis details are pre-populated from several questions within the Offending and Anti-Social Behaviour section and will be pre-populated for all the episodes that the offences linked to the hearing are in. However, you should also take into account the analysis completed in Explanations and Conclusions.

The information which is pulled through will include the questions on what happened, the young person's attitudes to offences and the further exploration triggered by identifying that there is something else about the offences and/or the young person's attitudes which causes particular concern or indicates that the behaviour was more serious than the charge implies.

15.3.4 Assessment of the young person

Information on the assessment of the young person is pre-populated from all completed free-text boxes in Personal, Family and Social Factors (except for those relating to parenting, care and supervision). You should also consider any safety and well-being concerns in this section.

15.3.5 Assessment of the need for parenting support

Information on the assessment of the need for parenting support is pre-populated from completed free-text boxes in Personal, Family and Social Factors relating to parenting, care and supervision.

15.3.6 Assessment of risk to the community

Information and analysis can be pre-populated from the relevant Explanations and Conclusions sub-sections (factors affecting desistance, future behaviours and the young person's safety and well-being).

This section should include information and analysis relating to the likelihood of reoffending and risk of serious harm to others, and an assessment of dangerousness, if requested.

15.3.7 Conclusion and proposal for sentencing

The type of sentences or requirements that are most likely to reduce reoffending and/or address risk of serious harm to others should be recorded here. These should not necessarily address every available sentencing option or available requirement but should be tailored to the particular circumstances of the young person and the offence/s committed.

15.3.8 Assessment of dangerousness

This sub-section will only be displayed if 'Yes' has been selected to the question 'Has the Court requested an assessment of dangerousness?' in the Explanations and Conclusions section. Information on the likelihood of committing further specified offences and the impact of further specified offences are then pre-populated from the Explanations and Conclusions section.