

7. Self-Assessment

7.1 Purpose

The purpose of the self-assessment section is to ensure that the views of the young person and their parents or carers are considered and help to actively contribute and shape the assessment and intervention plan.

Research

Nacro⁴⁰ have suggested that encouraging the participation of young people (and their parents or carers) in the assessment and intervention planning process carries a number of important benefits. It can:

- ensure that children and young people (and their parents or carers) understand the processes and procedures they are involved in, whether in the police station, working on a voluntary programme, at court, whilst on a court order or in custody,
- encourage children and young people (and their parents or carers) to play a part in planning the interventions they or their child are going to be subject to and to share their views on what may or may not work for them,
- promote engagement and compliance by involving and consulting children and young people with regard to the decisions and outcomes that will affect them. By allowing parents or carers the opportunity to participate in the self-assessment process this should help with the relationship with the YOT worker which in turn should help the compliance and engagement of the child or young person,
- help children and young people to achieve their potential and gain confidence and self-esteem. Involving parents or carers in this process is likely to increase the chance of success; and,
- provide children and young people (and their parents or carers) with the opportunity to give feedback about the interventions and services they have received – what they perceive to be a good quality service and discussion of any difficulties experienced – in order to increase knowledge about what is and is not effective from their perspective.

In AssetPlus, the self-assessment is designed to collate the views of the young person and their parents or carers at various stages throughout their involvement in the youth justice system. The questions will change depending on the assessment stage. Once the section has been completed, you should actively view and reflect on the young person's responses whilst completing other parts of the AssetPlus framework.

⁴⁰ <http://www.nacro.org.uk/data/files/youth-justice-in-wales09-746.pdf>

7.2 Overview

The self-assessment will be comprised of a number of sub-sections depending on the assessment stage and young person's circumstances, these can include:

Young person:

- family, home and relationships
- smoking, drinking and drugs
- health and how I feel
- friends
- school, college and work
- offending (statutory or combination cases)
- behaviour (prevention cases only)
- my future
- working with the YOT
- bail
- custody
- working with Probation
- review
- custody review
- end of intervention

Parent/carer:

- about your child
- health/lifestyle
- school, college and work
- at home
- behaviour (prevention cases only)
- offending (statutory or combination cases)
- strengths and interests
- working with the YOT
- timeline
- bail/remand
- review
- custody review
- end of intervention

Both the young person and parent/carer self-assessments can be printed in both English and Welsh.

7.3 Section in detail

7.3.1 Self-assessment for young person

The following sub-sections will appear at all stages:

- Family, home and relationships
- Smoking, drinking and drugs
- Health and how I feel
- Friends
- School, college and work
- Offending
- Behaviour
- My future
- Working with the YOT

The remaining sub-sections are triggered according to the assessment stage being completed as shown by the table below:

Table 6: Young person self-assessment sub-sections and relevant stages

Sub-section	Relevant assessment stage
Bail	Bail Recommendation, Placement Notification, Pre-Sentence Report, Post Court Report
Custody	Bail Recommendation, Placement Notification, Pre-Sentence Report, Post Court Report, Entering Custody
Working with Probation	Transfer to Adult Services
Review	Community Review
Custody review	Custody Review
End of Intervention	Case Closure

Quality Assurance

The review and end of intervention self-assessments are designed to provide information about specific elements of interventions and what aspects young people perceive to have been more or less helpful to them. This information can then be revisited when planning future interventions to help maximise their effectiveness.

The young person self-assessments are available in first person format, where the questions are framed “I think ...”, or in the third person, where the questions are framed “some young people ...”

When using the self-assessment with the young person, you should consider which format of the self-assessment will allow the young person to express themselves best. It is particularly important to encourage the young person to voice his or her own opinions and not just to say what they think the right response should be. Any other self-assessment tools that have been developed locally to engage with young people, e.g. pictorial tools should also be used to support the exercise and be attached to the self-assessment in AssetPlus.

Practice Point

Self-assessment questions are available in the third person format because, when dealing with sensitive personal issues, it is less threatening than asking the questions directly to the young person.

Within each sub-section of the self-assessment questionnaire there are links to flag items for further action, add significant life events and add desistance factors.

7.3.2 Self-assessments for parents or carers

AssetPlus includes specific self-assessment questionnaires for parents/carers in order that they can give their views about the young person. The parent or carer self-assessment tool uses a similar design and format to the young person’s self-assessment and is in the first person format only. The sub-sections are very similar to those of the young person’s self-assessment but clearly have different wording to reflect the fact that they are giving their views on their child.

The following sub-sections appear at all assessment stages:

- About your child
- Health/lifestyle
- School, college and work
- At home
- Behaviour
- Offending
- Strengths and interests
- Working with the YOT
- Timeline

The remaining sub-sections are triggered according to the assessment stage being completed as shown by the table below:

Table 7: Parent/carer self-assessment sub-sections and relevant stages

Sub-section:	Relevant assessment stage:
Bail/Remand	Bail Recommendation, Placement Notification, Pre-Sentence Report, Post Court Report
Review	Community Review
Custody review	Custody Review
End of Intervention	Case Closure

The parent or carer self-assessment includes a timeline sub-section that can be used to record any past significant family events, both positive and negative. This information can be used when completing the Personal, Family and Social Factors section and if significant should also be recorded in the Explanations and Conclusions (significant life events) section.