

SUMMARY REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE RECORDS YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE - QUARTER 4, OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2010

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This report details the findings of an audit start assessments completed by the YOS during the October to December 2010 quarter.

INFORMATION

1. The YOS tool for undertaking assessments is the 'Asset', a national tool devised by the Youth Justice Board. It considers 13 aspects of a young person's life and the practitioner is required to assess each area in terms of its impact on a young person's risk of offending. Each section is scored and the total score informs the level of contact the young person will receive through the duration of their order (supervisory orders only) from a minimum of once per fortnight to three times per week. The tool is also used to identify risk of harm the young person presents to others and their own vulnerability.
2. Quality assessments are thus aligned to effective and efficient intervention plans. In 2010 the YOS Management Team undertook to audit as many assessment documents as possible. The process takes around 30-40 minutes per assessment so it is a significant time commitment for the management team. The objectives were ;
 - To support consistency in assessments by practitioners in terms of assessed risk
 - To ensure scores and thus interventions are commensurate with actual need
 - To ensure resources are being directed where they are most needed.
 - To identify training needs for individual staff
3. The Youth Justice Board provided a tool for auditing assets. Each section of the document is scored and evaluated, for content and relevance, as inadequate; satisfactory, good or outstanding and then a final evaluation is given for the full document based on the total score.
4. The local performance measure for 2010 was for 80% of the Assets to be assessed as being satisfactory or above set against the baseline performance of 50% recorded in 2009. During the first three quarters of 2010, 90% of Assets were assessed as satisfactory or above moreover nearly 80% were assessed as being good or above.
5. Given the magnitude of the improvement noted and significant management time required for the process, for the last quarter of 2010 auditing focused specifically on

those staff whose assessments are deemed to be consistently inadequate or satisfactory.

6. The results of the audits carried out in the last quarter were as follows:

	October – December	%
Inadequate	0	0%
Satisfactory	2	33.3%
Good	4	66.6%
Outstanding	0	0%
	6	100%

7. The YOS management group will now cease its systematic audit of all assessments. In anticipation of an external inspection by HMIP Inspectorate later this year from January 2011 onwards the focus will be on

- Case file audits using a system based on the social care model
- Risk of Serious Harm assessments.
- Intervention plans (April onwards)