

Site

Dudley YOS

Name of project / initiative

Out of Court Assessment Tool

Overview

Young people who receive court orders are assessed using the government approved AssetPlus assessment tool but there is no such requirement for young people given out of court disposals. The "Out of Court Assessment tool" has been developed by staff at Dudley YOS specifically for use with young people who have been given an out of court disposal. While it draws on AssetPlus, this tool has been designed specifically with this group in mind, and is simpler and quicker to complete, including removing some questions considered by YOS staff to unnecessary for this group, while also collecting some additional information which AssetPlus does not cover.

In addition, the "Out of Court Assessment tool" is IT-based, and staff are able to interrogate the data collected to help gain a fuller picture of the needs and characteristics of this group, and so develop, tailor, and focus services for them more effectively. It also allows young people to take part in the assessment process and it is considered by staff to be more engaging for young people than AssetPlus.

Dudley YOS plans to make the tool freely available to colleagues throughout the country in due course.

Longevity

The tool went "live" in April 2022.

Benefits

It's a simpler and better tool designed specifically to support services for young people receiving out of court disposals. It also aids the development of services specifically for this group and helps to engage young people in the assessment process.

Uniqueness

We believe this to be the only tool of its kind for this group.

Applicability

It could be used in any youth justice settings, and Dudley YOS will be making it freely available to colleagues across the country.

Requirements

There are no specific requirements to use this tool. We will be making it available for others to use free of charge, together with detailed guidance on its use.

For more information:

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