

Name of Tool	AssetPlus
Category	Youth Assessment: General Risk (Awaiting Validation)
Author / Publisher	Baker and Youth Justice Board
Year	2014

Description

- AssetPlus is a structured assessment tool for use with young individuals who come into contact with the criminal justice system. It is designed to contribute to assessment and intervention planning for youths in both custodial and community settings. It has superseded the 'Asset' instrument.
- The instrument examines the young person's offence history and identifies a multitude of factors or circumstances which may have contributed to the behaviour. This includes questions about the inappropriate use of technology, health questions like whether the young person could be pregnant and a prompt about offence paralleling behaviours. It will also highlight any particular needs or difficulties for intervention as well as changes in risk and need over time.
- Designed to be used by Youth Offending Teams (YOT) in England and Wales. 'Youth Offending Team' (YOT) transfer questions are included in AssetPlus to support case transfers between teams.
- The instrument has scope to record whether a young person is susceptible to being manipulated or exploited.

Age Appropriateness

10-18

Assessor Qualifications

Assessors are required to complete a detailed induction programme on AssetPlus. Refresher training every three to six months is highly likely, particularly in the areas of Risk of Serious Harm, Safety and Wellbeing and identifying desistance factors.

Tool Development

- The AssetPlus builds upon the original Asset instrument. It uses the YOGRS as a static predictor to provide an indication of likely re-offending. This should help promote greater alignment with the National Probation Service's assessment framework ([Baker, 2014](#)).
- "The AssetPlus framework will provide a single assessment and plan for a young person, which will be dynamic and iterative in nature, making it easier to update assessments on an ongoing basis and therefore always presenting the latest information" ([Baker, 2014](#)).
- Factors included can contribute towards measuring progress or deterioration in relation to the individual's level of risk. This includes a measurement of whether a young person is susceptible to exploitation or manipulation.

• Empirical research on the AssetPlus is pending. Currently, there has just been research on the Asset instrument (Baker et al., 2003; Baker et al., 2005; [Burman et al., 2007](#)).

General Notes

- Asset has been used in a number of local authorities since 2001. In Scotland, the processing of police charges through the Children's Hearing System means that only the dynamic component of the Asset tool is used in everyday practice. To clarify, it is not possible to use the static component of the instrument, whereby involvement in previous offending is scored in relation to convictions, something which tends to be negated by the involvement of the Children's Hearing System in Scotland. To negate this, changes were made to the terminology in the 'Asset' when used in Scotland ([Fearn 2014](#)).
- The instrument can aid assessors in identifying risk and responsivity factors specific to the individual (e.g. 'motivation to change'). Some of the factors included in the assessment can act as targets for change. The AssetPlus can also help assessors identify protective factors and strengths.
- Participation of the young person in identifying and responding to their behaviours is part of the structure of the instrument.