



Youth Justice

The Viewpoint Organisation

The principal aim of the Viewpoint Organisation is to promote the participation of young people in planning and consultation processes thereby increasing their influence on decisions that affect their lives. The Viewpoint Organisation undertakes social research, develops communication methods, and works with organisations to develop participation strategies and systems.

The Viewpoint Organisation methodology involves the use of interactive electronic methods of data collection and recording, specifically developed by the Viewpoint Organisation for the engagement of young people. The Viewpoint Organisation first introduced this electronic approach in 1994 using it in a voluntary organisation and family centres in North London with young people and young carers. Since 1994 the Viewpoint Organisation tools have been extensively developed, including introducing tools to increase the accessibility for young people with disabilities.

Computer assisted interviewing with young people is an engaging approach that allows quite detailed questionnaires to be completed by young people with a range of abilities. The inclusion of a function for all text to be spoken out loud by characters is of particular benefit for young people with literacy difficulties.

The Viewpoint Organisation has been working with Youth Offending Teams and the youth Justice Board since the first teams were established. As a result a number of content packages have been developed.

Assessment and Review

What Do You Think?

The standard Youth Justice Board individual questionnaire for use in the assessment process alongside ASSET. The report format identifies the key positive factors and additionally reports responses against the main ASSET criteria

Over to you!

The standard Youth Justice Board individual questionnaire ONSET for use in the assessment process in Youth Inclusion and Support Programme. Standard versions, and a version for younger children are available

Bail Support

A questionnaire for initial assessment based on ASSET. The questionnaire addresses personal behaviours and relationships, lifestyle, substance misuse and living arrangements. It also looks at attitudes to offending and to intervention.

Detention and Training Order Review

A set of three questionnaires for use by the young person in preparation for DTO reviews in prison; at the point of transition from prison to the community, and when they are living in the community. The questionnaires address motivations and attitudes, health, education, work, use of leisure and finance. In custody safety, peer relationships and support provision are looked at, and in the community target setting is addressed. In each questionnaire plans and the young person's progress are reviewed

Substance Misuse

A questionnaire developed with specialist help from Youth Offending Teams and Drug Action Teams that examines individual behaviours and attitudes in relation to the use of 'street illegal drugs'. Individual histories of drug use are drawn out together with current patterns of use and sources of drugs. Peer behaviour and pressures are also addressed. The consequences of drug taking for the individual, including involvement in criminal activity, are examined.

Feedback on service provision

Youth Offending Team Services

A questionnaire to provide feedback from young people in relation to key aspects of service provision. Most frequently used by teams with young people at the end of an intervention. The services, accessibility and practice of the team are reported on, together with feedback about the motivation of young people, and their attitudes to offending and victims.

Referral Orders

A questionnaire to collect information from young people about the Referral Order process. The questionnaire looks at the preparation for, and experience of, the Panel Meeting. Attitudes to victims are examined. Feedback is provided on the contract and the outcome for the young person. Reports are available for individual and groups of young people.

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