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Owner: Youth Justice Service Manager

Terminology

Please note below the following acronyms used within this policy and their meanings:

RoSH – Risk of Serious Harm

SaW – Safety and Wellbeing

RSM – Risk Strategy Meeting

LoR – Likelihood of Re-offending

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1.0 Aim of policy

The aim of this policy is to provide staff members across the YOTs with guidance and clarity when writing Reports.

2.0 Basic Principles

All reports should be based upon the following:

- At least one interview with the young person
- An interview with the parent/carer where possible
- An assessment of the victims wishes and willingness to engage in reparation/restorative justice interventions (where known)
- Information from other verifiable sources, including checks with Children's Social Care (CSC), as a minimum the CSC recording system should be checked.
- Schools (where appropriate), CAMHS, substance misuse etc.
- A parenting order cannot be made without an assessment and a report.

3. *Pre-Sentence Reports (PSRs)*

A full PSR will be required in the following cases:

- The young person is an IOM nominal¹
- The Court are considering custody
- Significant Risk of Harm or Safeguarding issues have been identified which require further exploration prior to sentencing
- The case is complex and requires further in-depth assessment
- There is no recent AssetPlus assessment (no AssetPlus or the last AssetPlus is over three months old)
- In the case of 'partnership' requirements (such as DTR, ISTR) information as to the suitability of the young person cannot be ascertained before the sentencing date and an adjournment is required to obtain further assessments.
- Where the Court is considering a local authority residence requirement (due to the need to convene a multi -agency meeting)

3.1 *General Principles*

- A PSR will be based upon a fully completed AssetPlus assessment.
- PSR's will be factual, analytical, unbiased and anti-discriminatory.
- Language used within PSR's will be plain, clear and unambiguous.

3.2 *Content of Pre-Sentence Reports (PSRs)*

The PSR will always be in writing and the PSR template in AssetPlus should be used. The report should contain the following information:

- ***Offence analysis***

¹ *in cases where the offence is of a minor nature and the court wish to proceed to sentence on the day it may be appropriate to prepare an expedited report on IOMs if there is sufficient information to proceed to sentence.*

This should involve an analysis of the offence, including culpability, aggravating and mitigating factors and not just a description of what happened. The impact upon the victim (contained within the CPS documents or victim personal impact statement) should be included where this is known.

- **Assessment of the young person**

This should be based upon the completed AssetPlus assessment and should contain information on the young person’s health, mental health, speech, language and communication needs, education, training or employment status, and broader welfare needs. Information contained within this section should be verifiable, defensible and relevant to the report.

- **Assessment of the need for parenting support**

This should include an assessment as to the need for parenting support. If the PSR author is of the opinion that a Parenting Order or Contract is required, an assessment needs to be made by a Parenting Worker (a further period of adjournment may be needed to facilitate this), and a separate parenting report should be submitted alongside the PSR. See 3.6

- **Assessment of the Risk to the Community**

This section should make it clear that an AssetPlus assessment has been used to assess the LoR, the Risk of Harm and Serious Harm to others. It should also include any risks in custody if applicable.

The assessment of the RoSH should be clear and should use the following descriptors:

Low	Low risk means that there is no evidence at present to indicate any likelihood of future harmful behaviour.
Medium	Medium risk means that some risk of harm has been identified but the young person is unlikely to cause serious harm unless circumstances change.
High	High Risk means that there is potential for harm to occur harm identified and that the potential event could happen at any time and the impact could be serious.
Very High	Very High Risk means that an imminent risk of harm has been identified. The young person will commit the behaviour in question as soon as the opportunity arises, and the impact would be serious. Immediate multi agency action is likely to be required.

This section should also include the level of risk to the young person’s SaW and should be clear using the following descriptors:

Low	Low risk means that no risks to the young person’s safety and well-being have been identified or the risks identified are unlikely to occur and would not impact on the young person’s immediate safety.
Medium	Medium risk means some risks to the young person’s safety and well-being have been identified and are likely to occur. The young person’s immediate safety is unlikely to be compromised provided specific actions are taken
High	High risk means clear risks to the child or young person’s safety and well-being have been identified are likely to occur and the

	impact would compromise the young person's safety and well-being. Actions are required in the near future and are likely to involve other agencies in addition to youth justice services.
Very High	Very high risk means clear risks to the young person's safety and well-being have been identified are imminent and the young person is unsafe. Immediate actions are needed to protect the young person, which will include (or have already included) a referral to statutory child protection services.

Likelihood of reoffending ratings of low, medium and high should also be used. Within AssetPlus a given YOGRS score corresponds to an indicative likelihood of reoffending as outlined in the table below; however, case managers should use professional judgement to provide their own rating and explain the rationale.

YOGRS score	Indicative likelihood of reoffending (LoR) rating
0 - 43%	Low
44 - 76%	Medium
77 - 100%	High

- ***Dangerousness assessments***

If a child or young person convicted of a specified or serious specified offence (defined by schedule 15 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003) is being sentenced in the Crown Court an assessment of dangerousness is required.

In other cases, PSRs only need to consider dangerousness if it is specifically requested by the court. Further guidance regarding the assessment of dangerousness, and proposed wording for inclusion within PSR's, can be found in Appendix 2.

- ***Conclusion and Proposal for Sentencing***

This section should contain a clear proposal for sentencing. A draft 'Our Intervention Plan', or outline of the work to be delivered as part of the Order should also be available to the court.

Proposals for custody should be made in line with the YOT principle that "custody for children and young people should always be a last resort and should only be promoted where there is a serious risk of harm to the public or where offending is so persistent, and motivation and engagement so poor, that it would severely undermine public confidence in the Youth Justice System if it were not". All proposals for custody must be discussed with a Team Manager and this should be recorded in the case records.

3.3 Use of Existing Reports and Addendums

If the court requests a PSR it is possible to use or update an existing report in the following circumstances:

- The most recent PSR is not more than three months old

- The PSR was based upon a fully completed AssetPlus
- There has not been a significant change in circumstances since the PSR/AssetPlus was prepared

Use of an existing report

If the above criteria are met, and the report addresses offences which are similar in nature to the current offences, then the previous report may be used.

Use of an existing report with an addendum

If the above criteria are met but a limited amount of additional information is required to assist the Court with sentencing (such as information on the current offences, a minor update in circumstances) an addendum may be prepared and presented with the original PSR.

Addendum / existing reports MUST NOT be used in the following circumstances:

- Where the existing report is based upon an AssetPlus that is more than three months old.
- Where there have been significant changes since the previous PSR was prepared.
- Where the existing PSR does not sufficiently address the issues required to assist the Court with sentencing.
- Where the existing report was prepared for a Youth Court but the current sentence is before the Crown Court.
- Where the young person is at risk of a custodial sentence.

3.4 Gate-Keeping Processes and Timescales

All PSR's will be gate-kept by a TM or designated deputy prior to submission to the court.

PSR's are to be with the Manager/designated deputy by midday two days before the court date to allow for gatekeeping (three days for Crown Court).

The purpose of this process is to ensure that the report:

- is free from spelling or grammatical errors
- is factual, unbiased and free from discriminatory language or stereotypes
- is concise and flows to a logical conclusion
- contains a clear assessment of RoSH, LoR and SaW
- contains a clear proposal to the Court which is proportionate to the offence, addresses RoSH and re-offending, and takes into account the needs of the young person.

Managers should record in case records that they have read and approved the PSR.

3.5 Specific Sentence / Stand Down Reports

At the request of the Court, where it deems a PSR unnecessary, the YOT may prepare a Specific Sentence Report (SSR) or a Stand Down Report (SDR) to guide sentencing, using the agreed template (see Appendix 1). A SSR should assess a young person's suitability for a specific sentence and is appropriate in the following circumstances:

- A Reparation Order
- A YRO with a single requirement (such as an activity or attendance centre)
- A YRO with multiple 'low level' requirements e.g. supervision, activity and attendance centre.

A SSR is a written report (which may be presented verbally) and is intended to enable the Court to proceed to sentence on the day of the request if there is a recent up to date AssetPlus assessment (no older than three months). If there is no AssetPlus or an outdated AssetPlus, a Specific Sentence Report should be prepared within five working days (and AssetPlus reviewed).

Stand Down Reports

This is a report either verbally or in writing on the same day as a court hearing on a stand down basis to allow for the prompt conclusion of a case (see assessment/report template Appendix 1).

Specific Sentence and Stand Down Reports can only be prepared in the following circumstances:

- The Court is not considering custody
- The young person is not an IOM (Integrated Offender Management) nominal
- There is an up to date AssetPlus or sufficient Youth Justice assessment information can be obtained regarding the young person and the offence to be able to make a credible proposal to the court
- No significant risk of harm or safeguarding issues have been identified which require further exploration prior to sentencing

Where a SSR/SDR has been completed, AssetPlus should be reviewed/completed within 15 working days of sentencing.

3.6 Parenting Order Reports

A parenting order assessment must be undertaken if ISS is to be proposed for a child under 13. For all other ISS cases a parenting order assessment should be undertaken if the YOT officer assesses that there is a need for such an order. A Parenting Order should never be proposed without an assessment by a parenting worker.

Parenting assessment reports will address the suitability of a Parenting Order. The assessment will be undertaken by a Parenting Worker in the Family Service Intensive Team. If the Court request a parenting assessment, or during the preparation of a PSR, the YOT Officer is of the opinion that a Parenting Order would be beneficial, the YOT Officer should contact the Intensive Intervention Team Manager by telephone to advise that an assessment is required. This should be followed up with an email. Following this notification the FS Intensive TM will allocate the assessment to a Parenting Worker, who will make an appointment with the young person and parent/carer to undertake an assessment. They will liaise with the YOT officer to recommend a proposal to the Court and will prepare a short Parenting Assessment Report for inclusion with the PSR.

Any report should make it clear whether a Parenting Order is being proposed and why a Parenting Order is necessary to prevent further offending. If a Parenting Order is proposed the Parenting Worker undertaking the assessment should agree a draft plan with the parent/carer detailing the requirements of the order. The report should contain a clear recommendation as to the length of the order and include recommendations to the Court as to the wording of a Parenting Order.

If a Parenting Order is not proposed, the report should be clear why it is not recommended and should contain information as to what support or intervention is planned to take place on a voluntary basis/is already taking place.

4.0 Custody Threshold Cases

Custody Threshold Cases (CTCs) are those where the Court has indicated that custody is being considered but as a first time guilty plea case, a Referral Order is the only available non-custodial alternative. In these cases, it is essential that a PSR proposal for a Referral Order is presented as a robust and credible sentencing option.

In the cases of CTCs the YOT will convene a 'Pre-Sentence Panel' involving the young person, their parents/carers, a Case Manager and Community Panel Members to consider the likely content of a Referral Order contract and use it to inform the PSR proposal. The young person and parents / carers will need to understand fully that a Pre-Sentence Panel is not an indication that a Referral Order will be the outcome; the sentencing decision rests with the Court alone and a custodial sentence may still be given.

4.1 First Court Hearing

If the Court is considering custody or a Referral Order for a young person they will advise the Court Officer of this intention. The Court Officer will request a 15 working day adjournment to allow the assessment, panel and PSR to be completed. Therefore, the Panel should be booked to take place within 10 working days. The Court will direct the young person to attend the Pre-Sentence Panel. The Court Officer will ascertain availability from the young person and their parent/carer.

4.2 Pre-Sentence Panel

The pre-sentence panel will take the same form as the initial Referral Order panel, as outlined in the Referral Order policy. A panel report is not required for the Pre-Sentence panel. The Case Manager will verbally share pertinent information with the Panel Members in order to create a proposed contract.

Where the Court are considering a custodial sentence, the PSR should present the Referral Order as 'a robust and credible sentencing option'. This should involve an intensive Referral Order contract. An intensive Referral Order contract should involve a timetable of structured activity each week, reflective of the serious nature of the offence. (See the Scaled Approach.) These activities may include:

- Education, training or employment
- Victim awareness
- Community reparation

- Restorative processes (this could include, writing a letter of explanation or apology, shuttle mediation (messages passed between the child and victim(s), direct restorative interventions including a face to face meeting with the victim and/ or repair to damage caused during the offence¹⁰)
- Work to address thinking and behaviour related to the child's offending
- Family support, where appropriate
- Interpersonal skills (work to support the factors which increase resilience and desistance)
- There should also be a curfew included, although under legislation this cannot be electronically monitored for a Referral Order

Whilst the onus is upon the young person to identify the changes he or she would like to make, in order for the young person to be motivated to engage with the contract, in the case of a custody threshold contract, a greater level of guidance by the Case Manager and Community Panel Member may be required in order to provide a credible alternative to custody.

At the Pre-Sentence Panel a provisional date for the Initial Panel meeting should be agreed between the Case Manager, young person and parents/carers, to take place within five working days of the sentencing date. This date will be given to the locality Business Support team by the end of the next working day after the Pre-Sentence Panel. The Business Support team will then arrange a provisional Initial Panel for the agreed date.

4.3 Sentencing Hearing

The PSR will contain within it the proposed contract elements and the Initial Panel date. The Court will be asked to confirm this as they sentence. The Court Officer will give details of the Initial Panel to the young person in writing. On the day of sentencing the Court Officer will inform the locality Business Support team of the outcome (they can then confirm or cancel the initial panel).

4.4 Initial Post-Sentence Panel

It is recommended that the Initial Panel should take place within 5 working days of sentence. Any observations made by the Court will be made available to the Community Panel Members. The Community Panel Members for the Initial Panel will not necessarily be the same as those who sat on the Pre-Sentence Panel, and decisions taken at the Initial Panel will not be a rubber stamping of the Pre-Sentence Panel nor the opinions of the Youth Court, although Referral Order guidance is clear that significant amendments should not be made for risk of undermining the credibility of Referral Orders as a sentencing option in custody threshold cases.

The first Review Panel will be held 3 months after the Initial Panel.

5.0 Referral Order Panel Reports

The Referral Order panel report will be completed by the young person in conjunction with the Case Manager to be provided to the Community Panel Members at the Initial Panel. The Referral Order Report does not require gatekeeping as it is mainly the work of the young person. However, quality assurance will take place at a management level as part of the normal management QA process.

The purpose of a Referral Order Panel Report is to provide an opportunity for the young person to tell their story, highlight positive factors in the young person's life and highlight the key risk factors identified in the AssetPlus assessment that may be appropriate for inclusion in the contract.

5.1 General Principles

- A panel report is required for all Initial Panels post sentence and all extension panels;
- A panel report will be based upon a fully completed AssetPlus assessment;
- Panel reports will be based upon at least one face-to-face interview with the child or young person and where possible his/her parent/carer;
- Panel reports should be based upon Section 9 victim personal statements and expert medical reports where available;
- Information from other relevant sources, such as CPS advanced disclosure information, YJS case records, specialist assessments or information from other agencies;
- Case Management guidance states that all reports should be:
 - Balanced
 - Impartial
 - Timely
 - Focussed and analytical
 - Free from discriminatory language or stereotypes
 - Verified and factually accurate
 - Understandable to the young person and parents/carers

5.2 Content of Referral Order Panel Reports

The Referral Order Report template for Initial Panel Reports available in Sharepoint should be used. The sections detailed below should contain the following information:

- ***What happened on the day***

This section should be written with the young person, using the young person's own words. (Although where the young person's words may involve discriminatory language or stereotypes or be clearly not factually accurate, some discussion with the young person may be required to reach a compromise).

- ***The main reasons I offended***

Written alongside the young person, this section should identify at least one reason why the young person committed the offence, although ideally should include as many reasons as possible. The Case Manager should listen for cues from the young person's description of the event to help them to consider the reasons behind their offending.

- ***What might make things difficult for me to complete my Order***

This section should include ongoing and future issues, identified by the young person, in conjunction with the Case Manager, that may increase the risk of re-offending and/or prevent the young person from engaging with their Order.

- ***Things I am already good at and things that will help me do well***

This is a chance to record any positive aspects of the young person's life, particularly factors which could be strengthened during the course of the Referral Order. Again, this section is written with the young person.

- ***How I would like to feel and how I would like others to feel (outcomes)***

At least one simple statement of feeling or being should be identified by the young person, e.g. I want to be happier at home, I want to be more thoughtful when making decisions, I want the victim to feel better. Statements such as "I want to not get into trouble" or "I want to get through my Order" need exploring to establish a positive feeling or being statement.

- ***What my parent/carer and YJS worker think I need help with***

This is the section in which to record any risks or issues which need addressing that the young person has not self-identified. These risks or areas to address should link in with the factors identified in the Asset Plus assessment.

It is also a chance to record positives and praise and the views of other people. It should indicate whether there will be a victim statement available at the panel meeting.

The content of this section should be discussed with the young person prior to panel.

5.3 *Review and Final Panels*

A written review of the work agreed at the Initial Panel should be presented to Community Panel Members at Review and Final Panels. The Review and Final Panel Reports should be completed with the young person, using the templates available in Sharepoint. Examples of work/activities undertaken with the young person could also be brought to the panels.

5.4 *Availability of the documentation*

The Initial Referral Order Panel Report should be completed and made available to the Community Panel Members two days prior to the panel meeting. Further discussion can take place in the fifteen minute discussion slot prior to the arrival of the young person and their parents/carers.

The young person and their parent/carer should have seen a copy of the Reports prior to the Panel as they will have been written in conjunction with the young person. A copy should also be provided to the young person and their parent/carer for their reference during the meeting.

Appendix 1



Nottinghamshire YOT Stand Down Report /Specific Sentence Report

Child/Young Person Details

Full name:

Date of Birth:

Age:

Address:

Post Code:

Contact Telephone Number:

Parent / Carer Name & contact details:

Solicitor / Name & contact details:

Court:

Date of Hearing:

Date Report Requested:

Specific Sentence to be considered (if applicable):
Any specific considerations requested by the court:

Offence Details

Offence(s)	Date(s)

Sources of Information

Interview		CPS comments	
Family/Carer		Mental Health Service	
School		Substance Misuse Service	
CSC		Residential Home	
Victim		Family Service	
Health		Police	
CPS		Other (Please State)	

Other agencies involved and services already being provided

Offence Analysis

Including attitude towards the offence / victim(s) and the impact of the offence on the victim(s), community, family and self; motivation for offending; and patterns of offending behaviour

Assessment of the young person

- Accommodation
- Lifestyle
- Emotional and Health issues
- Positive factors
- Education/Employment
- Substance Misuse
- Motivation to Change
- Parent/Carer view

Assessment of Risk, Safety and Well-being & Level of Re-Offending

Assessment of the risk to the community, including the likelihood of re-offending, risk of harm and serious harm to others and safety and wellbeing

Assessment of the need for parenting support

(Adjournment will be required if fuller assessment is deemed necessary)

Conclusion & Proposal

(Including Young Person's motivation to comply and suitability for proposed sentence if SSR)

Recommendation to the Court

Having assessed this case I consider the following disposal to be appropriate:

Order	Select one only	Additional Details (e.g. Length / Requirements/ No. of sessions)
Stand-alone Reparation Order		
A YRO with a single requirement		
An YRO with multiple 'low level' requirements.		
Referral Order (exceptional circumstances)		
Adjourn for full PSR assessment (please give details)		

Completed By:

Job Title:

Date Completed:

Appendix 2

1. Assessment of Dangerousness

Where an assessment of dangerousness is to be included, the assessment of dangerousness should usually be dealt with before going on to address other aspects of risk. The agreed wording and further information on assessing dangerousness is detailed below at 1.1 and 1.2.

The PSR should indicate the key risk and protective factors identified through AssetPlus and any other specialist assessments undertaken to explain the nature, impact and likelihood of any behaviour that would lead to re-offending or cause serious harm to other people. It is important to avoid vague phrases about risk of offending or harm to the community – instead, the PSR needs to be specific in identifying the nature and level of risk or harm to others and the circumstances in which this is more or less likely to occur.

Ensure that there is an analysis of any protective factors to show whether, and to what extent, they are actually preventing offending in this particular case. For example, while a stable home life and full time education might generally be protective factors, if the young person has offended despite a stable home life and full time education, these factors have not been protective in this case and cannot be cited as reducing the risk of offending. On the contrary, the risk of offending may actually be higher if the usual protective factors have been ineffective.

Where the report suggests the risk of offending may be reduced if, for example, the young person engages with YOT interventions, or reduces their alcohol use, or finds employment, the report should also state how likely this is to happen. Use evidence from past compliance / non-compliance etc. to support claims.

1.1 CJA 2003 Dangerousness and Sentences for Public Protection

In accordance with section 229 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, when a young person is convicted of one of the 'specified offences' listed in schedule 15 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 it falls to the court to make an assessment of 'dangerousness'. **The criteria for a 'dangerous offender' are that there is a significant risk of serious harm to the public from further specified offences.** The young person must **meet all three parts** of this definition before the court can determine that he or she is a 'dangerous offender'.

Young people assessed by the court as meeting the definition of a 'dangerous offender', and where the appropriate minimum term is likely to be met (see below), must be sent to the Crown Court where sentences for public protection **may** be used.

- **Seriousness Versus Dangerousness**

Factors relevant to the seriousness of the offence should be addressed in the Offence Analysis section of the PSR. Factors relevant to dangerousness should be addressed in the Risk section of the PSR

In most cases, the court must assess the seriousness of the offence in order to pass a sentence that is proportionate to the seriousness of what has actually been done. Within that sentence, interventions can be provided to reduce the risk of future offending, but the sentence, the restriction on liberty, cannot 'outweigh' the seriousness of the offence that was actually committed.

For a young person who has committed a low seriousness offence, the court cannot give a disproportionate sentence in order to address the high risk of reoffending that may have been identified in AssetPlus. Similarly, in cases where the offence is very serious but AssetPlus suggest a low risk of reoffending, the court must still pass a sentence with a substantial restriction on liberty to match the seriousness of the offence actually committed.

The assessment of seriousness is made by taking account of the various aggravating and mitigating factors relating to the offence and the offender. The assessment of dangerousness is about what the offender might do in the future. When sentencing an offender who meets the dangerousness criteria the court is allowed to pass a disproportionate sentence to protect the public from what the offender might do in the future. The seriousness of the offence already committed will form part of the assessment of dangerousness, but the court is allowed to take account of additional factors about the offender's non-conviction behaviour, attitudes and intentions, which would not be permitted under normal sentencing in relation to seriousness alone.

Be aware that some factors which might reduce seriousness, such as impulsive or opportunist offending, may actually increase the risk of dangerousness because that which is impulsive, spontaneous or not planned, cannot usually be predicted and therefore cannot be managed or prevented. Conversely, it is usual for planned offences to be regarded as more serious by the court because in a planned offence the offender usually knows it is wrong, has time to think and decides to proceed with the offence anyway. However, in an assessment of dangerousness, while planning may still show that the offender is dangerous due to the deliberate nature of the offence, it may be more predictable and therefore easier to manage and prevent in future. Consequently an extended or indeterminate sentence for public protection may not be needed as ordinary sentencing powers would be sufficient to manage the risks posed.

Additional factors which may suggest dangerousness include:

- *random attacks (violent or sexual) on strangers*
- *unpredictable rage/loss of temper in response to a wide range of triggers*
- *offending which is not limited to one set of circumstances - it takes place when the offender is drunk or sober, on drugs or not, alone or with others, etc.*
- *offending which includes use of any weapon that is to hand, picked up and used in the heat of the moment*

Additional factors which may reduce dangerousness, or at least make it manageable, include:

- *offending against one particular type/category of victim - family members, other teenage boys, the police, racist offending - this makes it easier to predict and easier to design interventions/surveillance to protect those particular victims*
- *offending in one set of circumstances - always with friends or the same co-defendant, only when drunk, when unemployed - this makes it easier to control the circumstances in which the offending is most likely to arise - curfew requirement, prohibited activity, exclusion requirement etc.*
- *planned offending - once the method of planning is identified (through offence cycle and other work) the warning signs of planning or intention can be identified and action can be taken to prevent the offence.*

Note that these factors may make the offence itself more serious, but they make the behaviour more predictable and therefore, potentially, easier to identify and manage - dangerousness occurs where the risks cannot be managed and the future behaviour cannot be prevented by predicting it. Be aware that an offender who deliberately plans his or her offending and targets his/her victims, especially where this is done in spite of all attempts at intervention/risk management may rate high in terms of offence seriousness and dangerousness.

Each case needs a detailed analysis in relation to seriousness in the Offence Analysis section, and in relation to dangerousness in the Risk section. Remember: seriousness is about what actually already happened, dangerousness is about what might take place in the future.

1.2 Proposed Wording for Assessments

As....name..... has pleaded guilty to / been convicted of **[delete as applicable]** an offence that is specified in Schedule 15 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 **[if applicable add: and considered to be a serious offence as defined by section 224 of the Act,]** the Court may require / requires **[delete as applicable]** information to inform its assessment of dangerousness. I have undertaken an assessment in relation to the risk of serious harm and dangerousness using the AssetPlus and discussed this with my YOT colleagues. In making an assessment of dangerousness the court may wish to consider the following information:

The specified offence(s) under consideration is / are ... The factors most relevant to the seriousness of the offence are addressed in the Offence Analysis section of this report. **[Check that they have indeed been explained fully there. If necessary you may briefly reiterate key points relating to seriousness here but remember this section is about future risks and seriousness is about what already happened].** The additional factors which may be relevant to an assessment of dangerousness would seem to be:

PSR to give relevant details including:

- *Aggravating factors which may suggest dangerousness*
- *Circumstances which may suggest dangerousness*
- *Triggers which may suggest dangerousness*
- *Mitigating factors which may reduce fears of dangerousness*
- *Protective factors which may suggest the young person is not dangerous*

This should not repeat everything from the offence analysis section but should highlight those factors which are specific to the assessment of dangerousness.

Where applicable – either:name.....hasnumber.....previous convictions for offences which may be relevant to the assessment of dangerousness. Ondate..... name.....was made subject to asentence.....for an offence ofoffence.....The circumstances of that offence are that.....details of the offence.....

Or:

.....name.....has no previous convictions butstate nature of the relevant behaviour, highlighting the features which may be relevant to dangerousness.....

Note: Be careful when addressing previous convictions to distinguish between those which are relevant to the seriousness of the offending (recent and relevant) and those which are relevant to dangerousness (future risk of serious harm):

- *only those convictions which are both recent and relevant will aggravate the seriousness - Offence Analysis section*
- *Those which may be relevant to the assessment of dangerousness include all previous convictions, anywhere in the world, together with any other behaviour which forms part of a relevant pattern.*

Consider any pattern to the offending and in what way past behaviour informs your current assessment of dangerousness.

Where applicable – either: On this occasion the pattern of offending suggests that the previous offence(s) / specified offence(s). / behaviour is / are relevant to the current assessment of dangerousness becausestate why.....

Or:

The previous offence(s) / specified offence(s) / behaviour do not / does not suggest a pattern which is relevant to the assessment of dangerousness because....**state why**.....name.....has.....response to previous interventions. **Give information about previous compliance or interventions which may be relevant to managing the risk the young person poses.**

It is therefore the assessment of Nottinghamshire Youth Offending Team that ...name....does

/ does not currently pose a significant risk of serious harm from further specified offences.