

A project update for local Change Leads and Technical Change Leads supporting the implementation of AssetPlus

AssetPlus is the new assessment and planning interventions framework for the youth justice system

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/assetplus-assessment-and-planning-in-the-youth-justice-system/assetplus-assessment-and-planning-in-the-youth-justice-system>

Issue 35: 24th February 2017

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YOT deployment update

There are **144 YOTs** operationally live with AssetPlus. The latest [YOT deployment list](#) can be found on GOV.UK.

Post go live support

At the point of go live, the main point of contact for AssetPlus practice queries for change leads and trainers is the [AssetPlus mailbox](#) or the support number on 0203 334 3045.

Discontinuing support for Asset

Support for the old Asset framework will be stopped from 1st July, following an announcement by Martin Skeats, Director of Finance and Business Assurance in the YJ Bulletin.

National Standards for Youth Justice Services specifies the use of a "YJB approved assessment tool" for children and young people receiving a statutory or out of court disposals, (see National Standards 2.1 and 4.1 and related standards). During the phased deployment of AssetPlus to YOTs, provision was made for a parallel running period when both AssetPlus and Asset were both accepted as a YJB approved assessment tool.

After the 1st of July 2017 AssetPlus will be the **only** YJB approved assessment tool. In order to comply with the requirements for the Youth Justice Grant and with National Standards, from this date YOTs must solely use AssetPlus for assessment and planning purposes with children and young people receiving a statutory order or formal out of court disposal. Correspondingly, from this date, YJMIS quarterly returns and young person placement information must be based on AssetPlus rather than Asset.

The YJB will continue to support remaining deployment and assist YOTs to share and embed AssetPlus practice now and into business as usual. The impact of AssetPlus will also continue to be assessed, both through post implementation reviews and the quality surveys YOTs are undertaking at specific intervals, as well as plans to conduct a structured evaluation.

If you have any queries regarding this communication or anticipate difficulties with engagement please email the assessment inbox assessment@yjb.gsi.gov.uk or contact the assessment contact number on 0203 334 3045.

Case Transfer update

A delay to the case transfer functionality was advised in YJ Bulletin 73 published on 20th January.

The successful implementation of AssetPlus is partially dependant on case transfer functionality being made available for use within your case management system (CMS). Whilst this is something that we (YJB) are working on with CMS suppliers, the associated testing work has not yet concluded and therefore we have been unable to make the functionality available to you thus far. You will no doubt appreciate that testing the transfer of different case types across the various case management systems is not without its complications. Much testing has already been completed and we have established a certain degree of confidence that point to point (i.e. YOT to Placements/Secure Estate and YOT to YOT) case transfer can work as required. But given the sensitivity of the data involved, the YJB need a higher degree of confidence before proceeding to enable the service.

Over the coming weeks the YJB shall continue to engage with suppliers to work through any outstanding issues and conclude testing. Only once both the YJB and CMS suppliers have a strong degree of confidence will the functionality be made available for YOT use.

In the meantime, some CMS systems may present the transfer option as available for use, this functionality should not be used as it may result in an undesirable outcome, possibly data corruption.

Other YJB data transfer types (e.g. YJMIS, EYE documents) should continue in line with [parallel running guidance](#)

We hope to be in position to provide more information on the enabling of AssetPlus case transfers in late March 2017.

AssetPlus and LAC cases

The National Case Responsibility Protocol should be followed when using AssetPlus in cases where young people are Looked After but move to another area and are known to the home YOT. The AssetPlus team have been made aware of instances where “home” and “host” YOTs are in difficulties in resolving how to update case management documentation, including AssetPlus. Principally, YOTs should negotiate the best solution for the circumstances of the case, bearing in mind the case responsibility protocol guidance, which can be found at p26 ([link as follows https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-protocol-for-case-responsibility](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-protocol-for-case-responsibility))

Technical Deployment

We are aware that CACI has issued a software service pack (3.1.2) containing a number of AssetPlus related updates. This service pack will address some of the known issues previously published on the YJB Resource Hub. Please refer to the supplier's release notes for further information.

PNLD (Police National Legal Database)

The latest PNLD offence list has been provided to all CMS suppliers. Your supplier will need to review this and consider in which software release to make this available to you. For further information, please speak with your supplier.

Improving AssetPlus Quality

Over the January and early February period, members of the AssetPlus team have attended practice development groups throughout England and Wales. At these events, we have engaged with the youth justice sector to discover their operational progress in developing practice to improve the quality of AssetPlus. The overwhelming impression is that colleagues have a healthy appetite for this subject.

YOTs have been able to list their emerging training and support priorities for YOTs and a review of these is being prepared to consider how best to support the sector as AssetPlus becomes business as usual. In some areas, colleagues from the secure estate have been able to feed in and discuss their experience of working with AssetPlus documents.

In nearly all areas, we have been able to agree a quality audit exercise to be conducted prior to the next meeting. At the next meetings, each group of participating YOTs will feed in their impressions on quality and in this way, we may form some impressions of "what good looks like".

We have also used these meetings to call for tools, products and procedures to aid the sector in the move to BAU in AssetPlus. These are now starting to appear on the Youth Justice Resource Hub in the 'Our Community' Area under 'Resources for Sharing', for example, a number of quality assurance approaches are now being uploaded, so that YOTs can review and use the ones they feel appropriate to their area. To access these resources either search the Resource Hub using the term "AssetPlus" and review the resulting list or use the attached step by step guide which explains how to find an example resource.



How to find
resources.zip

A group of reviewers is being established. As mentioned in newsletter 34, these are drawn from the sector and over time, will offer feedback on these products in order to continually improve what is available to aid the progress of quality and smooth running of AssetPlus.

How you can get involved

- Innovative tools and approaches, practices and procedures are already being developed to help with AssetPlus in the youth justice arena. These can be sent directly to Tony Hodgson (contact details below). The sender will be contacted to discuss how the new product should be used and what experience there is of working with it. For example, a developed approach on intervention planning may be of interest to others. With the intention of uploading the product to the YJ Resource Hub, it will first be piloted amongst a reference group of YOT AssetPlus developing practice reviewers.

- Help us to identify areas for development. The AssetPlus framework is not subject of review and of course, there will be new initiatives occurring affecting work with young people that were not envisaged when the framework was set. Therefore, we will need continued review of working practices. We envisage that regular contact in practice meetings in England and Wales will facilitate the exchange of learning here, so make sure your YOT is represented and briefed when these meetings occur in your area.

Send your products to and further information from Tony Hodgson – tony.hodgson@yjb.gsi.gov.uk

Feedback on the AssetPlus framework

Janice Woods, Change Lead at Liverpool YOT, recently spoke about her team's experiences of implementing AssetPlus.

Janice remarked that overall, the new system in itself had made staff think about assessment, risk and planning more, simply because the old Asset system was "too comfortable", with a reliance on scoring. She has noticed that whilst there are new concepts around assessing risk, some of which are proving difficult to get right, overall staff are better focussed on quantifying future behaviour than in the old framework. Janice feels that further support in this area is a high priority. Locally, gang-related issues are significant and therefore the numbers of high-risk cases pose challenges when considering both likelihood and impact assessments of a young person's behaviour.

She reported that there is confidence around desistance, but again, work to do. Janet said that "staff 'get' desistance as a concept, because it helps them to look at a young person's resilience". She believes that her colleagues will gradually become clearer on identifying and expressing factors for and against desistance, whereas the previous "positive factors" ratings got lost.

Generally, when thinking about how AssetPlus has worked in early practice, Janet identified the need for further work on intervention planning, but noted that the use of phrases "I will" and "we will help you by" – lends itself to greater understanding and ownership, by young people and their carers. Also, in terms of improved professional judgement, Janice says that this is now better supported, with the removal of a reliance on scores enabling clearer use of defensible decisions. She thinks that now, caseworkers "are more able to say what they think rather than what Asset tells them" to justify ideas and decisions about a case.

In summary, the early findings in Liverpool are that AssetPlus is leading to improvement in local working and her colleagues are fully engaged in using the new framework.

AssetPlus in the Secure Estate

Work has been continuing to develop the new application that will deliver AssetPlus to the youth secure estate. In addition to AssetPlus functionality, the application replaces many of the tasks and processes currently done using eAsset. To support secure establishments through the implementation of AssetPlus and the new system, the Youth Justice Applications Framework project is working with individual establishments using a deployment approach similar to that used for AssetPlus YOT deployment – supporting key business change activities and training throughout the implementation period. This work starts now, and we encourage YOTs to engage with relevant points of contact within local establishments so they are aware of the timescales for the implementation and how this may affect them.

Newsletter Feedback

Please let us know if your local contact for the newsletter will change. For this and any questions or comments on the **contents or format** of this newsletter, please contact the [AssetPlus mailbox](#).