

# Risk of Serious Harm to Others



Young person's name:

Referral number:

**Serious harm means death or injury (either physical or psychological) that is life-threatening and/or traumatic, and from which recovery is expected to be difficult, incomplete or impossible.**

## Harm-related behaviour

Harm-related behaviour is defined as:

- any behaviour that resulted in serious harm being caused to other people
- any behaviour that indicates that the young person was intending and/or preparing to cause serious harm to others
- any behaviour that was very likely to have caused serious harm to others unintentionally (for example, extremely reckless driving)

### 1. Behaviour

Provide details of any harm-related behaviour by the young person. You should consider all current and previous behaviour (for example, behaviour within the family, at school, in care homes, towards staff), and highlight any particularly worrying features (for example, evidence of elaborate planning on the part of the young person, unduly sophisticated methods, the use or acquisition of weapons).

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### 2. Victims

Provide details of any victims of the behaviour described above (for example, whether the victims were targeted, particularly vulnerable, subject to hate crimes).

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### 3. Context and circumstances of harm-related behaviour

Provide details of the immediate circumstances surrounding this behaviour (for example, the role of friends, drugs, emotions), and the longer-term issues contributing to it.

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## Current risk indicators

This section lists some of the key issues to consider. This is not an exhaustive list, so do not restrict yourself to these items only: you can use the evidence box to highlight any other relevant issues, and to support your answers.

Do any of the following indicate a risk of serious harm? (Tick all that apply)

- **Current attitudes to previous harm-related behaviour** (for example, denies the seriousness of actions, can justify own behaviour) ☐
- **Other relevant thought patterns** (for example, is driven for revenge, believes that certain people are 'targets' for behaviour, has fantasies) ☐
- **Current behaviour** (for example, plans dangerous behaviour, tries to put fantasies into practice, other odd or disconcerting behaviour) ☐
- **Current circumstances** (for example, has opportunities to commit planned behaviour, relevant anniversary approaching, build-up of stress) ☐
- **Any other concerns** (for example, concerns expressed by family members, teachers, colleagues, other young people) ☐

If you have ticked any of these factors, give evidence for each one here

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## Future harmful behaviour

In this section, consider each of the following types of behaviour:

- **Deliberate and intentional behaviour:**
  - a deliberate intention/goal to inflict harm on particular people
  - a desire to fulfil other goals which will inevitably involve harm to others (for example, violent fantasies involving actual people)
  - other deliberate behaviour which may result in serious harm, but need not necessarily do so (for example, arson)
- **Unplanned or unintentional behaviour**
  - response to provocation
  - reckless activity
  - not realising consequences of actions

**1. Are there indications that the young person will engage in behaviour that would cause serious harm to others?**

Yes ☐ No ☐

If 'Yes', please complete the rest of this section. If 'No', he or she can be assessed as 'low risk' in the next section (Conclusion).

**Details** (for example, what is the nature of this potentially harmful behaviour? Is it likely to be deliberate/intentional or unplanned? In what context/circumstances is this behaviour likely to occur?)

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**2. Who is at risk from the young person?** (for example, siblings, peers, authority figures, general public – include names if known)

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**3. How soon is harmful behaviour likely to occur?** (for example, is the young person actively seeking opportunities to cause harm? Would he or she commit this behaviour at the first opportunity? Are circumstances about to change that would make this behaviour more likely?)

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**4. How quickly do you need to take action?** (for example, is immediate prevention action needed? If no, when do you think the risk of the young person causing serious harm increases: on return to the family home after a care experience, on changing schools?)

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## Conclusion

Current classification for risk of serious harm to others using the evidence highlighted above:

- i) No evidence at present to indicate likelihood of serious harmful behaviour in future.  
No specific risk management work needed. ☐ LOW RISK
- ii) Some risk of harm identified but the young person is unlikely to cause serious harm unless circumstances change. Relevant issues can be addressed as part of the normal supervision process. ☐ MEDIUM RISK
- iii) Risk of harm identified. The potential event could happen any time and the impact would be serious.  
Action should be taken in the near future and the case will need additional supervision and monitoring (for example, local registration, oversight by middle/senior management). ☐ HIGH RISK
- iv) Imminent risk of harm identified. The young person will commit the behaviour in question as soon as he or she is able to or as soon as an opportunity arises, and the impact would be serious. Immediate action is required, and is likely to involve intensive multi-agency support and surveillance. ☐ VERY HIGH RISK

Is there any missing information that might change your assessment? Provide brief details

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Assessor's name \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Countersigned by \_\_\_\_\_

Date of review: \_\_\_\_\_