

**APART – a tool to evaluate support for young people at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

**What is the APART tool?**

APART (A Practitioner Assessment of Resilience and Risk Tool) is an assessment tool that enables services to measure and report on the outcomes achieved for young people with whom they work.

The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse funded APART’s development through their Evaluation Fund and it was originally designed in collaboration with Safe & Sound – a specialist service for sexually exploited young people. It has since been successfully used in other services.

The tool is intended to be completed by key workers every 3 months to help them track changes for individual young people from referral to case closure.

The APART tool consists of two parts to assess a young person’s:

* Strengths and vulnerabilities (written responses)
* Resilience and risk indicators (tick box scale)

The strengths and vulnerabilities section includes space for practitioners to comment on the young person’s situation at the time of each assessment. This contextual information helps services account for changes in young people’s resilience and risk factors.

The second part of the tool is based on 13 evidence-based indicators of resilience and risk. All indicators are scaled from 1 to 5 – where 1 represents the lowest resilience / highest risk and 5 the highest resilience / lowest risk. Examples are provided to guide practitioners in making their assessment.

Taken together, the APART tool is able to capture the progress of young people, but also the complexity of their lives.

**What are we offering?**

The APART tool is freely available for use – we just request that you inform us about the context and population with which it is being used and send copies of any findings reported.

However, if you require assistance with implementing the tool in your service and with analysing and reporting on the findings, then DMSS associate researcher Dr Anna Ludvigsen can provide a comprehensive support package for services.

The APART support package includes:

At the setting up stage:

* A guidance document for managers with suggestions and tips on how best to use the tool and ways to implement it into practitioners’ work.
* A guidance document for practitioners to help them assess the young people they work with.
* The APART form – services can choose to use an interactive form (to be completed / saved electronically) or a pdf version (to be printed and completed by hand).
* An excel spreadsheet for inputting the data (some services have chosen for practitioners to complete the assessment directly into Surveymonkey, which we can also advice on).
* Ongoing email support.

At the end of the data collection period (when the data has been transferred) we will:

* Clean and analyse the data
* Provide an 8 – 10 page report summarising the findings. The report will include sections on:
* The demographic profile of young people assessed
* Changes to the risk and resilience scores for all young people assessed
* Changes to the risk and resilience scores for young people with 2 or more assessments
* A comparison of progress for young people with high and low initial risk scores
* Three case studies of young people with 3 or more assessments (if the data is available)

**Timescale and number of assessments needed**

The timescale depends on the size of your service, how many young people you support annually on a one-to-one basis and the commitment of practitioners to evaluation. We recommend that you collect data for at least 30 young people before we carry out any analysis. Ideally young people will have at least two or three assessments each (e.g. an initial baseline assessment and one or two follow-ups). For some services this data may take 12 months to collect, others may do it faster. We will discuss this with you prior to the implementation stage.

We will produce a report of findings within a month of receiving the data.

**Project management**

Your service will need to identify a member of staff who will be responsible for data collection and ensuring that key workers complete assessments in a timely manner. Your service will also be responsible for inputting assessments into either excel or Surveymonkey (according to your preference) and maintaining a log of cases.

Your contact for this work will be with DMSS associate, Dr Anna Ludvigsen. Anna is an experienced researcher and analyst who was involved in the development and piloting of the APART tool.

**Costs**

The cost of the initial support package for 12 months is £1,750 – analysis and reporting for each subsequent year will be £1,250.

**Any questions**

If you have any questions or are interested in discussing how the APART support package could be useful to your service, please contact Anna Ludvigsen at [anna@dmss.co.uk](mailto:anna@dmss.co.uk).