PREVENTION AND DIVERSION | TOOLS & TEMPLATES | YJB ISSUED GUIDANCE

YJB's Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool (PDAT)

Published: 23/01/2026

Summary

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) has introduced the Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool (PDAT) which **must** be used for all cases that are subject to diversion and out-of-court interventions. The tool has been developed with consultation with a number of key partners, including front line practitioners, academics and HM Inspectorate of Probation. The use of the new assessment tool is optional for cases that are considered prevention.

Its main aims were to:

- Standardise assessments for children involved in prevention/diversion in Youth Justice Services (YJSs).
- Promote practice alignment with the Child First decision-making framework.
- Support consistent and proportionate assessments.
- Facilitate the collation of national-level data for children involved in prevention/diversion in YJSs.

Download the Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool (Word version)

Evaluation

The YJB commissioned Cordis Bright to conduct an independent process evaluation of its Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool (PDAT), along with the supporting training and guidance. This evaluation looks at how several different youth justice services across England and Wales are using the PDAT. It focuses on the rollout process rather than whether the tool changed long-term results for the children.
Evaluating the implementation of the Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool – GOV.UK

Quality assurance and guidance

In addition to the assessment tool, there are additional resources to assist youth justice services with the implementation of the tool. This includes guidance notes and a Quality Assurance (QA) document. The use of the QA document is optional, but may be useful as it includes prompts for the tool used within the template.

The YJB has also delivered training on the tool to youth justice services across England and Wales using a train-the-trainer approach.

Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool **Guidance** – These guidance notes have been developed to support the use of the Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool and also supplemented with a training programme. Read the Welsh translation of the guidance.

Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool **Quality Assurance Document** – (Optional) useful to staff as a prompt for the tool as they use the template.

Prevention and Diversion Tool Quality Assurance Planning Document – This is a QA document designed to assist with the QA process for the planning section of the Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool – PDAT. It is entirely optional to use, but can be used either by managers to ensure all elements of the plan are completed, or by practitioners as a guide to completion.

Child Self Assessment Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool Document – This is a self assessment tool that can be used with children as part of the assessment process, services are encouraged to develop this tool, with the children they are working with, to make the document appear more child friendly and to make it better reflect their local area. The Leicestershire example below is a useful suggestion.

Parent and carer self-assessment – This can be used by parents and carers as part of the Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool.

Explainer video for children

As part of the PDAT evaluation, a short explainer video was co-designed with children to help outline what the PDAT is, why it matters and how children can shape the conversation and their Plan. The video was designed to be shared before or at the start of the process to help demystify the assessment and promote meaningful engagement.

You can download the video using this link: https://www.closeupresearch.com/pdat/

English

Locally developed resources for the PDAT

Hackney and Nottinghamshire YJS have shared documents they have developed to assist with the **"My Plan"** planning section of the PDAT. The first document is a Q&A tool that can help managers and practitioners to ensure they are completing the planning section of the assessment tool comprehensively. These tools have been developed to be more accessible for child. Both tools fully align with the headings in the PDAT tool and therefore embed the strength based approach from the tool.

Leicestershire Youth Justice Service's **stylised version of the Assessment Tool** – Leicestershire Youth Justice Service have stylised the assessment tool. This tool is not mandatory. The whole tool should be completed with the child and family, so they will have the opportunity to ensure their voice is included in the assessment process. If services use the new self assessment, it is strongly advised that this document is developed to represent your local community and your children with the use of some coproduction with the children you supervise.

English

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