Release 4.3.1 - User Guidance

Introduction

This guidance is based on the ‘4.3.1 What’s New’ document that provides a more detailed account of the changes together with an example of the Sentence Plan Printout and a full list of questions available in the Standard and Full Assessments. The OASys Online Manual has also been updated for 4.3.1.

Additional information and guidance is available from other materials in the Briefing Pack. These will be available from the OASys lead in your Area but can also be found on the OASys section of EPIC:

- What’s New in eOASys Release 4.3.1
- FAQ document
- eOASys Online Manual
- “Which Layer Should I Choose?” handout
- “Fast Reviews” handout
- Tiering Guidance – revised Annex C
- Revised eligibility criteria for Accredited Programmes

Release 4.3 is intended not only to improve the risk predictors within OASys but to save practitioner time by reducing the size of the OASys assessment in accordance with the principle that resource should follow risk.

The main changes in Release 4.3.1 are:

- Layered Assessments – Standard and Full - where assessment detail is tailored to the type of offender. (The Basic Assessment will be part of Release 4.3.2 due for release later in the year)
- OGRS 3 - introduced to prisons.
- OGP (OASys General Predictor) and OVP (OASys Violence Predictor) to be introduced. These are two new predictors of the likelihood of proven reoffending that will replace the OASys score.
- Fast Reviews - allows the assessor to complete review assessments in shorter timescales where there have been no significant changes to the offender’s circumstances during the last review period.
- Sentence Plan Printout which has been redesigned to provide a simple, easy-to-understand sentence plan document which can be shared with the offender. The Risk Management Plan is also being incorporated into this printout.

A Layered Approach

The OASys Strategic Review recommended that a shorter version of the OASys assessment be developed for offenders who posed lower risks. ODEAT Research had indicated that it was possible to remove questions from the OASys assessment while still providing robust and valid predictors of risk. The layered assessment approach has been developed in conjunction with practitioners.

In Release 4.3.1, two layers are introduced. A FULL (Layer 3) assessment is slightly shorter than the original OASys assessment, and is designed for higher risk offenders. A shorter STANDARD (Layer 2) assessment has
been developed for offenders with lower risk and fewer needs. The offender record is unaffected by these changes.

The User Handout “Selecting a Layer” will be of assistance when selecting a layer. In the main, this will be very straightforward. However as the Layer is based partly on the Tier of the offender, there may be situations where the Tier is not clear, even following the interview with the offender, as Tier is partly based on the OGRS3 and OGP scores. In those circumstances, we advise Assessors to make the best judgment they can, given the evidence they have, but to err on the side of caution and choose a Full (Layer 3) if they are not sure.

The “Create Assessment” dialog will allow an assessor to:

1. Select the Purpose of Assessment;
2. Then the Assessment Layer
3. Then the type of Sentence Plan

It is important to note that:

• An SDR (PSR) report can also only be created if a Full (Layer 3) assessment has been chosen. (If the User selects the Purpose of assessment as ‘PSR’ and a ‘Standard (Layer 2), the dropdown to select the PSR template will not appear as there is no PSR template attached to this type of assessment.)
• Questions have been removed from sections in each of the STANDARD and FULL assessments but the remaining questions keep their current numbering.
• Pulling through from layered assessments - the rules about cloning from historic assessments apply to layered assessments. When cloning a new assessment from another assessment of the same layer then all the fields will be cloned.
• When creating a ‘Full’ assessment where the previous assessment was a ‘Standard’ assessment, all the information will be pulled through to the new assessment but as there are fewer fields on a ‘Standard’ assessment, the new ‘Full’ assessment will contain blank fields which will need to be completed.
• When creating a new ‘Standard’ assessment where the previous assessment is a ‘Full’ assessment then all sections will be pulled through but will be limited to the information that is relevant to the reduced number
of questions that exist in the ‘Standard’ assessment.

- Signing and countersigning – the signing, countersigning and rollback rules for both ‘Standard’ and ‘Full’ assessments are the same as currently apply.

New questions

- New questions (see Section 4, Section 6, Section 10 and R1.3) will have new numbers and are detailed in the ‘What's New’ Document. This means that question numbers may not be sequential.
- Please refer to the online helptext in the assessment for help answering the new questions.

Optional questions

- A number of the questions in the ‘Full’ assessment are optional. They have ‘(optional)’ in brackets after the question. This means that they do not need be completed to calculate OGP/OVP scores or to complete the assessment of the offender.
- For AT users the help text displayed at the bottom of the screen for each of the optional questions will have ‘optional’ written in front of it.
- Optional questions should be answered where the section is of particular relevance to the offender, or when additional information would provide useful evidence for the assessor. This can then be used as input for proposals and sentence plans and may provide useful information for other staff who may come into contact with the offender e.g. An offender in stable employment with no literacy problems would not need further information as this does not add value to the assessment. If, however, the offender was unemployed, and their lack of employment was linked to their offending behaviour, then the assessor would be expected to answer the optional questions, as they could provide useful, additional, information to identify the factors that would be addressed with the offender in the sentence plan.

Removed questions

- Some questions have been removed completely, and in a Standard (Layer 2) assessment, there are several questions that are not asked. This does not mean that this information is not relevant to risk and needs of the offender you are supervising.
- If the offender has particular needs or risk issues, these should always be recorded in the evidence box and addressed in the Risk Management Plan and the Sentence Plan, regardless of whether the OASys assessment specifically asks about this issue.

Criminogenic Needs

ODEAT’s research work has also resulted in changes to the questions used to identify criminogenic needs, and as a result, the cut-off scores for Criminogenic Needs have also changed. The screenshot below shows what will appear in the Summary Sheet for Full (Layer 3) assessments, showing the new cut-off scores for each need.
You will also notice that Finance and Emotional Wellbeing are no longer on the list of criminogenic needs. This is because the research conducted by ODEAT established that these areas were in fact not very predictive of reoffending.

Standard (Layer 2) assessments do not have sufficient questions to determine criminogenic needs, so these are not calculated.

There is one mandatory question on each section, however, to help identify criminogenic needs for the purposes of the assessment. For all layers, it is very important to think about each criminogenic need area in relation to the offender, using the evidence and what the offender tells you, to identify whether that area is linked to his or her offending behaviour.

The Summary Sheet for a Standard (Layer 2) assessment will display the criminogenic need areas that the assessor has identified as being linked to offending behaviour for that offender, to assist with the creation of a sentence plan.

**OGRS 3**

There is one new question in the OGRS 3 section of the assessment.

Question 1.26 asks how many of the previous convictions, cautions reprimands or final warnings include any violent offences. The number of violent offences should be entered. To help determine which offences are classified as violent, click on the yellow bubble with the question mark inside it. A dialogue box with a list of the violent offences is displayed.
If an OGRS 3 score has not been calculated then upon signing and locking the Risk of Serious Harm Screening, the assessor will receive a message box stating: “You have not calculated an OGRS3 score. Please go back and calculate this if you have the required information.” The user will be able to continue to sign and lock the Risk of Serious Harm Screening if they are unable to calculate an OGRS 3 score.

Please note, eligibility for Accredited Programmes are now based on the OGRS3 score. Please see the revised eligibility criteria (issued as part of the Briefing Pack).

OGP & OVP

The OASys General Reoffending Predictor (OGP) and the OASys Violence Predictor (OVP) replace the OASys score and are intended to be used together; all Standard (Layer 2) and Full (Layer 3) offenders will require scores to be calculated for both OGP and OVP.

OGP/OVP represents a significant improvement to the accuracy of the OASys predictors of the likelihood of proven reoffending. From a practitioner perspective it provides an enhanced level of defensible decision-making, particularly with the introduction of OVP enabling, for the first time, a more reliable assessment of the likelihood of future violent reoffending.

- Because fewer questions are used to calculate the OVP and OGP scores, the impact of a missing score is much greater. Previously a nominal value has been calculated for a missing score, so that the OASys score could still be calculated. This will no longer happen – if a scoring question is left blank, then the OGP and/or OVP scores will not be calculated.

OGP/OVP provide sound predictions of likelihood of reoffending over both 1 and 2 years, from commencement of supervision or release on licence. OGP replaces the old OASys score as an indicator of the risk of general reoffending and level of criminogenic need and will be used in the same way as the OASys score is currently used e.g. determining length of a proposed requirement or suitability for OBPs.

- OVP will make an important contribution to consideration of whether or not to complete a full risk assessment and to recommendations in parole reports.
- OVP will also be a factor in risk of serious harm assessments.
- OGP will provide an excellent guide to the likelihood of most non-violent reoffending.
- OGP/OVP can also assist with ROTL and HDC decisions.

Presentation

- OGP and OVP scores are shown on the Summary Sheet. The 1 year and 2 year scores are shown, together with the band (Low, Medium, High or Very High) into which the score places the offender.
- Where the assessor has indicated in the “Low Scoring areas that need attention in the Sentence Plan” table that a section is a low scoring area, some text will be added to the Sentence Plan section above 7.1
as a prompt to the user. This text will display “Low scoring areas that may need attention in the Sentence Plan are: “ followed by a list of the section names that have been indicated as Low on the Summary Sheet.

Changes to the PSR

- There will be some text added to section 3 of the PSR to indicate the OGP and OVP scores.
- The editable text will state; “of offenders with similar age, gender, criminal history and social/personal risk factors, about [Y] in 10 are known to reoffend violently and about [Z] in 10 non-violently within 2 years.”
- If OGRS 3 is the only score available, the text will state; “of offenders with similar age, gender and criminal history, about [X] in 10 are known to re-offend within 2 years of the date of their non-custodial sentence or release from custody”.
- If no scores are available then no text will be entered into the PSR. If changes have been made in the assessment to the OGP or OVP scores then the changes will be detected so that the PSR document can be updated to reflect the changes.

Fast Reviews

The OASys system will now allow completion of a Review Assessment (as normal) or a Fast Review. A Fast Review can only be completed where there has been no significant change for an offender, during a review period. Where there has been change of some sort, the change should not be risk enhancing.

The Definition of ‘significant change’ agreed with the Public Protection unit:

‘Any change in behaviour, attitudes or circumstances, possibly linked to identified dynamic factors, OR a breakdown of protective factors, that impact on the risk of re-offending and/or serious harm posed by the offender.’

- To select a Fast Review the assessor chooses Purpose of Assessment ‘Fast Review’ in the New Assessment dialogue box. The assessment type (layer) does not need to be changed when completing a fast review and will default to the previous assessment type – ‘Full’ or ‘Standard’.
• In a Fast Review, sections 2-13 are not editable, and after reviewing and updating the CaseID section if required, the assessor will skip straight to the ROSH Screening. After updating the ROSH Screening, the assessor will move on to the Sentence Plan, which is similar to the current sentence plan but with the addition of s6.1 - review of criminogenic needs.

• The assessor must answer the “Any Changes?” question against each OASys section to record whether there has been any change in that area. The Evidence boxes from each section from the previous assessment are displayed here, and the assessor can update these evidence boxes with any new information, but cannot make any changes to the scoring in these sections. All changes recorded here will be pulled through to the next assessment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OASys section</th>
<th>Any Changes?</th>
<th>Insert comments and details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Offence Analysis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Accommodation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Education, Training and Employability</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Relationships</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Lifestyle and Associates</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Drug &amp; Alcohol</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Alcohol Misuse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Emotional Well-being</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Thinking and Behaviour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Attitudes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• When completing Section 6.1 the user will have the opportunity to again consider any changes. If, on reflection, they decide that what they thought was a non significant change is actually a significant change, the Fast Review will need to be abandoned and a normal Review Assessment commenced.

• A Fast Review will always be recorded as the same layer as the last assessment. Where the last assessment was prior to Release 4.3.1 the Fast Review will automatically default to being based upon a Full (layer 3) assessment.

• A Fast review can be completed on any offender where there has been no significant change in their circumstances, but it is unlikely that a Fast Review will be appropriate for a high risk offender. If an assessor believes that they have a High Risk offender where a Fast Review is appropriate, we would advise them to consult with an SPO or PDA to ensure that this decision is defensible.

PLEASE NOTE: Start and Termination assessments cannot be a Fast Review.

**Sentence Plan Printouts**

Revised sentence plan printout templates for both Initial and Review Sentence Plans were put together and approved by the business team and a group of practitioners from prisons and probation. The Sentence Plan / Review Sentence Plan printouts are designed to be shared with the offender, so the format has been designed to be as user-friendly as possible and in a way that enhances offender engagement.
The new sentence plan printout templates allow the Sentence Plan and the Risk Management information based on the Risk Management Plan, to be printed out in a simple format. In the Review Sentence Plan printout, the objectives table will show the completed as well as the current objectives.

The sentence plan is available to be printed by the assessor at any time.

There is a button on the Sentence Plan section situated next to the ‘Show Me’ button called ‘View/Print Sentence Plan’, which will open a dialog box that allows the user to enter the supplementary information and to create the Sentence Plan.

Please note that:-

- This document is not editable as all the required information on the document is populated from the assessment – any changes should be made to the assessment not the printout.
- The printed document should be signed by offender and assessor.
- The Progress Review Date uses the date the assessment was completed, as this is a printout to be used by both Prison and Probation alike.
- If the assessment is a Review Sentence Plan, the dialog will look the same as for an Initial Plan but will contain a section for the current objectives from section 7.1, followed by any completed objectives under section 6.2

Inclusion of the Risk Management Plan:

- When creating an assessment, Assessors should remember that the Risk Management Plan will also be printed out with the Sentence Plan.
• This is good practice and is something that the offender should engage with
• Offender Managers should ensure that any information that the offender should not have access to is recorded in the INTBDTTO section and not in the Risk Management Plan. Offenders have a legal right to a copy of their OASys assessment (excluding the INTBDTTO section), and, in fact, in prisons will automatically receive a copy
• The standard Risk Headings have been used in the printout in accordance with their relevance to this document. The headings in OASys remain intact.