

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CEREDIGION YOUTH JUSTICE SCREENING TOOL (CYSTEM).

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Risk assessment in Youth Justice

- Asset and now Asset Plus is predominant risk assessment tool used in Youth Justice;
- Multi-faceted – covers whole range of behaviours under static and dynamic risk;
- Produces global risk score – reliant on accurate and complete data;
- Overall theoretical background places greater emphasis on criminogenic factors;
- Welfare model of Youth Justice suggests that vulnerability might be equally (if not more) indicative of problem behaviours and potential offending.

Pilot Questionnaire - two sections:

- Risk of offending:
 1. Thoughts/justifications for anti-social/criminal behaviour
 2. Exposed to anti-social/criminal environments
 3. Anti-social/criminal behaviour
- Vulnerability risk:
 1. Child protection register
 2. Strategy meeting
 3. 'Looked after' child or social services involvement
 4. NEET, homeless or school attendance
 5. Mental health services contact
 6. Self-harm, suicide ideation or attempts
 7. Substance abuse
 8. Domestic or sexual abuse association
 9. Reckless behaviour (incl. sexual activity)

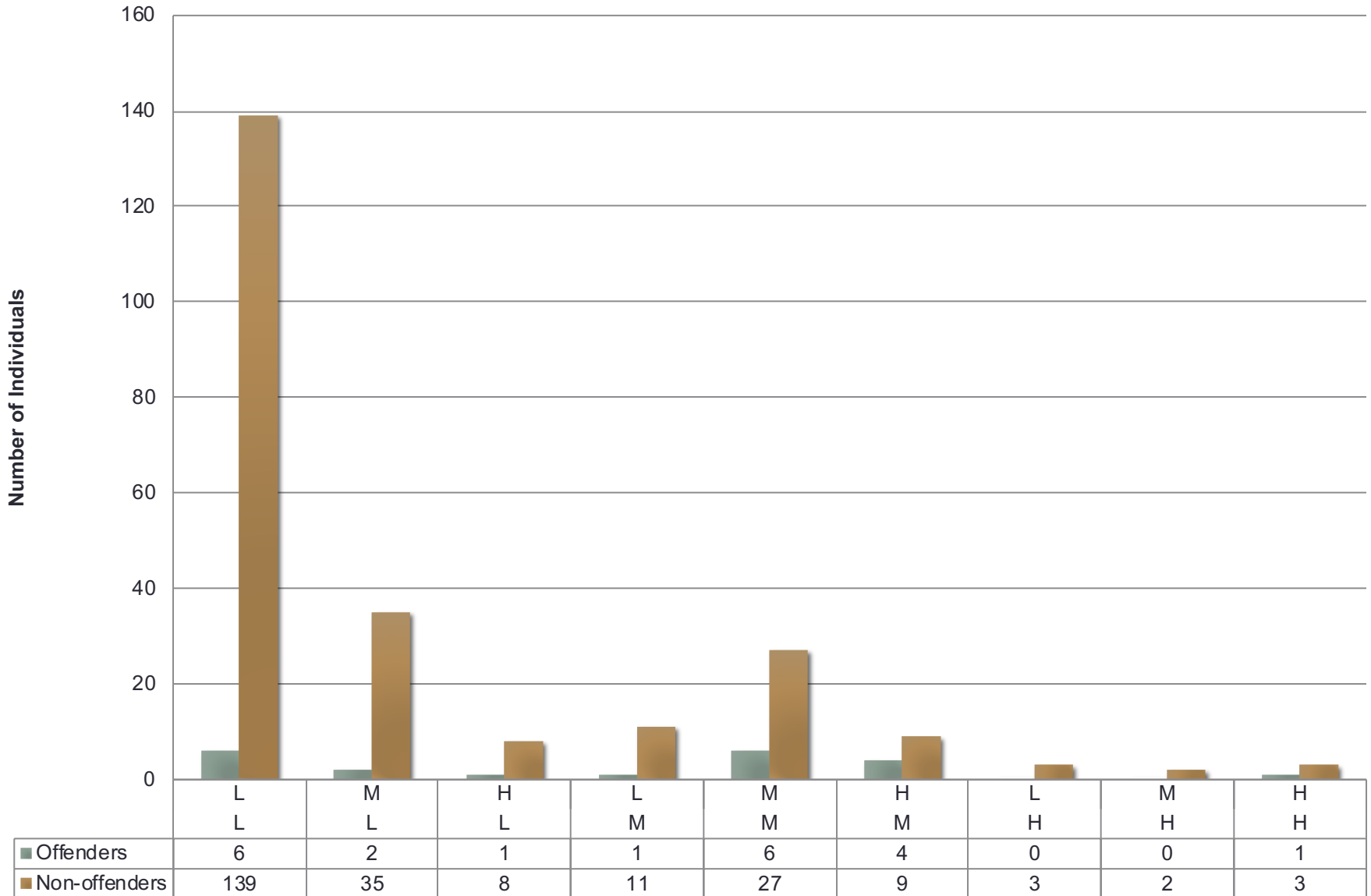
Scoring:

- Risk of offending (0-12):
 - 0-2 low
 - 3-6 medium
 - 6-12 high
- Vulnerability (0-15):
 - 0-1 low
 - 2-4 medium
 - 5-12 high
- Produces two separate indices – no global index
- Risk of offending is scored 0-4
- Some vulnerability scored 0-1 (present/absent) and some weighted from 0-2 dependent on credibility of evidence

Preliminary Data Analysis – Sample:

Crim.	Vuln.	Offend	Non-off	Total
L	L	6	139	145
L	M	2	35	37
L	H	1	8	9
M	L	1	11	12
M	M	6	27	33
M	H	4	9	13
H	L	0	3	3
H	M	0	2	2
H	H	1	3	4
Total:		21	237	258

Preliminary Screening Results

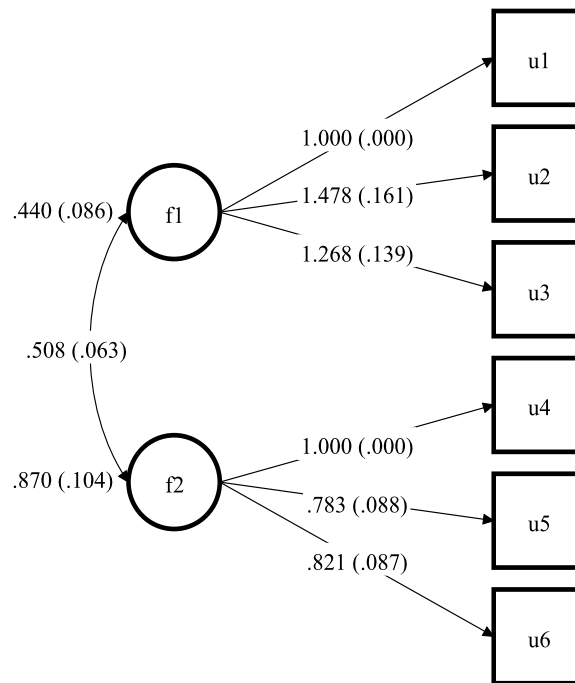


Scale refinement:

- Due to low frequencies in many categories, the tool was revised from 12 down to 6 items.
- The three Risk of Offending items remain; three Vulnerability items retained are:
 - Q3: Looked after child/child in need/social service/disability
 - Q8: Living with perpetrator of DV and/or sexual exploitation
 - Q9: Reckless/harmful behaviour (incl. sexual)
- The six items are now recoded in a binary (0 -No/Absent and 1- Yes/Present) format.
- Sample of 267 referrals made from February 2014 to September 2015.
- 60% Male; 40% female.

Sub-scale items:	Standardized		
	B	S.E.	p
Criminality			
1. Criminal/Anti-social thoughts	.458	.080	<.001
2. Criminal/Anti-social environment	.480	.080	<.001
3. Criminal/Anti-social behaviour	.209	.077	<.01
Vulnerability			
4. Looked after child/in need/social services/disability	.057	.077	>.05
5. Living with DV and/or sexual exploitation	.754	.085	<.001
6. Reckless/Harmful behaviour	.818	.085	<.001

Table 1: Standardized Factor Loadings for the six-item two-factor structure.



Screening properties:

Screened:	<u>CYS</u>Tem		<u>ROF</u>		<u>ROV</u>		
	<i>Out</i>	<i>In</i>	<i>Out</i>	<i>In</i>	<i>Out</i>	<i>In</i>	
Offended:	No (93%)	34%	66%	52%	48%	46%	53%
	Yes (7%)	11%	89%	25%	75%	29%	71%
Total:		32%	68%	50%	50%	45%	50%

Table 2: Percentage of offenders and non-offenders in each binary group for scale total and individual sub-scales. Both CYS^Tem and ROF-subscale were significant at the .01 level ($X^2=6.52$ & 7.25 respectively).

- AUC (*Area Under Curve*) score was .645 ($p=.011$; 95% CI=.549-.740).
- ROF .677; ROV .615.
- Anything over .5 better than chance – good .64 and above (Rice and Harris, 2005)

Validation:

- Preliminary validation of the six items shows significant differences between offender and non-offender sub-groups for Criminality and Vulnerability sub-scales and six items overall;
- Strong correlation with Onset scores;
- Binary 1-0 (absent-present) scoring system;
- Additional analysis of items removed for any significant predictors, i.e. one hit on a particular item might identify a specific 'at risk' sample (e.g. mental health);
- Comparison with control group and additional samples.

Summary and conclusions:

- Main aim – to target resources at those most likely to offend
- However, relatively low-number of offenders in sample
- Criminogenic factors appear most predictive
- Further validation needed – additional and more diverse samples
- Feedback from case managers has been positive and the increased knowledge has been useful
- Tool being used from April 1st in Ceredigion Youth Justice screening programme