

A Risk of Antisocial Behaviour or Offending screening tool (RASBO) is a tool that has been designed to be used to think through if a child is specifically at risk of antisocial behaviour and/or offending. The RASBO can be used for children 8 and over.

It highlights risk factors that can be linked to offending and aims to support professional assessment and intervention. It covers a number of areas such as living arrangements, relationships, lifestyle, substance use, thinking and behaviour etc.

It does not include a scoring mechanism because it should be used as an aid to professional judgement.

The RASBO does not replace the CERAF or the DASS screening tool and these should still be completed if needed.

Why is it important?

Children aged 10 or over can be held 'criminally' responsible for their actions and made subject to a range of youth justice disposals in response to offending behaviour. This can have an impact on future education, training and employment options and long-term life chances.

In many cases, early intervention can reduce involvement in the youth justice system or divert them away entirely.

This tool should be used by Children & Families Service professionals, in conjunction with professional judgement, to consider whether a child (aged 8 or over) is, or could be, at risk of offending and/or anti-social behaviour.

To support professional judgement, there are no strict criteria in terms of scoring or recommendation. It is important to recognise that indicators do not automatically equate to involvement. However, where there are multiple 'yes' answers for the factors below, or several factors in any one category, consideration should be given to what actions can be taken to reduce the likelihood of entry (or re-entry) into the youth justice system.

The purpose is to inform the work and support with a child and family that is undertaken.

How do we do it?

The RASBO comes with clear guidance on how to complete and considerations for a plan going forward.

If in your view, the child is at risk of offending and/or anti-social behaviour it is important to retain perspective and ensure that you are intervening at the lowest level, at the earliest possible stage, before escalating concerns or levels of intervention. Referrals to other professionals should only be made where existing and/or universal services are not able to meet levels of risk/need posed and the child/family are willing to engage. Alternative options might include:

- Discuss with the family to highlight concerns and agree what steps they can take to prevent escalation
- Identify positive activities and networks which the child can be part of, to provide positive influences, develop skills and or enhance levels of support and guidance.
- Discuss with the child's school to identify a key worker who can support or work with the family.
- Identify key relatives, appropriate family friends or existing workers who can support the child or family to address the specific concerns identified by completion of this tool without referring to an additional service.
- Include areas of concern in existing interventions and ensure the rationale (preventing offending) is clear to support outcome-based planning.
- Access advice from Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams, and share information regarding concerns



One Minute Guide Risk of Antisocial Behaviour or Offending Tool (RASBO)



- Consult with YOT services for advice and information on strategies or tools which you can use in your work with the child/family.

A contact can be made to Portsmouth Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for intervention at Tier 3 or Tier 4 if relevant thresholds apply.

If a child is at risk of serious harm, this should be immediately reported to Children's Social Care and/or the Police. Other actions can be agreed but must not replace referral to the appropriate service. A CERAF form should also be completed where exploitation is identified or suspected.

For more information:

[Risk of Antisocial Behaviour or Offending screening tool](#)