

CRIB SHEET - ABELS

Pre-Screen Questionnaire



Please read before completing questionnaire

It is important that you do not make assumptions about someone's communication before you use the ABELS pre-screen questionnaire.

Many people are very skilled at hiding communication difficulties and areas of concern may not be apparent from an everyday conversation. The pre-screen questionnaire works to highlight where there may be a breakdown of communication e.g. understanding of words, dates and times. Without knowing this there is a risk that you will be gathering unreliable evidence.

It is important that the individual answers the questions for themselves. You may need to remind people with them to let them speak. If you think you need to check for the accuracy of information given this can be done afterwards.

PRE-SCREEN QUESTIONNAIRE

- **The pre-screen can be used as part of a structured conversation or in the presented questionnaire format. Ideally this should be done in person but if this isn't possible it can be done over the phone.**
- **Use your judgement, you may feel it is appropriate not to ask all the questions. However, you may also want to ask additional questions as necessary.**
- **Listen carefully as you may gain a sense from talking to someone that they have some underlying difficulties, even if you aren't sure what. E.g. does someone take a long time to respond, are they appearing anxious etc?**

1 BACKGROUND

- This helps identify people who need extra support at home.
- It is an early indicator of people who may have difficulty with timeframes.

2 HEALTH

- Most people will tell you information about themselves if you ask the right questions. You can extend the questions to find out a bit more.
- Some people may not be aware of their diagnosis, or may not have been given one, especially in relation to learning difficulties.

3 SCHOOL

- This will help understand the person's experience of education. Many people who have hidden communication difficulties will have had difficulty at school.
- If someone has attended any form of school for special educational needs, they will have some level of communication difficulty.

4 ADDITIONAL HELP

- Everyday activities that we take for granted are challenging for some people.
- People will tell you if they get confused or in a muddle in stressful situations, but only if you ask.
- Asking if people have other difficulties allows them to offer additional information which might be helpful to know.
- Previous involvement with police may have affected their willingness to engage.

If you are concerned, seek advice and take care asking questions and explain processes simply. Otherwise the person may not understand what you are asking and give unreliable information.