



**INFORMING  
FUTURES**

1625 Independent People

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# PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

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This resource is part of the Informing Futures toolkit. It was co-created with young people, and reflects what they felt practitioners most needed to understand in order to work successfully with care and custody experienced young people.

For more information or queries on any of the topics covered in this toolkit, or to find out about training and consultancy we can offer please contact [enquiries@1625ip.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@1625ip.co.uk).

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Answer every question, don't think about your answer too long and put down your first answer. Choose the answer that is closest to your own response.

## Q1

**You are walking down the street with your partner and see a client you are currently working with, walking down the street towards you.**

Do you?

- a) Ignore them
  - b) Make eye contact and see what they want to do
  - c) Nod a brief hello to them
  - d) Stop and chat with them
  - e) Stop them and introduce your partner
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## Q2

**One of your clients notices you are reading a book by his/her favourite author, you have just finished the book and can tell he/she would love to read it.**

Do you?

- a) Give them the book as you have finished with it
- b) Hurriedly put the book away
- c) Discuss the ideas and themes of the book with them

- d) Suggest they join the local library
  - e) Offer to lend them the book
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### Q3

#### **A client asks if you have a partner and children?**

Do you?

- a) Give a totally honest answer
  - b) Tell them it's none of their business
  - c) Acknowledge your situation without giving too much information away
  - d) Get out your family photos
  - e) Have a moan about your partner / lack of partner
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### Q4

#### **One of your key clients who suffers from depression and is a heavy cannabis user is always late for your meetings if they turn up at all.**

Do you?

- a) Keep offering them appointments and do the best you can.
- b) Make extra effort to remind them about the appointments.
- c) Offer to make home visits.
- d) Tell them they need to turn up or the sessions will end.
- e) Spend the session looking at their inability to turn up on time
- f) Try and devise an action plan with them to deal with the issue

g) Tell them that when you smoked cannabis it made you lazy as well

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**Q5a**

**A client who you have been working with closely relapses badly into old negative behaviours that leave them worse off than when you started working with them.**

How do you feel?

- a) Sad
  - b) Annoyed
  - c) Disappointed
  - d) Angry
  - e) Nothing, they're just a client
- 

**Q5b)**

Do you?

- a) Track them down and get them in for a 1-2-1
  - b) Send them a message to come and see you when they are ready
  - c) Talk to other clients about what is happening for them
  - d) Let them get on with it, they will come and see you if they are ready
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## Q6

**A client tells you that you really ‘get’ them and no one else understands them, and that they think you are a wonderful person.**

Do you?

- a) Thank them and say that they are a special person
  - b) Act pleased but modest
  - c) Explain that you are just doing your job
  - d) Tell them to stop being soft
  - e) Give them a hug
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## Q7

**A client gets engaged and says that they will invite you to the wedding and that they would really like you to be there after all you have been through together.**

Do you?

- a) Say you will start looking for an outfit.
  - b) Tell them that you don't think it is appropriate for you to go.
  - c) Tell them you would love to come but professional boundaries mean that you can't.
  - d) Be vague, intending not to come anyway.
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## Q8

**A new client spontaneously gives you a hug at the end of a particularly good session.**

Do you

- a) Hug them back and tell them what a positive session it was

- b) Let them hug you but don't really engage
  - c) Avoid the hug and tell them that it is not appropriate
  - d) Accept the hug and tell them it is not appropriate
  - e) Tell them not to ever touch you
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### Q9

**You turn up to meet your friends for a drink in the pub. You see one of your current clients in the pub with some of her friends.**

Do you

- a) Ignore your client all night
  - b) Speak to your client and suggest they leave the pub
  - c) Ask your friends to leave with you to another pub
  - d) Take the lead from your client, acknowledging them if they you but then keep some distance
  - e) Buy your client a drink
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### Q10

**One of your clients brings you a reasonably expensive bottle of perfume / aftershave as a gift towards the end of your time working with them.**

Do you?

- a) Accept the gift with thanks
- b) Refuse the gift explaining that you aren't able to accept it
- c) Accept the gift but say you will have to give it to your volunteer coordinator

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**Q11**

**You are chatting with your client and they make a racist joke.**

Do you?

- a) Smile to yourself but walk away
  - b) Keep a straight face and say nothing
  - c) Challenge the client directly about the implicit racism
  - d) Say that you find the joke offensive
  - e) Remind them of the rules about racist language
  - f) Laugh (but not too loud)
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Disclaimer: This self-assessment tool aims to get you to think about yourself and your behaviours. The answers are supposed to be representative examples not cast-iron guidelines or rules to behaviour. A good worker should be aware of all relevant legislation and their own organisation's policies, and be confident to act within these.