



## Referral Order Initial Panel Report

<b>Date of panel meeting:</b>	24/03/2020
<b>Name of young person:</b>	Axel Rudakabana
<b>Address:</b>	10 Old School Close, Banks, Southport, Lancashire PR9 8SB
<b>Age:</b>	13
<b>Offences:</b>	S47 assault Possession of an offensive weapon Possession of a bladed article
<b>Date and length of order:</b>	19/2/2020 10 months
<b>YOT case manager:</b>	Anna Croll

**This is a Referral Order Report as defined by Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999**

**It has been prepared according to the relevant National Standard, and has been prepared for this panel only**

**My Initial Panel Report – Axel**

**1 - My goals and interests:**

**2 - What is going well?**

**3 - What am I finding difficult?**

**4- My thoughts and feelings about what happened:**

**5- My ideas for making things right:**

**6 - The main reasons I got into trouble:**

**7 - What will help me to stay out of trouble?**

## Initial Panel Report – Key Assessment Information

### 1 - Key Information about the child:

Axel lives at home with his mother, father and brother in the Banks area of Lancashire. Axel spent the earlier part of his childhood in Cardiff however, the family moved to Southport for work. Axel's parents moved to the UK from Rwanda before he was born. Axel reports his parents keep in touch with family however, he reports he does not keep in contact with family. Axel's parents provide him with a good standard of care and appear supportive of him.

Axel has previously attended 'The Range' school in Formby but was expelled in October 2019 after it was discovered that Axel was taking a knife into school due to bullying. Axel was then educated at 'The Acorns' school in Ormskirk until this incident and after that had been educated from home. Axel is described as academically able however, he his behaviour appeared to deteriorate around the end of his time at 'The Range' and The Acorns describe that he displayed disruptive behaviour in class. Axel states that he did not like the 'Acorns' school due to the amount of monitoring. Axel's father feels that the level of work given to Axel wasn't appropriate. At this moment in time 'The Acorns' will not allow Axel back into school until a risk assessment has taken place. Axel's family are now exploring the possibility of an Education and health care plan.

Axel is currently being seen by forensic CAMHs after a referral was made by the criminal justice liaison and diversion team when Axel was arrested for this offence. Axel has previously had referrals to CAMHs which were rejected and Axel accessed other support. Axel is now on a waiting list for exploration of a diagnosis of ASD. Axel does not feel that he has ASD however, a number of professionals have expressed concern that Axel does display traits of ASD.

Axel does not have a history of Children's Services involvement. Axel was referred to Children's Services in October 2019 however, the matter was referred to Child and Families Wellbeing service but it was reported that there was little engagement. Following this offence the family were referred to Children's Services. The family have closed to Children's Services and will be receiving support through child and families wellbeing.

Axel does not appear to have many positive uses of time. Axel enjoys watching TV and going on his computer but he appears very socially isolated. Axel describes not having many friends and now he is not in school he will have limited opportunities to engage with his peers. Axel's parents would like to get him involved in clubs but Axel is reluctant to do this as he reports that he has not been allowed to do this before.

Prior to this incident Axel has not had any involvement in the criminal justice system.

Axel is not known to use any substances.

## 2- Offence Information:

Axel was interviewed about the offence and cooperated fully. Axel describes that he had been bullied for a number of weeks at his previous school. At this time Axel was attending the Acorns school in Ormskirk. He informs that on the day of the offence he took a taxi to his former school 'The Range'.

Axel got to the school and entered school premises. At this point a teacher had seen Axel and attempted to stop him as he was aware that Axel was no longer a pupil and shouldn't have been in school. Axel describes that the teacher was chasing him but he did not stop. Axel then took a hockey stick from underneath his jacket and struck another young person.

When describing his actions Axel stated that he had gone to school to confront a young person who had been bullying him whilst at his previous school. Axel states he had told adults about the bullying but they hadn't done anything about it. Axel looked for the other young person but couldn't find him as he wasn't in school that day. At his point Axel is described as taking a hockey stick out of his coat and attacking a group of year 9 pupils. Axel struck one of these pupils causing reddening to his hand and arms. At this point he was restrained by teachers and taken to the head teachers office.

Axel was asked if he had previously had any trouble with the young person who he attacked which he denied. When asked about his actions Axel stated they were wrong as that young person hadn't done anything to him. Axel told the police that due to the teachers following him he decided to attack the other young person as he knew he would get into trouble so may as well do something to get in trouble for.

When Axel was stopped and taken into the school office it was discovered that he had a knife in his bag. Axel informed the police that he had taken the knife with him. Axel told me that he wasn't sure why he had the knife as he hadn't planned to use it. He did admit to wanting to assault the other young person who was not in school.

Axel does appear to recognise that his actions were wrong. Axel appears to struggle to think about how the victim would have felt and appears to think that they would be ok as they had received compensation.

### **3 - Victim Information, including victim impact and views towards Restorative Justice Intervention:**

No victim impact statement has been completed and so far the victim has not been contacted. Axel appears to feel that the victim will be fine as he has had compensation for the offence. Axel appears to struggle to understand how the victim would have felt.

### **4 - Parent/ Carer views:**

Axel's parents appear to feel disappointed about what happened. They feel that bullying has pushed Axel towards his actions. Axel's father wrote a letter to a professionals meeting stating that he felt that being at the 'Acorns' school had contributed to the offence.

### **5 - What strengths or opportunities for change have been identified?**

- Axel is academically able.
- Axel is pleasant and polite with workers.
- Axel has supportive parents who provide pro social values.

### **6 - What are we worried about (key areas of intervention)?**

- Axel appears socially isolated. He reports to not have many friends and does not do any activities. Axel has stated that he doesn't want to do any activities. This leads to concerns around his emotional health and wellbeing.
- Axel is not in school at this moment in time.
- Axel does not appear to fully understand the consequences of his actions and how his actions have affected others.
- Axel carried weapons into school on at least two occasions. It is likely he does not understand the potential negative impact of his actions.
- Axel potentially has ASD which is being explored.
- Axel struggles to recognise the impact of his actions.

### **7- Overview of Likelihood of Re-Offending, Risk of Serious Harm, Safety Well-being levels, Frequency of Contact:**

When considering risk of reoffending I have assessed Axel as 'medium' at this time. Axel appears to have reacted to a situation that he could not manage appropriately. On the occasions that we know about when Axel has carried weapons this has been in response to a certain perceived threat. Although this doesn't justify his actions it does provide some insight into when Axel may engage in offending behaviour. This also provides some insight into triggers for his behaviour which could potentially be managed with communication between professionals. Axel is not known to have engaged in antisocial or offending behaviour outside of school. There are few times when Axel doesn't have appropriate adult supervision and little time spent outside the family home therefore, he has limited opportunity to engage in offending behaviours.

When considering risk of serious harm there is no doubt that Axel may have caused serious harm if he had found his intended victim or if he had continued to attack the student he harmed. The fact that Axel was carrying knives is also of concern but I note that he did not use them and there is no intelligence to suggest he has taken them in the community (aside from carrying them to school). Axel's lack of antecedent history means that it is unlikely that Axel is at imminent risk of harming others. Axel does not appear to be involved in any offending behaviour in the wider community.

Axel's negative behaviours appear to be in a school environment and a response to a specific situation he was finding difficult. I acknowledge that Axel's attack became a 'random' attack which does raise his risk of harm to others. At the moment he is not in school and if he were to return to a school environment it is likely that he would be much more closely monitored and should concerns arise more measures would be put in place to reduce Axel's risk of serious harm. Staff also noted that they noticed a change in Axel's behaviour prior to the incident. If professionals are aware of Axel's behaviours then measures can be put in place to support him and reduce the risks. Axel also appears extremely isolated therefore, the imminence of him being in situations where he could harm others is reduced.

It is concerning that Axel has previously been open to Prevent due to accessing materials around the harming of others however, Prevent have closed Axel due to having no further concerns. Axel does not appear to have carried out any behaviours related to these searches and appears merely to be looking at the materials.

Axel's potential diagnosis of ASD may affect how he relates to others. Therefore, he may struggle to understand how his victims may feel. He may also struggle to resolve conflict around relationships with peers appropriately which may have contributed to this offence.

When considering risk of harm to self Axel does not appear to have any thoughts of self harm. I am concerned that Axel appears isolated from his peers. Concerns have also been raised around undiagnosed needs. If Axel does have ASD he is unlikely to receive support until he has a

diagnosis. A lack of support or understanding of his needs may affect his emotional wellbeing. Axel's parents do appear loving towards him and supportive of him which is a protective factor. They have been proactive in seeking additional support for him.