

Message

From: Barrett, Sharon [/O=LCCEXCHANGE/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BARRETT, SHARON992]
Sent: 11/06/2020 07:05:17
To: Fontaine, Andrea [Andrea.Fontaine@lancashire.gov.uk]
Subject: RE: Concerns following AR TAF Meeting 19/05/20

Andrea,

That was very professional and well put.

Sharon Barrett
Senior Practitioner
Children and Family Wellbeing Service.
Lancashire County Council

T: 
M: 
W: www.lancashire.gov.uk

From: Fontaine, Andrea
Sent: 10 June 2020 18:14
To: Mrs Eccleston <j.eccleston@westlancspcss.lancs.sch.uk>; Mrs Hodson <j.hodson@westlancspcss.lancs.sch.uk>; Croll, Anna <Anna.Croll@lancashire.gov.uk>; Ramsay, Janet (CYP - EPS) <Janet.Ramsay2@lancashire.gov.uk>
Cc: Oates, Pita <Pita.Oates@lancashire.gov.uk>; Barrett, Sharon <Sharon.Barrett2@lancashire.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Concerns following AR TAF Meeting 19/05/20

Good afternoon Jane,

I have also struggled with engagement at times, however, more recently I have been able to maintain contact with Alphonse.

There was no direct work with Axel specified when the case stepped down from Social Care, however it was identified that Axel would benefit from some work around social interaction and appropriate responses to support him when he returns to school.

As discussed in the last TAF meeting (TAF notes attached), Axel is struggling to engage over the telephone and video call. It was discussed and agreed that for Axel to benefit from the work this would need to be carried out face to face, and that we would try to find a way to facilitate such work should Axel return to school this term, which we now know is not the case.

I have encouraged Alphonse to allow Axel to return to school earlier, and I have informed him that Axel's transport is being looked into. Alphonse said he made the decision following a conversation with school and as he was given the option to wait until September he has chosen to take it. As a consensual service, if neither Alphonse or Axel want to engage with us until face to face support is an option then that is their choice to make. There are no safeguarding concerns I am aware of that would override the need for consent.

We will refer Axel onto a transition zoom group supporting children in returning to school, in which Axel can interact as much or as little as he chooses, so for his own comfort, he could just listen. We will maintain intermittent contact with the family during these difficult times, with a view to reopen once Axel is returning to school, as this would be the most beneficial time to complete the work with him. In addition to this The Youth Offending Team will be maintaining regular contact with the family and Axel as per his court order, so there will continue to be professional oversight for the family over the summer weeks.

In regards to the Home School Agreement, Alphonse did contact me as he could not decipher from the text message what the form was, and thought this form was for him to sign Axel out of school for home education. He did not have a copy of the form to send me so that I could see what it was and reassure him, so I suggested he take his time to read it and understand it before signing it. Alphonse has since said he has got the form and will return it by post.

If there is a change of circumstance and Axel returns to school this term then we will of course happily stay involved to support him, providing both Alphonse and Axel consent and engage with our service.

My manager Sharon Barrett is aware of the case and is happy to have a discussion with you about this if you so wish.

Kind Regards

Andrea Fontaine

Key Worker

Children and Family Wellbeing Service West Lancs

Southway Neighbourhood Centre

DPA

From: Mrs Eccleston <j.eccleston@westlancspcss.lancs.sch.uk>

Sent: 09 June 2020 15:57

To: Fontaine, Andrea <Andrea.Fontaine@lancashire.gov.uk>; Mrs Hodson <j.hodson@westlancspcss.lancs.sch.uk>; Croll, Anna <Anna.Croll@lancashire.gov.uk>; Ramsay, Janet (CYP - EPS) <Janet.Ramsay2@lancashire.gov.uk>

Cc: Oates, Pita <Pita.Oates@lancashire.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Concerns following AR TAF Meeting 19/05/20

Good afternoon Andrea,

I think it's important to share that school has had quite a few issues in engaging with the family, despite efforts put in over the months. In view of your email below indicating that it 'leaves little by the way of a role for our service at present,' I'm a bit concerned that if CFW isn't involved over the summer - when schools will not be in the position to make any provision for students - we will find it more challenging to reach Axel in September if he does not return soon.

My understanding of **working together to safeguard children 2018** with regard to early help services such as LCC CFW service, is that services should improve family functioning and build the family's own capability to solve problems. We are happy to work with you on this and you appear to be having more success than school. It would help us if you could continue to work directly with Axel over the summer?

We feel the family need more support so that they do engage and trust us and he will eventually re-engage with some learning. Also there is a real need for services to work closer together during these unprecedented times

We have made substantial efforts to engage Axel and indeed parents, to support him. However, they appear to be putting up barriers. We have tried various methods to provide learning for Axel and methods for contact to be maintained between him and specific staff. He won't engage with any of the learning.

We can provide 1-1 teaching on site as described by Jo. We could have him taxied in and that is being looked at. We don't know of any other barrier? You appear to suggest there may be others?

Today, colleagues went to the home to visit and asked parents to read and sign our reviewed Home School Agreement and behaviour policy, which is something we have to do as part of our risk assessment process advised by both the DfE and LCC. This is the case for all of our pupils and future admissions. I have learned that dad would not sign this today. This in itself is not a concern as I understand he may want to peruse it thoroughly, but I suspect he will not return it to us or may refuse. It's really essential our families understand why this is important at this time and all parents have been supportive. Is there a possibility that you could support with this?

The picture for September is not clear for any school but the 1-1 teaching is in place. However, it is necessary that the family get the message from other services to consider Axel re-engaging as soon as possible.

I welcome your thoughts in relation to this email.

Best wishes,

Jane

Remember - be kind to yourself and others

Jane Eccleston
Headteacher
The Acorns School
Ruff Lane
Ormskirk

DPA

<http://www.theacornsschool.co.uk>

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From: Fontaine, Andrea <Andrea.Fontaine@lancashire.gov.uk>

Sent: 09 June 2020 13:55

To: Mrs Hodson <j.hodson@westlancspcss.lancs.sch.uk>; Croll, Anna <Anna.Croll@lancashire.gov.uk>; Ramsay, Janet (CYP - EPS) <Janet.Ramsay2@lancashire.gov.uk>

Cc: Mrs Eccleston <j.eccleston@westlancspcss.lancs.sch.uk>; Oates, Pita <Pita.Oates@lancashire.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Concerns following AR TAF Meeting 19/05/20

Hi

I don't think the transport was the only barrier but I know it was the main issue due to the distance and Alphonse being unable to leave Axel's brother at home alone for that length of time.

I apologise if my language wasn't clear, I simply meant would the offer for Axel to attend school with 1:1 still be available in September should he not return this half term.

If Axel does not return to school this half term, that leaves little by the way of a role for our service at present. Once we are able to resume face to face support or Axel returns to school (whichever is sooner) we could look at reopening the family to CFW service.

Kind Regards

Andrea Fontaine

Key Worker

Children and Family Wellbeing Service West Lancs

Southway Neighbourhood Centre

DPA

From: Mrs Hodson <j.hodson@westlancspcss.lancs.sch.uk>

Sent: 09 June 2020 12:50

To: Fontaine, Andrea <Andrea.Fontaine@lancashire.gov.uk>; Croll, Anna <Anna.Croll@lancashire.gov.uk>; Ramsay, Janet (CYP - EPS) <Janet.Ramsay2@lancashire.gov.uk>

Cc: Mrs Eccleston <j.eccleston@westlancspcss.lancs.sch.uk>; Oates, Pita <Pita.Oates@lancashire.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Concerns following AR TAF Meeting 19/05/20

Good afternoon,

We have asked all our parents to bring pupils in themselves, if possible, because of the need for social distancing. If this is the only barrier to Axel returning to school we can look at this again. There would have to be a risk assessment carried out by LCC transport first.

We have offered Axel 1-1 with a specialist teacher in school, in the first instance. This would need to happen and be successful before we would be able to offer anything else. It's all about a graduated approach and assessing at every step of the way.

If Axel and his family choose not to take up this offer, he will be taught via the virtual team, that is the only other option that he has. So far he has chosen not to engage with this.

I'm not sure what you mean by "pick back up in September". We are likely to be continuing with the current model in September of a campus team and a virtual team. We would not be able to consider putting Axel into a classroom with other children until he has engaged with 1-1 teaching and we have been able to assess his response to this.

Thank you

Joanne Hodson
Deputy Headteacher and SENCO
The Acorns School
43 Ruff Lane
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DPA

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From: Fontaine, Andrea <Andrea.Fontaine@lancashire.gov.uk>
Sent: 09 June 2020 12:27
To: Mrs Hodson <j.hodson@westlancspcss.lancs.sch.uk>; Croll, Anna <Anna.Croll@lancashire.gov.uk>; Ramsay, Janet (CYP - EPS) <Janet.Ramsay2@lancashire.gov.uk>
Cc: Mrs Eccleston <j.eccleston@westlancspcss.lancs.sch.uk>; Oates, Pita <Pita.Oates@lancashire.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Concerns following AR TAF Meeting 19/05/20

Good afternoon,

Thank you for the update. I have spoken to Alphonse who has explained the difficulty he would have getting Axel to school as I believe transport would not be provided, is that correct?

Please can you advise what the plan would be moving if Axel does not return to school, will things continue as they are for the time being and then pick back up in September?

Kind Regards

Andrea Fontaine
Key Worker
Children and Family Wellbeing Service West Lancs
Southway Neighbourhood Centre

DPA

From: Mrs Hodson <j.hodson@westlancspcss.lancs.sch.uk>

Sent: 03 June 2020 17:10

To: Croll, Anna <Anna.Croll@lancashire.gov.uk>; Fontaine, Andrea <Andrea.Fontaine@lancashire.gov.uk>; Ramsay, Janet (CYP - EPS) <Janet.Ramsay2@lancashire.gov.uk>

Cc: Mrs Eccleston <j.eccleston@westlancspcss.lancs.sch.uk>; Oates, Pita <Pita.Oates@lancashire.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Concerns following AR TAF Meeting 19/05/20

Good afternoon,

Just to update you all. We have been in contact with Dad today to discuss arrangements for Axel to return to school with a 1-1 teacher.

Dad has advised us that he does not intend to send Axel to school this half term.

Thank you

Joanne Hodson
Deputy Headteacher and SENCO
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From: Croll, Anna <Anna.Croll@lancashire.gov.uk>

Sent: 22 May 2020 16:13

To: Fontaine, Andrea <Andrea.Fontaine@lancashire.gov.uk>; Mrs Hodson <j.hodson@westlancspcss.lancs.sch.uk>; Ramsay, Janet (CYP - EPS) <Janet.Ramsay2@lancashire.gov.uk>

Cc: Mrs Eccleston <j.eccleston@westlancspcss.lancs.sch.uk>; Oates, Pita <Pita.Oates@lancashire.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Concerns following AR TAF Meeting 19/05/20

Hi all,

Thank for your email raising concerns. Apologies for the delay in replying. My thoughts and observations are below. I have also included in this email my summary of my assessment of Axel. Axel has been assessed using the Youth Justice Assetplus framework.

With regards to the email raising concerns I echo what Andrea has said. Although Alphonse's mind set in relation to the offence isn't conducive to helping Axel to understand the mistakes but we can continue to challenge this as I did in the TAF and as Andrea has offered to do in the future. I am also happy to have those conversations with father. We can also work with Axel to understand this too. When I spoke to him he appeared to realise to an extent that his actions weren't acceptable but it is an area for further work.

I will also point out that given our definition of serious harm I would still assess Axel as medium risk of serious harm. Although I would agree that there is an increased opportunity to commit offences or serious harm I do not assess that this would push him into the realms of high risk by our definition. However, should new information come to light our risk assessments are reviewed regularly and when significant new information or incidents occur.

If your risk assessment concludes that Axel can not be in a classroom or school environment it may be beneficial to discuss this with Axel and Alphonse so they full understand that decision and have the opportunity to challenge this appropriately. It will also need to be considered what provision would meet Axel's needs as the current provision doesn't appear to be meeting Axel's needs. I do recognise that Axel hasn't been completing work and been compliant with school however, it needs to be considered if there are alternative arrangements that can be made.

Here is a summary of the Assetplus that I completed:

RISK OF SERIOUS HARM: MEDIUM

When considering this I have taken into account the definition of serious harm which is 'some risk identified but the offender is unlikely to cause serious harm unless circumstances change'.

When considering risk of serious harm I have assessed Axel as medium risk of serious harm. When considering risk of serious harm I note that Axel hasn't caused serious harm in the past and has a short antecedent history however, there are concerns that Axel has carried knives in the past and used offensive weapons (hockey stick). Given Axel's lack of remorse at the time of being arrested there are concerns that he doesn't understand the severity of his actions which would be reinforced by father's views. Axel is able to vocalise that his actions were wrong but it is unclear if he has a deeper understanding of this or if he has adjusted his views to what he feels others want him to say.

Axel has a potential diagnosis of ASD which may affect how Axel sees situations. Axel may not understand the potential serious harm that he could cause towards others. At this moment in time Axel has few interactions with peers which limits his opportunities to learn appropriate social responses rather than resorting to negative responses.

I am concerned that should Axel feel a sense of injustice, grievance or conflict that he does not know how to respond to in a positive way that he may try to take matters into his own hands and resolve them in an inappropriate way which may harm others.

RISK OF REOFFENDING: LOW

I have considered that Axel has an extremely short antecedent history and appears to centre around October to December 2019 where on two occasions he was found with weapons.

Axel appears to struggle with peer relationships and appropriate responses to conflict. Axel is currently being assessed for ASD which would affect how he perceives peer relationships and his interactions with his peers. Should Axel find himself in conflict with peers he may struggle to understand how to resolve these issues without resorting to conflict.

Axel does not appear to fully comprehend the consequences of his actions. Axel stated he attacked the other young person as he knew he would get in trouble anyway but failed to see that if he complied with requests to leave the

building he would have been in less trouble. It is concerning that Axel may not comprehend the consequences of his actions as he may not make fully informed decisions that may dissuade him from engaging in negative behaviours. Axel's use of the internet has previously been a cause for concern due to the content that he was accessing. However, Axel has been assessed by Prevent who do not believe there is a risk however, Axel could be vulnerable. Should Axel spend increased time on the internet on inappropriate sites he could be at risk of grooming into offending behaviour. At the moment Axel does not interact with his peers due to the Covid 19 pandemic and not being in education therefore, any opportunities to engage in negative behaviour are reduced.

SAFETY AND WELLBEING: MEDIUM

When considering Risk to Axel's safety and wellbeing I have assessed him as 'Medium' risk. Axel is very isolated and appears to struggle to make appropriate relationships with peers. It is suggested by some professionals that Axel may have a diagnosis of ASD which may put him at risk of bullying from his peers as he may struggle to relate to them appropriately or not react in a 'normal' way to a situation.

When considering physical wellbeing Axel has carried weapons in the past which puts him at risk of harm from the emotional impact of using the weapons or physical harm from being harmed with his own weapon.

Axel's internet has sometimes been inappropriate which may lead to both physical and emotional harm. Axel has been accessing inappropriate content online which may affect his emotional wellbeing. This also puts him at risk of grooming from others online.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Anna

From: Fontaine, Andrea <Andrea.Fontaine@lancashire.gov.uk>

Sent: 21 May 2020 09:50

To: Mrs Hodson <j.hodson@westlancspcss.lancs.sch.uk>; Croll, Anna <Anna.Croll@lancashire.gov.uk>; Ramsay, Janet (CYP - EPS) <Janet.Ramsay2@lancashire.gov.uk>

Cc: Mrs Eccleston <j.eccleston@westlancspcss.lancs.sch.uk>; Oates, Pita <Pita.Oates@lancashire.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Concerns following AR TAF Meeting 19/05/20

Good morning,

Thank you for your email raising concerns.

I appreciate there is concern and frustration around the perceived mind-set of Alphonse and Axel. This can be challenged through conversation with Alphonse, which I am happy to do. However, I don't feel that this increases the risk posed by Axel, because there is appropriate parenting in place.

In terms of Alphonse wanting mainstream schooling for Axel, he also mentioned the possibility of an alternative provision being suitable, but at the end of the meeting was in agreement with, and showed an understanding of, Axel returning to Acorns on a 1:1 basis, and awaiting the decision in regards to the EHCP request.

In any case, Alphonse's view of his son's temperament and behaviour, and his expression of his preferred educational placement, does not, in my opinion, influence the risk level.

As discussed in yesterday's meeting, Anna's risk assessment is not the basis for Axel's return to education. Therefore I think it would be beneficial to have a copy of your risk assessment to be able to see exactly where

within school the risk lies and what measures can be put in place through the TAF process to support it. Perhaps we could arrange a TAF meeting for the week following half term, as I feel it would be beneficial for these concerns to be raised during the meeting to allow appropriate challenge on some of these issues. This gives Alphonse an opportunity to respond to the challenge and provides Axel with an opportunity to contribute his thoughts, feelings and wishes.

I can appreciate that all necessary strategies need to be put in place to ensure everyone's safety, however there does not appear to be any new or additional information shared that would suggest an increased risk.

Kind Regards

Andrea Fontaine

Key Worker

Children and Family Wellbeing Service West Lancs

Southway Neighbourhood Centre

DPA

From: Mrs Hodson <j.hodson@westlancspcss.lancs.sch.uk>

Sent: 20 May 2020 11:56

To: Fontaine, Andrea <Andrea.Fontaine@lancashire.gov.uk>; Croll, Anna <Anna.Croll@lancashire.gov.uk>; Ramsay, Janet (CYP - EPS) <Janet.Ramsay2@lancashire.gov.uk>

Cc: Mrs Eccleston <j.eccleston@westlancspcss.lancs.sch.uk>; Oates, Pita <Pita.Oates@lancashire.gov.uk>

Subject: Concerns following AR TAF Meeting 19/05/20

Good morning,

I need to share my concerns with you following the TAF meeting yesterday for Axel Rudakuba, and I would appreciate your input as fellow professionals.

- Neither Dad nor Axel seem to have moved on in their thinking in the 6 months since the incident.
- Dad seems to be of the opinion that Axel carried out the attack because of events at The Acorns, specifically the "fight" that he continues to refer to.
- Dad stated that Axel is concerned over the level of monitoring at The Acorns. Axel is annoyed by it and Dad doesn't know how he will respond. "It agitates him and his reaction is not the Axel we know at home".
- Dad does not see any value in any of the work we do at The Acorns, he seems to think our pupils all have learning difficulties. He does not accept that Axel is with us for a specific reason.
- He is of the opinion that Axel needs to be at a mainstream school supported by a TA. I did state in the meeting that Axel would not be able to go to a mainstream in the immediate future, but I'm not sure whether Dad accepts this, as he repeated the request later in the meeting.
- Dad seems to perceive that Axel is the victim rather than the perpetrator. He excuses his behaviour, even excusing him carrying a knife "because he was frightened". Anna did point out that this was still not an appropriate response, but Dad did not seem to accept this and seeks to deflect blame.
- Dad stated that he is "A very good child, very respectable, but "If you do something to me, I do something to you harder"". Dad agreed that Axel needs help in learning that this is not an appropriate response, but then stated that Axel can be immovable and once he's made his mind up that's it. This concerns me as potentially any work we do with Axel might be undermined by Dad.

- So far we have had complete non compliance with school work provided. Dad expressed his concerns that The Acorns do not teach Axel in the way he likes to learn, which again is deflection as he has been offered a lot of support, including daily phone calls and emails and individual support from senior teachers via Microsoft Teams.
- Anna discussed that YOT considered that there was medium risk of serious harm but because of lockdown imminence wasn't there. If we do bring Axel back in 1-1 with a specialist teacher, we will then have opportunity and imminence.

In view of the meeting yesterday, I feel that Axel poses to us all as a school has increased rather than reduced. I have a duty to both staff and pupils in raising my concerns with you.

Can you let me know your thoughts, please?

Joanne Hodson
Deputy Headteacher and SENCO
The Acorns School
43 Ruff Lane
Ormskirk
Lancashire
L39 4QX

DPA

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