

REPORT ON BEHALF OF CHARLOTTE RAMSDEN (DCS)

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TO CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
ON  
9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020

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TITLE: Route29

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that Children's Scrutiny Panel:-

- Consider the positive progress Route29 has achieved for young people at the edge of care and at risk of placement breakdown
  - Continue to support the adopt and adapt of Route29
  - Request further information as necessary
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Route 29 is an integrated service for adolescents with complex needs that brings together a team of specialists working together through a shared practice framework. The model operates as an edge of care/outreach service, focused around a re-purposed children's home that acts as a hub to bring together a multi-disciplinary team: including a clinical psychologist, police, speech & language therapist and keyworkers. This is to reduce number of adolescents that come into care and for most it can be very short periods and also prevent placement breakdown and OOB placements.

Programme structure and implementation:

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIP WORKING including Young people

- Partners and Senior leadership team including lead member buy in remains and an update was presented in May 2020
- Take Route29 approach across residential homes.
- Young people that have worked with Route29 to support in the development of future hubs 2021
- Clear process in place if YP is already working with Complex Safeguarding Team or Youth Justice Service to avoid duplication

**IMPLEMENTATION**

- Hub operating at full capacity with specialist team, supporting YP and families through lockdown
- Embedding Deep Dive, reflective practice into care planning and reviews –now virtual

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**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**

Not applicable

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**KEY DECISION: NO**

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**DETAILS:**

**Route 29 case work**

Case referrals to Route 29 began in February 2020 and to date there have been a total of 145 referrals to the service of which 44 have subsequently closed to the service.

Of the 103 referrals, 33% have ‘Strong likelihood for need of a placement if an intervention is not put in place’ and a further 33% ‘Outside of family without an intervention over time the placement is highly likely to disrupt’. This demonstrates the level of demand for Route 29 to reduce new placements and to reduce placement breakdown and further highlights the decrease in new IFA and OOB placements.

**Avoidance of OOB and in-house residential placements**

Of the referrals to the Route 29 service, five cases have subsequently utilised the bespoke placement at the Lledr Hall provision and then safely returned home to family or carer and thus avoiding being placed in an OOB of in-house residential setting. Nine cases have been deflected from entering care and four cases have been discharged from care following intervention from Route 29

**Comparison data**

<b>FY started</b>	<b>IFA</b>	<b>OOB</b>
16/17	39	28
17/18	40	28
18/19	30	34
19/20	13	18
20/21	12	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>112</b>

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**KEY COUNCIL POLICIES:** Not applicable

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# EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

Route29 objectives include:

- An overall reduction in spend on commissioned placements. Work commenced January 2019 this has identified a cohort of young people who will following in depth work be returned to the City.
- The hub will support young people with their emotional and mental health by having immediate access to specialists offering training and clinical supervision to staff, including a coaching role in case discussions (forensically reviewing cases if needed); developing formulations and clinically informed practice; and being part of high risk case decision-making process.
- Support young people in addressing criminal behaviour. We have seen a reduction in missing from home for young people
- Covid19 Route29 have been working with young people at high risk of coming into care or placement breakdown. This has included face to face contact with young people across the city. Route29 stop have been using the hub as their base. Route 29 is 7 days a week service 365 days a year.

## ASSESSMENT OF RISK:

- The ‘do nothing’ scenario would mean increase in LAC, Out of Borough Placements and rise in adolescents with challenging behaviours

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS Supplied by: Not applicable

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS Supplied by: Chris Mee Finance Officer

Route 29 officially launched in January and went live February 2020. Prior to this launch, work has been undertaken to review all placements with a resulting reduction in original base cohorts of 21 outside placements (OP’s) (48 to 27) and 31 independent foster agency (IFA’s) (63 to 32), which have in part been offset by new placements (15 OP’s and 13 IFA’s) to the end of June 2020. Overall financial impact on placement budget of these net reductions are detailed in the table below

	<b>£m</b>
Full-year benefit as a result of ending 21 original baseline cohort of 48 placements	+4.8
Cost of the 15 “net” new placements	-3.2
Full-year benefit as a result of ending 31 of original baseline cohort of 63 IFAs	+1.3
Cost of the 10 “net” new IFAs	-0.6
<b>Net Benefit to end June 2020 – Full-Year Impact</b>	<b>2.3</b>

In addition, there has been significant cost avoidance through the ACT programme work which to date has prevented 10 young people from going into an outside placement.

There was an overall reduction in the LAC pressure of £0.728m during 2019/20 from that reported in the first monitoring report (May 19) and further full year impact savings are included within the above position in table A (further £0.4m).

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PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS Supplied by: Not applicable

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HR IMPLICATIONS Supplied by: Not applicable

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CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS Supplied by: Not applicable

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OTHER DIRECTORATES CONSULTED: Not applicable

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WARDS TO WHICH REPORT RELATES: ALL