

## **Introduction to ART**

ART is envisaged to be a resource that assists in devising and creating bespoke packages of support and/or care in the following areas :-

1. Edge of Care provisions
2. Rehabilitation home from care
3. Fragile placements
4. Rehab into foster home from residential

It may also serve a role in the area of welfare checks.

If a case is accepted by ART, the funding for the case is provided by ART and not the social work teams. This also requires that ART is the primary source of direction on the case, as ART is accountable for any spend involved.

ART aims to deliver a truly bespoke service, depending on need, that drives to move families forward into change, eases pressure on Children's Services and makes effective use of EDT.

It should be a service that can input high levels of support where needed. For example, one rehab support package involved 60 hours in the first 2 weeks plus telephone support. This then reduced down steeply from weeks 3 onwards.

It should be flexible in its approach, with workers able to manage a need for an increased service delivery, or immediate changes in plans. For example, providers have found workers fluent in Romanian and Hebrew to work with families in their first language.

If a referral comes in for Welfare Checks, or Fragile Placement, the provider must be able attend that day, or certainly within 24 hours of the referral.

Above all else, it aims to be cost effective when compared to the long term financial implications of foster care, or a child in care moving from a foster family to residential.

## **History of ART and the criteria for cases**

ART origins began as early as late 2010, when a package was put in place to support a young boy to remain at home. From here, we began to devise packages of support for fragile foster placements, to avoid disruption and to increase engagement and life chances of young people in care.

This period met with a number of successes. Whilst unable to keep all children stable, the work undertaken with the young children and/or people provided solid evidence of behaviours, how to manage them and most importantly, how to

engage the young person. This was used to secure alternative placements, often with continued involvement from the provider in the transition period.

The packages of everyday support grew and developed, and it became apparent in January 2012 that this was a provision wanted and needed by all teams, although its focus remained on maintaining foster placements.

Therefore, in August 2012, it was decided to trial ART as a fully operational service from 17<sup>th</sup> September for 6 months.

The basis of any ART package is primarily focused on improving outcomes for families, but also contains the very important factor of cost saving as described above.

The criteria was set up to be very boundaried, so as to stop any duplication of work from other areas such as Crisis Intervention or Short Breaks. Standard protocol throughout all areas of work is as follows :-

- Packages are reviewed within 4 weeks of package beginning
- Reviews held at least monthly following this.
- Allocated CMT/Assessment Social worker expected to attend all review or planning meetings
- Reports are submitted from the provider on an agreed basis – normally weekly but some packages have required daily reports.
- No increase or decrease to any package can be carried out without ART agreement first and foremost.

All current ART providers have a contract in place, and from May 2015, a tender will be in operation, with 3 providers securing places on this tender.

### **ART Criteria**

In order for ART to agree funding a package of support, your case must meet one of the individual criteria as follows :-

#### **Edge of Care**

- A child or young person within the family must be at close risk of accommodation into care. This is particularly relevant if the case has gone to LPM already.
- Packages are created based on the cost of in house foster care
- Whole family approach taken – changing a child will not work. Whole family change has to occur.

- Key figure support – keeping the number of workers to an absolute minimum to aid relationship building and trust, as well as avoid loss of information in high intervention packages.
- Reports sent directly to allocated social worker, and all other professionals noted as needing sight of work undertaken and issues as they arise. This could include legal, health and/or education
- Regular review at Complex Needs Panel. Normally attended by ART only, but allocated social worker also expected to attend where needed.
- High level of flexibility expected from providers – these packages are the ones that will have ‘rapid response’ situations. Often work will be later nights and early mornings, so only providers who are proven in safeguarding knowledge and risk evaluation are used for these packages.

### **Rehabilitation Homes**

- Safeguarding risk must be low or this must be directed by courts
- Packages created based on cost of in house foster care. The only exception is when a young person is being rehabilitated home from residential care.
- Whole family approach is taken – adjustment from all family members, including extended family need to be taken into account.
- Given rehabilitation plans home are devised with mostly strong evidence that it will work, the packages are guided to reduce significantly over a short period of time, to a monitoring level that remains in place for at least 6 weeks after the initial package. The aim is to support a return home and its transition, not to ‘parent’ the family in the long term to stop accommodation.

### **Fragile Placements/Outreach packages**

- Ideally identified before Fragility meeting takes place
- Package created around cost of IFA provider less the current in house provision. This includes knowledge that an alternative placement is likely to be residential in some cases, which allows for a greater degree of flexibility in creating packages of support.
- Package may be long term, if package proves to be providing a sustained change, and a breakdown would result in IFA provision. If this is the case, packages are a handful of hours per week, much like a mentoring or befriending scheme.
- Current Foster Carer is expected to engage in the package, as guided by the Supervising Social Worker, if this is appropriate. Some cases have been holding placements whilst waiting for PITSTOP to become available for example.

### **Welfare Checks**

- Not currently funded by ART
- Monitored by ART as 2 ART providers used and a number of cases have transitioned naturally into Edge of Care packages as opposed to legal proceedings.

### **ART Referral Process**

Once you have ascertained one of the above is met, please complete the Fostering or Prevention referral form, also known as a FoP referral.

Please forward this to all of the names listed at the front of the form.

Once received, if Crisis Intervention Service have space, they will pick up the work. If they are unable to, it will flow through to ART.

ART will discuss the package required with you, either by telephone, email or in a direct planning meeting, if the case allows time for this. As the social worker, you will be fully advised and informed of any package suggested and will receive confirmation of the provider, workers name and intended start date as soon as this is finalised.

As the social worker, you will receive reports directly from the provider assigned to the case, so you have up to date information.

The case will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the quality of the work and that progress forward is maintained. You will be invited to the reviews, but if you are unable to attend, an email or verbal discussion is accepted.

ART operates an out of hours phone for providers to ring through and discuss cases that are receiving a service out of office hours. This ensures that any issues or concerns are dealt with promptly and updated information sent to social workers timorously.