



Derby City Council

Corporate Parenting Committee
24 July 2018

ITEM 7

Report of the Strategic Director of People's
Services

Independent Reviewing Service - Annual Report 2017/18

SUMMARY

Children in Care Council Summary

Every child that comes into care has to be allocated an IRO. The IRO's responsibility is to chair the statutory review as well as to make sure the council is taking into account the child's wishes and feelings and the care plan is right for the child. The IRO annual report provides information about the work the IRO service has done over 2017/18.

All the IRO's are experienced and qualified social workers, they are settled in their jobs and there has been little movement in the service, which is very good as it provides stability for the young people they are IRO's for. Each IRO has just over 70 young people for whom they are responsible for. They are getting busier and spend a lot of time travelling to meetings and to see young people in care. IRO's work closely with social workers and others to make sure the views of young people are listened to.

It has been a busy year for the IRO service, with more young people coming into care, more reviews, more young people involved in their meetings and more reviews held on time. The feedback from young people and parents has been very good.

The IRO's work very hard to ensure that they do a good job. Feedback from inspections has said that the IRO service is good.

- 1.1 The IRO Handbook 2010 provides the statutory guidance for Independent Reviewing Officers and Local Authorities on their statutory functions in relation to case management and review of looked after children. As part of this statutory guidance there is a requirement for the manager of the IRO Service to produce an annual report for the scrutiny of the members of the Corporate Parenting Committee.

The IRO service completed 1,341 statutory reviews in 2017/18, this is 304 more than in 2016/17

- 1.2 96% of statutory reviews held have been within required timescales. This is over of our target of 95%
- 1.3 The IRO service has continued to work very hard to ensure children and young people participate in their review. In 2017/18, 97% of all reviews had children and young

- people participating in them.
- 1.4 The IRO service has received positive feedback from the recent mock steady inspection about its effectiveness and relationship between the IRO's and young people.
- 1.5 Feedback forms of the review process from children and parents have also been overwhelmingly positive.
- 1.6 The IRO service continues to remain stable with an experienced and knowledgeable team of IRO's. The IRO service has continued to maintain and build good working partnerships with social workers and team managers in social care as well as external partners.

The IRO service has worked effectively over the last year to ensure the voices, wishes and feelings of young people in care are reflected in their care plans, as well as ensuring efficiency in reaching permanency in a timely way.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To consider content of report and make appropriate recommendations

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 As part of IRO Handbook 2010 statutory guidance there is a requirement for the manager of the IRO Service to produce an annual report for the scrutiny of the members of the Corporate Parenting Committee.
- 3.2 It is essential that the Corporate Parenting Committee are aware of the performance of the IRO service, issues that may be impacting on this and children in care population that the IRO service is providing a service to.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Independent Reviewing Service Annual Report 2017/18

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Andy Smith Strategic Director of People Services
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For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Pervez Akhtar DHoS QA Childrens 01332 641120 Pervez.Akhtar@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications
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Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

1.1 None

Legal

2.1 Statutory obligations for the IRO service and Independent Reviewing Officers will be contained within the report

Personnel

3.1 None

IT

4.1 None

Equalities Impact

5.1 None

Health and Safety

6.1 None

Environmental Sustainability

7.1 None

Property and Asset Management

8.1 None

Risk Management

9.1 None

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 The content of this report underpins the priority commitment, Protecting vulnerable children, young people, adults and older people. Making sure that we take action to safeguard vulnerable adults and children that require higher levels of support including; our looked after children and vulnerable adults with learning disabilities. This will involve early intervention and prevention wherever possible.