

Report of the Deputy Director (Children's Social Care) to the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on 10th January 2018

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Subject: Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Annual Report 2016-2017

Summary statement:

The IRO manager should be responsible for the production of an Annual Report for the scrutiny of the Members of the corporate parenting board. This report should identify good practice but should also highlight issues for further development, including where urgent action is needed. IRO Handbook section 7.11

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Portfolio:

Children's Services

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

1.1 The IRO Annual report should make reference to:

- Procedures for resolving concerns with an analysis of the issues raised including the outcomes.
- The continued development of the service including IRO case load numbers, make up and diversity of the team.
- Participation of children and families.
- Timeliness performance of review meetings.
- Outcomes of quality assurance audits in relation to the organisation, conduct and recording of reviews.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 IRO Annual Report includes data collected for our Children Looked After (CLA) from 1st April 2016 to 30th November 2017. It presents the IRO overview of service delivery to our CLA for this Panel.

3. REPORT ISSUES

See above summary.

4. OPTIONS

4.1 The IRO Service presents its findings to this Panel.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

5.1 The Government made it a legal requirement for an IRO to be appointed to participate in case reviews, monitor the local authority's performance in respect of reviews, and to consider whether it would be appropriate to refer cases to the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass). This is set out in Section 26 of the 1989 Act, as amended by the 2002 Act

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 That the Panel endorse the key priorities for the Service, as set out in Appendix 1.

6.2 That future IRO Annual reports be submitted to the September Panel meeting.

7. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Not applicable.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. APPENDICES

Appendix 1- IRO Annual Report.