

## BRIEFING REPORT

### Corporate Parenting Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 27 January 2022

**Report Title:** Independent Reviewing Officers Annual Report, 2020-2021

**Report of:** Deborah Woodcock, Executive Director of Children's Services

|                                  |              |   |   |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---|---|
| <b>Corporate Plan Priorities</b> | <b>Open</b>  | An open and enabling organisation               |   |
|                                  | <b>Fair</b>  | A council which empowers and cares about people | X |
|                                  | <b>Green</b> | A thriving and sustainable place                |   |

#### 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The report gives an overview of the activity of the team of Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) who review the care plans of our cared for children in the last business year from April 2020 to March 2021. The report is a requirement defined in the IRO Handbook 2011 and should be published by every local authority each year.

#### 2. Executive Summary

2.1. The report summarises the review activity in the year of 2020-2021 in comparison to the previous three years and provides an outline of qualitative and quantitative information relating to cared for reviews and pathway plan review activity. The report also provides an outline of the legal context of the statutory role of the Independent Reviewing Officers.

2.2. As required, contained within the report is a summary of activity relating to our quality alert and dispute resolution process which every local authority is required to have in place to ensure independent oversight and challenge of

any concerns in relation to social work practice in relation to cared for children.

- 2.3. The report concludes with a summation of what we achieved in relation to our aspirations in the previous year and identifies our areas of focus for the following business year.

### 3. Background

- 3.1. The Independent Reviewing Officer team have an important role in supporting the delivery of our responsibilities as Corporate Parents through oversight of the plans of cared for children and care leavers.

### 4. Implications

#### 4.1. Legal

- 4.1.1. There are no legal implications.

#### 4.2. Finance

- 4.2.1. There are no finance implications.

#### 4.3. Human Resources

- 4.3.1. There are no human resource implications.

| Access to Information |   |
|-----------------------|---|
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| Appendices:           | Independent Reviewing Officers (Cared for Children)<br>Annual Report 2020-21                                    |
| Background Papers:    | None  |