

Corporate Parenting Committee

Date of Meeting: 12 November 2019

Report Title: Annual Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Annual Report
2018-19

Senior Officer: Mark Palethorpe, Acting Executive Director of People

1 Report Summary

- 1.1 The Annual Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Annual Report is a statutory requirement and provides a reflective overview of activity and performance of the team of Independent Reviewing Officers in Cheshire East for 2018-2019.
- 1.2 The Local Authority is required to ensure it has an effective IRO service in respect of our cared for children and young people, their role being to monitor and review the care plans of all children in our care as well as to fulfill a quality assurance function.
- 1.3 The report also outlines the challenge this service provides through the Dispute Resolution Process to ensure the care plans of our cared for children meet their needs and there is not drift or delay in achieving the best possible outcomes fulfilling the Local Authority's role of Corporate Parent.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Corporate Parenting Committee is recommended to endorse the report.

3 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The report sets out the performance and challenges in providing a good service for our cared for children. This is a statutory report.

4 Other Options Considered

4.1 Not applicable, this is a statutory report.

5 Background

5.1 The IRO annual report is a statutory requirement. The role of the Corporate Parenting Board is to scrutinise the contents, consider the findings, to inform future activity. Please refer to report attached.

6 Implications of the Recommendations

6.1 Legal Implications

6.1.1. The report itself is a statutory requirement however; there are no legal implications within the recommendations.

6.2 Finance Implications

6.1.2. There are no direct financial implications contained within the recommendations it is essential however that services for our cared for children are appropriately resourced.

6.3 Policy Implications

6.1.3. There are no policy implications within the recommendations. The activity for cared for children is shaped by national legislation.

6.4 Equality Implications

6.1.4. The IRO Annual Report reflects the needs of all children in our care.

6.5 Human Resources Implications

6.1.5. There are not direct Human Resource Implications within the recommendations

6.6 Risk Management Implications

6.1.6. If the IRO Annual Report was not produced or did not reflect the statutory requirements there would be a risk to the reputation of the Local Authority. Within this years report the recommendations would not affect risk to the Local Authority.

6.7 Rural Communities Implications

6.1.7. There are no direct implications for rural communities.

6.8 Implications for Children & Young People/Cared for Children

6.1.8. There are no direct implications for children and young people.

6.9 Public Health Implications

6.1.9. There are no direct implications for public health.

6.10 Climate Change Implications

6.1.10. No direct implications with the recommendation of the report.

7 Ward Members Affected

7.1 Cared for children live in all areas of Cheshire East therefore all wards are affected however, the recommendations do not profile any ward in particular.

8 Consultation & Engagement

8.1 In the production of this report, there has been consultation with multi-agency colleagues and cared for children and young people. A separate (see attached) has been produced specifically for our cared for population reflecting the areas of performance they are most interested in.

9 Access to Information

9.1 The Annual Report is attached at Appendix 1.

9.2 The Young People's Version is attached at Appendix 2.

9.3 The case examples used are anonymised and permission has been sought from the individuals. The formal report is a public document and will be placed on the Cheshire East website once its content is agreed.

10 Contact Information

10.1 Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

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