

<b>Item No:</b> 9.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 21 February 2012	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report 2010-11	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Strategic Director of Children's Services	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Corporate Parenting Committee notes the Independent Reviewing Officer Annual report (Appendix A).
2. That an action plan be drawn up for implementation of the key priorities noted in section 11.2 of this report.

## KEY MESSAGES

3. IRO performance in relation to reviews held to time has much improved in this year.
4. The Care Planning regulations introduced in April 2011 have lead to a number of new procedures and duties for IRO's
5. Most of the concerns that IRO have are dealt with by informal contact with social workers, but there is now a simplified system for formal escalation to senior manager where appropriate
6. We continue to work closely with young people, social workers and foster carers to ensure that the IRO service is effective and responsive

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

7. An Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service for Looked After Children is required in guidance arising from The Adoption and Children Act 2002. The report contains a summary of work completed by Southwark IRO Service for the period 2010-2011

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

8. Appendix A sets out the report of the Independent Reviewing Officer and key messages arising out of this report are set out in paragraphs 3- 6 of this report.

## Community impact statement

9. The decision to note this report has been judged to have no or a very small impact on local people and communities.
10. The work of the IROs is intended to improve the outcome for looked after children.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
IRO Handbook	160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Jackie Cook 020 7525 0387

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix A	Independent Reviewing Officers Annual Report

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Rory Patterson, Deputy Director Children's Specialist Services & Safeguarding	
<b>Report Author</b>	Jackie Cook, Head of Social Work Improvement and Quality Assurance	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	7 February 2012	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>		7 February 2012