

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: September 24 2009	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Annual Review of Independent Review Officers Service	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Children's Services	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the Corporate Parenting Committee notes the progress of the independent reviewing officer service and comments on the sufficiency of progress on the action plan.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The appointment of an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) is a legal requirement under Section 118 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. The Government issued the Review of Children's Cases (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004 along with statutory guidance in September 2004.
3. The regulations require all Local Authorities to appoint an IRO to participate in the statutory meetings to review the care plan of each looked-after child. The IRO takes on the role of chairing the meeting. The IRO is also responsible for monitoring the performance of the Local Authorities' functions in respect of each review. If appropriate, IROs can refer a child's case to a Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (CAFCASS) officer. IROs are ideally placed to assess the quality and effectiveness of Local Authority planning and support for children.
4. The 2004 regulations impose a duty on the IRO to ensure that:
 - children's views are understood and taken into account
 - persons responsible for implementing review recommendations are identified
 - any failure to review cases in accordance with the regulations or to make arrangements to implement any aspect of the care plan is brought to the attention of the accountable service managers.
5. The report summarises the performance of the service and progress made in the period 2008/09. Members should note that the service remains well staffed, and has been able to provide a consistent reviewing officer for children in care. The IROs have ensured that children and young people have participated in their reviews, and that plans are progressed within the required timescales.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance

8. Not applicable

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
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LIST OF APPENDICES

No.	Title
-	-

AUDIT TRAIL

This section must be included in all reports.

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson	
Report Author	Roisin McManus	
Version	Final	
Dated	14.9.2009	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Legal and Democratic Service	No	Yes/No
Finance Director	No	Yes/No
List other officers here	No	
Executive Member	Yes/No	Yes/No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer	September 14 2009	