

Corporate Parenting Panel

22 November 2021

Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service



Report of Helen Fergusson, Head of Children's Social Care, Durham County Council

Electoral division(s) affected:

None.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to introduce the Independent Reviewing Officer, Children in Care, Annual Report Summary, covering the period 2020/21 which will be presented to the Corporate Parenting Panel at its meeting on 22 November 2021.
- 2 The Annual report is attached as Appendix 2 of this report.

Executive summary

- 2 This report highlights the key messages that are contained within the accompanying IRO Service Annual reports and sets out 4 key priorities that have been identified to address these.

Recommendation

- 3 Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are required to:
 - a) Note the contents of the accompanying annual reports.

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The statutory duties of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) are set out in section 25B (1) Children Act 1989 with further statutory guidance contained in the IRO handbook, which sets out the IRO in relation to case management and review for looked after children.

There are two clear and separate aspects to the function of the IRO:

- i. chairing the child's review; and
- ii. monitoring the child's case on an ongoing basis.

Finance

There are no Direct Financial Implications within this report.

Consultation

None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None

Climate Change

None

Human Rights

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Staffing

None

Accommodation

None

Risk

None

Procurement

None

Appendix 2: Children Looked After Annual Report

Attached as a separate document