

Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs)

Independent Reviewing Officers

When you come into care you will get an Independent Reviewing Officer, or IRO for short. IROs work for the council, but we are not part of the social work teams that work with you. We are there to make sure that whatever is happening is right for you.

This means we can challenge decisions if we feel it is not the best thing for you. This could be about, where you live, who you live with, your education, health, who is important to you. We will listen to your views about these things and about how you can keep your connection with the people who are important to you.

We will look at your plan with you, and those who are involved in planning for your future, to make sure this is right for you. We can challenge workers if this plan is not meeting your needs or is not the right plan for your future.



Meeting your IRO

Before you meet your IRO, they will send you their profile, which includes a picture and some information about them. It will also have their email address and phone numbers so that you can get in touch if there is anything you think they can help you with.

Within 28 days of coming into care you will have a meeting with your IRO called a child in care review.

Before your meeting

We want to make sure that we talk about things that are important to you. Your IRO will talk to you before your meeting to make sure that we know what your important things are. Your social worker will also talk to you to help decide who you want at your meeting.

We can meet you, in person or on a video call, before your meeting to help you be prepared. We will talk about what will happen in the meeting, and will listen to your views, wishes and feelings.

This could include:

- Helping you create a plan for your meeting
- Helping you work out what you want to say
- Supporting you to be involved in your meeting
- Supporting you to chair your meeting, if that is something you would like to do

What will we talk about at my meeting?

We will talk about things such as:

- What was decided at your last meeting
- When you can see your family
- When you can see your friends
- What your family think
- What is in your care plan
- What you have been doing
- How school/college is going
- Your health

Your IRO will also talk to your family, social worker and school and anyone involved in your care plan about how things are going for you, making sure that everything that should have happened has happened.

How often will I have meetings?

Your second meeting will be no later than 12 weeks after your first meeting. After that they will be every 6 months.

If you have any big changes in your life, we might have extra meetings so that we make sure that all the decisions are right for you and that you have been part of any decisions made.

Your IRO will keep in touch with you between meetings and will support you to talk about your views, wishes and feelings and make sure you are part of any decisions.

If you want an earlier meeting for any reason, you can ask for one.

