

Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report 2015/16

Summary

1. The presentation of the Report to the City of York Corporate Parenting Board is a statutory requirement (*The IRO Handbook* DfE 2010 at para. 7.11). The Report summarises the work of the Independent Reviewing Officers over the preceding twelve month period.

The IRO Annual Report 2015/16 is appended as Annex A.

Additionally, the IRO Annual Report 2014/15 is appended as Annex B for reference only.

Background

2. The Report covers a number of areas. The information contained is for notification to the Corporate Parenting Board.
 - 1) Introduction and Purpose of IRO Annual Report
 - 2) Reporting Period
 - 3) The Legal, Statutory and National Context of the IRO role
 - 4) Local Context – the City of York Council as Corporate Parent
 - 5) The City of York Council IRO Service
 - 6) IRO Caseloads and Unit Performance
 - 7) Profile of Children and Young People in Care in York
 - 8) IRO impact on the outcomes for children and young people
 - 9) Update on the Seven Service Priorities 2015/16
 - 10) Service Work Plan 2016/17
 - 11) Summary
 - 12) Recommendations

Consultation

3. Details of the consultation which informed the Report are contained within the Report appended (Annex A).

Options

4. No options are presented to Members for their consideration.

Analysis

5. No options are presented to Members for their consideration.

Council Plan

6. The Report summarises the work of the Independent Reviewing Officers over the preceding twelve month period as is required by statutory guidance.

Implications

7. Implications for the Council are detailed as appropriate within the Report.

Risk Management

8. Risks for the Council are detailed as appropriate within the Report.

Recommendations

9. It is recommended that the City of York Council Corporate Parenting Panel consider the following:
 1. Note the areas of positive performance referred to within the Annual Report, particularly evidence that the Unit has directly contributed to improving outcomes for children and young people in care;
 2. Note and support the Unit's commitment to better deliver its statutory responsibilities to children and young people in care and their parents or carers, in particular increased consultation, participation and challenge;
 3. Use the annual reporting requirement of the Unit to inform the ongoing work of the Corporate Parenting Panel in

raising outcomes for the children and young people in the care of the City of York Council.

Contact Details

Authors:

Nik Flavell
Group Manager – Quality Assurance
Children’s Social Care

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Jon Stonehouse
Director of Children’s Services

Report Approved



Date 09/09/2016

Rachel Donnachie
Senior Officer - Peer Support and Challenge
Children’s Social Care

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex A: The IRO Annual Report 2015/16
Annex B: The IRO Annual Report 2014/15

Abbreviations

IRO – Independent Reviewing Officer