

17 October 2023**Agenda Item:10****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND
RESOURCES****ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER (IRO)
SERVICE: APRIL 2022 – MARCH 2023****Purpose of the Report**

1. The report provides an update on the performance and activities of the Independent Reviewing Officer service from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

Information

2. The Independent Review Officer (IRO) service is set within the framework of the updated IRO Handbook, linked to revised Care Planning Regulations and Guidance which were introduced in April 2011. The responsibility of the IRO has changed from the management of the Review process to a wider overview of the case including regular monitoring and follow-up between Reviews. The IRO has a key role in relation to the improvement of care planning for Looked After Children and for challenging drift and delay. The IRO's role is to ensure that Nottinghamshire County Council acts as a responsible corporate parent and provides good standards of care and services to the children they care for.
3. The annual report, attached as **Appendix 1**, contains information in respect of the vision of the service and a reflection on the Council's achievements and the impact of the progress. It also considers the challenges and commitments for 2022/23. Additional to this report, attached as **Appendix 2**, is the child friendly report for April 2022 - March 2023 which outlines some information from the annual report to share with children and young people.

Other Options Considered

4. To not bring this report to the Panel: this option is discounted because this report provides information that forms an important part of the Panel's remit in assisting the Council in fulfilling its legal corporate parenting duties and acting as an effective corporate parent.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

5. The report provides an opportunity for the Panel to consider any further actions arising from the information contained within the report.

Statutory and Policy Implications

6. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

7. There are no financial implications arising from the report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Corporate Parenting Panel considers whether there is any feedback that it wishes to give and any actions that it recommends in relation to the information contained in the report.

Laurence Jones
Service Director, Commissioning and Resources

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Izzy Martin
Independent Chair Service
T: 0115 8041004
E: izzy.martin@nottsccl.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (SF 11/09/23)

8. This report falls within the remit of the Corporate Parenting Panel being 'to assist the Council in fulfilling its legal corporate parenting duties to ensure the Council and partner agencies act as effective corporate parents' (Constitution Section 7 Part 2 Terms of Reference).

Financial Comments (CDS 11/09/23)

9. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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