

22 September 2014

Agenda Item: 4

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE**

### **END OF YEAR REPORT FOR THE INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER SERVICE**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Members of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee about the activities within the Independent Reviewing Officer Service during April 2013 to March 2014.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. The annual report, which is attached as **Appendix 1**, informs the Sub-Committee about the activities undertaken in order to improve the Independent Reviewing officer (IRO) service to children and young people in Nottinghamshire. It also takes into consideration how well the Service is doing and identifies areas for development in the coming year 2014-15. **Appendix A** to the annual report identifies the progress made from the last annual report for 2012-2013.
3. The report focusses on the key functions of the Independent Reviewing Officers and highlights the work undertaken in respect of children and young people. Over the past year, due to the looked after population stabilising, this has enabled the IROs to discharge their distinct responsibilities in scrutinising the care plans and seeking the wishes and feelings of children and young people more in order to improve outcomes.
4. Further work will take place during 2014-15 to gain the views of children and young people over the age of nine years regarding the service they receive along with strengthening the contact between the IRO and young person between formal reviews. As the dispute resolution process is now embedded an evaluation of the effectiveness of this will be undertaken to explore the impact this has on improving outcomes for looked after children.

#### **Other Options Considered**

5. The report is for noting only.

#### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

6. The report is for noting only.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the activities of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service from April 2013 to March 2014 be noted.

**Steve Edwards**  
**Service Director, Children's Social Care**

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## **Constitutional Comments**

8. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

## **Financial Comments (KLA 28/08/14)**

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

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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