

**15<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**Agenda Item: 5**

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES**

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER (IRO) SERVICE APRIL 2018 – MARCH 2019**

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

1. The report provides an update on the activities and performance of the Independent Reviewing Officer service from April 2018 to March 2019.

#### **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 structure of the service, the work the IRO service has been involved in throughout the year, the profile of Looked After Children in Nottinghamshire, how many reviews have been conducted and participation of children/young people and partner agencies within these meetings. It also outlines the challenges undertaken by IROs as part of the dispute resolution process and how the service is developing with key findings for the past year and areas of focus during 2019/20.

#### **Other Options Considered**

4. No other options have been considered.

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

5. The report provides an opportunity for the Committee 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 Committee considers whether there are any actions it requires 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@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:izzy.martin@nottsc.gov.uk)

## **Constitutional Comments (LW 24/06/19)**

8. The Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

## **Financial Comments (SAS 23/06/19)**

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.  
C1267