

**30<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**Agenda Item: 6**

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

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER (IRO)  
SERVICE: APRIL 2019 – MARCH 2020**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The report provides an update on the activities and performance of the Independent Reviewing Officer service from April 2019 to March 2020.

**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, and the profile of Looked After Children in Nottinghamshire. 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 priority areas for 2020/21. Additional to this report, attached as **Appendix 2**, is the child friendly report for April 2019 - March 2020 which outlines some information from the annual report to share with children and young people. This report has been shared with the Children in Care Council (CiCC) and they are agreeable to the format and information included.

**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:**

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## **Constitutional Comments (KK 12/11/20)**

8. The proposal in this report is within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee.

## **Financial Comments (SAS 14/11/20)**

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.

C1411