

The Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report 2018-19

Summary Presentation to Corporate Parenting Board 17th September

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Overview of the IRO Service

45 full time equivalent IROs with average of 78 children / young people on their caseload

Undertake chairing of Child Protection Conferences and Child Looked After Reviews

Statutory role (IRO Handbook) to monitor the quality of corporate parenting provided to looked after children

Ofsted (August 2018) inspection highlighted the need to strengthen critical challenge amongst IROs and first line managers

Performance 2018/19

CLA numbers increased by 7.5% but vast majority receive and take part in a timely review of their care plan

IROs pushing greater use of 'All About Me' consultation documents

CP numbers increased by 10% but 95% of reviews were held within timescales

More children stayed on a plan over 2 years or made subject of a plan for a second time

IRO Challenge & Footprint

767 in 17/18 to 1705 in 18/19

85% completion of mid-point monitoring by IROs

Joint training / learning circles with managers to promote consistent understanding of what is 'good'

IRO Managers undertaking regular audit activity on cases with a focus on impact of IRO involvement on outcomes

Health Assessments & PEPs

Updated template guidance for the CLA Review to ensure consistent focus

85% of looked after children have a Health Assessment, 56% within timescale – project group established to drive this

93% of looked after children have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) but only 59% are up to date. PEP process and template updated to strengthen delivery

Permanence

Identified by Ofsted (2018) and reflected in improvement plans

Clearer understanding and tracking of Permanence

PROs monitoring and driving via CLA Review and within Permanence Panels

Placement Stability and Disruption Meetings established

Life Story Work

Next Steps

Family Safeguarding Model & Strengths-Based Practice

Strengthen understanding of 'good' in respect of plans and outcomes / impact

Build on improved IRO challenge to ensure consistency and evidence of impact on the quality of care / support

Delivery of Permanence including placement stability, discharge of Care Orders and reunification

Review of IRO additional duties outside of core function