

Corporate Parenting Board

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 16 March 2021

Report of the Head of Service Quality Assurance Inspection and Safeguarding

Electoral Division affected: (All Divisions);
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Independent Reviewing Service Annual Report 2019-20

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary –

The Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service provides an annual report (Appendix 'A') as part of its statutory function in overseeing and quality assuring the corporate parenting of children and young people looked after by the Local Authority. In Lancashire the IRO Service incorporates the Child Protection Coordinator role (chairing Child Protection Conferences) and so that work is also included within the service report.

The current report covers the period 2019-20 and therefore prior to the Covid pandemic. The report is typically finalised in early summer but submission to the Corporate Parenting Board has been delayed by Covid. It would be expected to return to the Board in autumn 2020 with the 2020-21 annual report.

Recommendation

The Corporate Parenting Board is invited to read and note the updates provided as part of its wider oversight of corporate parenting.

Background and Advice

All looked after children are allocated to an Independent Reviewing Officer when they first become looked after. Their role is to oversee the care plan and quality of support provided to children and young people through regular Review Meetings. To do this IROs must ensure that the wishes and feelings of children and young people are heard and acted on as far as possible.

The IRO Service also monitors how well the Local Authority performs its corporate parenting function, and therefore identify areas where improvements are needed. The report provides an update on the priorities identified in the 2018-19 report and sets further priority areas for 2020-21.