

Independent Reviewing Service Annual Report 2019-20

- Children Looked After
- Children subject of a Child Protection Plan
- IRO Oversight and Assurance
- Recommendations and Priorities

Children Looked After

- Number of CLA unchanged but above statistical neighbours and national average
- Reviews in timescales remains good
- Participation performance is good but we need to focus on the quality and impact of participation
- Permanence at 2nd review improved (66% - 88% 6 month rolling performance in year)
- Achieving permanence through discharge needs more attention
- Health Assessment performance improved but more to do on Initial Health Assessments
- PEP performance is stable but too low. New PEP process and format from Sept 2020

Child Protection Planning

- Number of plans significantly reduced across Lancashire and below comparators
- Reviews in timescale performance remains good, as is plans beyond 2 years
- ICPC timeliness improved (57% Apr 19 to 83% March 20) but not yet 'good' (90%)
- A higher numbers of repeat (ever) CP Plans has moved into 'inadequate' but 12 month repeat plans performance is good
- The rate of appeals on CP decisions remained low
- Child participation is inconsistent and is a priority as we move into Family Safeguarding Model

IRO Oversight and Assurance

- Caseloads down 2% year on year and now at top end of the 50-70 range
- Case Monitoring between Reviews remains consistent and just below target 80% level
- Rates of formal 'Problem Resolution' stable but greater evidence of informal 'IRO Challenge' being used
- Collaborative working and relationships with teams have improved and remote working has further supported this
- Delay and quality of planning remain a theme of IRO interventions

Priorities

- Embed the Family Safeguarding Model and principles into the delivery of Child Protection Conferences
- Strengthen the range and quality of child participation in Child Protection and Children Looked After Reviews
- Refocus the 'IRO Challenge' and 'Problem Resolution' process towards a focus on what we need to do to achieve the right outcome
- To drive permanence via Discharge of Care Order where appropriate
- To drive the focus on supporting permanence through Life Story Work / Books