

<b>CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 10
<b>19 JULY 2023</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	John Gregg Executive Director Children's and Young People Services	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Lynne Ayres Cabinet Member for Education, Skills, and Children's Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Marie Saunders – Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Tel. 07730613958

### **IRO ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> <i>Alison Bennett – Assistant Director, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance</i>	<b>Deadline date:</b>
It is recommended that The Corporate Parenting Committee:	
1. Members are asked to note the report and raise any queries with the lead officers	

#### **1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is submitted to The Corporate Parenting Committee by the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Department, Peterborough City Council (PCC) in line with annual requirements.

#### **2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

- 2.1
- a. The purpose of this report is to provide statutory review and analysis of the Independent Reviewing Service.
  - b. The report shall be presented to Members of the Corporate Parenting committee as requested 19<sup>th</sup> July for their work programme.

2.2 This report is for the corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference 2.4.4.2 To receive statutory reports in relation to the adoption, fostering, commissioning, looked after children services and children's homes with a view to recommending any changes.

2.3 *How does this report link to the Corporate Priorities?*

This links to all areas of the Children in Care Pledge and Care Leavers Charter.

#### **3. TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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## 4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

### 4.1 Executive Summary

This Annual Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) report provides quantitative and qualitative evidence in relation to the IRO service in Peterborough as required by Statutory guidance. This report covers the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

The key highlights of this report are:

- The number of children in care rose significantly this year (from 344 at the end of March 2022 to 411 at the end of March 2023)
- A total of 1012 Child in Care Reviews were held this year (The total number of reviews held in 21-22 was 933)
- Timeliness of Reviews continues to be excellent at 99.3% (last year was 99.7)
- The IROs Escalation Protocol continues to be fully embedded across the service.

The IRO Service has continued to provide effective provision for reviewing and monitoring the Care Plans for children in care. It contributes to improved outcomes for children in care through increasing participation of children and young people in the decision making about their care, as well as making independent representations to operational teams and management on planning and practice issues. The independent scrutiny provided by the team is valued by social workers and management. IROs have shown continued strength and resilience throughout a very difficult year and have contributed to a creative and high delivering service.

The report concludes with the highlights of the IRO Service for 2022/23 and outlines areas for further development for 2023/24.

## 5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5.1 *Consider how the recommendation links to the Council's Corporate Priorities:*

1. *Our Places & Communities*
  - *Health and Wellbeing*
2. *Prevention, Independence & Resilience*
  - *Children*

## 6. CONSULTATION

6.1 Parents, carers and children were consulted as part of the review process

6.2 As contained within objectives for 2023-24, improved access to feedback forms maximising consultation

6.3 *Has this recommendation been considered by the below? If not, please provide reasoning.*

- *Corporate Leadership Team (CLT)*
- *Cabinet Policy Forum (CPF)*

Report has not been reviewed by CLT or CPF as this is for information purposes only.

*Please also consider whether the recommendation should also be considered by the following:*

- *Financial Sustainability Working Group (FSWG)*
- *Group Leaders' Meeting*
- *All Party Policy (APP)*

Report has not been reviewed by FSWG, the Group Leaders' Meeting or the APP as this is for information purposes only.

## **7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

- 7.1 To ensure there is a more robust approach to supporting the experiences of children and young people in order to improve their lives.

## **8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 8.1 Statutory requirement

## **9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 *N/A*

## **10. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

- 10.1 *None*

### **Legal Implications**

- 10.2 *None*

### **Equalities Implications**

- 10.3 *None*

### **Other Relevant Implications**

- 10.4 *Child Care Reviews are held for all children in care.*

The purpose of the Child in Care Review is to bring together the child, parents, carers and other professionals to plan for the child and review the Care Plan. This ensures that everything that needs to be done to enable children to achieve the best outcomes and not drift in the care system is identified and being undertaken.

## **11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 11.1 *None*

## **12. APPENDICES**

- 12.1 *IRO Annual Report*

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