

**REPORT FOR: CORPORATE
PARENTING PANEL**

Date of Meeting:	27 March 2018
Subject:	Children's Services, IRO Annual Report 2016/17
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Paul Hewitt, Interim Corporate Director of People
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No, as the recommendation is noting only
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	Harrow Council – Children's Services, IRO Annual Report 2016/17

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report details information about the children looked after activity in Harrow during the period 1 April 2016 through to 31st March 2017 and is an evaluation of the work of the Independent Reviewing Officers.

Recommendation:

Panel is requested to consider and note the content of the report.

Reason for Recommendation: The local authority has a statutory responsibility to ensure that there are Independent Reviewing Officers reviewing the Care Plans for Looked After children and young people (see report attached).

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

The Independent Reviewing Officer is a statutory requirement and their role is integral in ensuring that the local authority provides a quality service to its Looked After population which is in line with the Council's vision and corporate priorities.

Options considered

None.

Current situation

See report attached.

Legal Implications

The role of the IRO is set out in sections 25A-25C, Children Act 1989; statutory guidance issued under s7 of the Social Services Act 1970 – the IRO Handbook 2010 and the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010, in particular regulations 36, 45 & 46 and schedule 7.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

The looked after population comprises of children and young people from a wide background of cultures, ethnicities, languages and religions and part of the role of the IRO is to check that a child's needs are being met in all these areas.

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

Please identify how the report incorporates the administration's priorities.

- Making a difference for the vulnerable
- Making a difference for communities
- Making a difference for families.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Jo Frost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 9 March 2018		
Name: Helen Ottino	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 13 March 2018		
Ward Councillors notified:		
		NO, as it impacts on all Wards
EqIA carried out:		
		NO
EqIA cleared by:		
		N/A - No decision is required

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Barbara Houston, Quality Assurance Manager
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Email: barbara.houston@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers: None.