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| Harrow Council Logo | |
| REPORT FOR: | Corporate Parenting Panel |
| Date of Meeting: | 2nd October 2019 |
| Subject: | Children’s Services, IRO Annual Report 2018/19 |
| Key Decision: | No |
| Responsible Officer: | Paul Hewitt Corporate Director People Services |
| Portfolio Holder: | Councillor Christine Robson , Portfolio Holder for Children and Families |
| Exempt: | No |
| Decision subject to Call-in: | No |
| Wards affected: | All |
| Enclosures: | Harrow Council – Children’s Services, IRO Annual Report 2018/19 |

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| Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations |
| This report details information about the children looked after activity in Harrow during the period 1 April 2018 through to 31st March 2019 and is an evaluation of the work of the Independent Reviewing Officers. Recommendations: Panel is requested to consider and note the content of the report. Reason: 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

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|  |  |  | on behalf of the\* |
| Name: Jo Frost | x |  | Chief Financial Officer |
| Date: 20th September 2019 |  |  |  |

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| Ward Councillors notified: | **NO, as it impacts on all Wards** |
| EqIA carried out:  EqIA cleared by: | **NO**  Update report. |

# Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

**Contact:** Shirley Dye, Quality Assurance Manager.

Telephone: 020 8736 6934, Email: Shirley.dye@harrow.gov.uk

**Background Papers:** None