

**TO: EXECUTIVE MEMBER CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING**  
**DATE 18 JULY 2017**

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**INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT:  
APRIL 2016-MARCH 2017  
Director, Children, Young People & Learning**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the annual report of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service to the Executive Member of Children and Young People.

**2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **For the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning to receive the annual report of the IRO and to note the key messages and recommendations made.**

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 To ensure ongoing accountability of the department towards the development of continually improved outcomes overall for children and young people in care and those leaving care in accordance with statutory expectations.

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 None considered as production of such report is in line with statutory guidance.

**5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 5.1 The IRO Service performs a key role in assuring the quality of the local authority's care planning for children who are looked after. The annual report supports the continuing development and review of the local strategy for children's services.
- 5.2 The IRO Handbook requires that an annual report should be provided to the Lead Member with Executive responsibility for Children's Services and Corporate Parenting, with the aim of identifying good practice and highlighting areas for further development/improvement.

**6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The relevant legal requirements in respect of this function are addressed within the report.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The Borough Treasurer is satisfied that no significant financial implications arise from presenting the 2016-17 annual report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 No change of policy proposed – further EIA is not required at this stage.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4 No issues arise from this report.

Other Officers

6.5 Not applicable.

**7 CONSULTATION**

Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 None.

Method of Consultation

7.2 Not applicable.

Representations Received

7.3 Not applicable.

Background Papers

Bracknell Forest Council Policy & Procedure for the Statutory Review of Children who are looked after: Bracknell Forest Council

Contact for further information

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Approved by Cllr Dr Gareth Barnard  
Executive Member, Children, Young People  
& Learning

Signature.....

Date: 18 July 2017

Approved by Nikki Edwards  
Director, Children, Young People  
& Learning

Signature.....

Date: 18 July 2017