

**TO: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING
16 DECEMBER 2019**

INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

Executive Director, People

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) annual report of the Conference and Reviewing Service to the Executive Member of Children and Young People and Local Safeguarding Children's Board in line with statutory expectations and good practice.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 At the end of 2018/19 reporting year there were 158 Children Looked After by Bracknell-Forest. The annual report provides quantitative and qualitative data analysis on the work undertaken by the Independent Reviewing Service with these children and young people during the reporting period.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 For the Executive Member, Children and Young People to receive the annual report of the IRO and to note the key messages and recommendations made

4 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The work activity and recommendations presented in the annual report are statutory expectations and good practice. They reflect the work activity that needs to be undertaken to meet these expectations over the 2019/20 reporting year.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 As the work activity and recommendations are statutory expectations and good practice, there are no alternatives.

6 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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.

7 CONSULTATION AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Borough Solicitor

- 7.1 The relevant legal issues are addressed within the report

Borough Treasurer

- 7.2 The Director of Finance is satisfied that no significant financial implications are anticipated from this report.

Other Consultation Responses

- 7.3 Not applicable

Equalities Impact Assessment

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

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 7.5 None

Background Papers

IRO Annual Report 2018 / 19

Contact for further information

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