
IRO ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

HIGHLIGHTS



WHAT IS THE REPORT?

- **The IRO annual report is required by law**
- **The report is published so that it is available for members of the public**
- **The report is important because IROs have a duty to support the Council in how it behaves as the 'corporate parent'**





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TAKING PART

- **IROs have a duty to consider the current wishes and views of young people at their review. This is called consultation. IROs always want young people to take part in their reviews.**
- **It has been difficult with online meetings to make this work for everyone and one in five children and young people chose not to take part in a meeting during the year.**

“LET’S AGREE TO DISAGREE”

- **Sometimes IROs disagree with a care plan for a child or young person, or about the support being given to help children.**
- **IROs have to resolve these differences using the Dispute Resolution Protocol.**
- **IROs formally raised 66 matters of concern in the year, an increase from 22 in 2019-20. Only 3 matters needed to be raised to the Head of Service.**



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BUILDING THE SERVICE

- **The service will be receiving support from our Living in Care Council (LinCC) as a priority area to help our IROs improve young people's participation in their reviews. We have some exciting events planned.**
- **Our IROs have developed and started delivering a regular seminar for our colleagues in Children's Social Care to help all our colleagues grow their understanding and appreciation of the IRO role.**



GROWING THE SERVICE

- **We continue to strive to achieve lasting stability among our group of IROs. This will help the service grow and flourish.**
- **We will be trialling a new method of consultation based on young people's feedback that they would wish their Reviewing Officer to contact them directly to consult in advance of reviews.**
- **We are reintroducing face to face reviews. This will be based upon the personal choice of young people.**

