

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	Date: 5 November 2018	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) Annual Report 2017-18	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director of Children and Families	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the corporate parenting committee notes the Independent Review Officers (IRO) annual report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The IRO annual report provides quantitative and qualitative evidence relating to the IRO service for children and young people in care within the local authority, as required by statutory guidance arising from the Adoption and Children Act 2002.
3. This report contains a summary of work completed by Southwark's IRO service for the period 1 April 2017 - 31 March 2018. It identifies the work of the service in fulfilling its remit and highlights areas for development in relation to the IRO function.
4. The report is to be presented to the strategic director of children & adults services, the lead cabinet member for children, schools & adult care and to the corporate parenting committee.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. Independent reviewing officers are dedicated to improving outcomes for children and young people in care through the review and challenge aspect of their role. They have a unique insight into every young person in care and are committed to driving improved outcomes for them through working in partnership with young people, their carers and the social work and professional network involved.
6. The IRO service is committed to ensuring good outcomes are achieved for children and young people in care, and providing challenge where necessary. In the Ofsted Inspection of 2017 their challenge was felt to be muted and this is an area for continuous development. In considering the IRO report the corporate parenting committee is able to exercise its own scrutiny and challenge function and hold services to account.
7. The report set out in Appendix 1, highlights the work of the service and the areas for development going forward. It also provides detail on the advocacy and independent visiting offer to children in care.

Community impact statement

8. The decision to note this report has been judged to have no or a very small impact on local people and communities.
9. The work of the IROs is intended to improve the outcome for children and young people in care.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) Annual report 2017-18

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Alasdair Smith, Director of Children and Families	
Report Author	Tom Stevenson, Assistant Director Quality and Performance, Children's and Adults' Services	
Version	Final	
Dated	23 October 2018	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	23 October 2018	