

LOCAL AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO IRO ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15
RECOMMENDATIONS TO ORGANISATION

1. The timescale for the availability of social work reports still needs to be improved. Social work reports should be available 3 days before initial reviews and 5 days before review meetings.

Response: This is being tracked and monitored through individual cases and a quarterly IRO monitoring report to Senior Managers. IT systems (the implementation of ICS) are being improved which will support social workers in improving the timeliness of reports. Management arrangements have been changed and there will be greater management oversight and forward planning to support the improved timeliness of report production.

2. More foster placements are secured locally for teenagers requiring placements.

Response: Work is taking place to develop and improve the range and quality of teenage placements. As reported in the fostering annual report this will be strengthened as part of our sufficiency work and will require corporate support with regard to media, advertising, and publicity.

3. Children who no longer need to be subject to a placement order should have those orders revoked as agreed in their care plans and review meetings.

Response: All children subject to placement orders have been returned to court and have had/or are having their placement order revoked.

4. To meet full regulatory compliance, care plans should be circulated within 10 working days of the review meeting

Response: This will be tracked and monitored through individual cases and a quarterly IRO monitoring report to Senior Managers. IT systems (the implementation of ICS) are being improved which will support social workers in improving the timeliness of reports. Management arrangements have been changed and there will be greater management oversight and forward planning to support the improved timeliness of report production

5. Some administrative errors have resulted in adoption applications being held up following their lodging with court. This is an area for improvement for both the operational and adoption services.

Response: This will be reviewed as part of the implementation of the new ICS system. A more detailed analysis of the problems and how and where errors have occurred will be undertaken.

6. A Looked after Children Strategy should incorporate core policies in respect of Special Guardianship, Connected Persons and the recently issued statutory guidance in respect of Permanence, Long term Foster placement s

and ceasing to be looked after. This would improve the clarity in respect of children and young people's entitlements when they come into/leave care.

Response: A looked after children' strategy will be developed as part of the work of the Corporate Parenting Board.