

**Open Report on behalf of Janice Spencer OBE,
Assistant Director – Children's (Safeguarding)**

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| Report to: | Corporate Parenting Panel |
| Date: | 23 July 2020 |
| Subject: | Independent Reviewing Service Annual Report 2019/20 |

Summary:

This report introduces the Annual Report on the Independent Reviewing Service. This is a statutory requirement and serves to update the Corporate Parenting Panel on the services to Children in Care in Lincolnshire.

Actions Required:

Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are requested to consider the Annual Report on the Independent Reviewing Service and endorse the priorities for 2020-21.

1. Background

The Lincolnshire County Council – Children's Services Independent Chairs Annual Report for 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020 is attached at Appendix A.

Priorities for 2020 - 2021

1. As a result of Covid 19 and as lockdown restrictions are lifted, recovery plans will be implemented which will take into account the learning from the lockdown period.
2. There is currently a significant piece of work being undertaken by the Participation Team calling children and young people to get feedback on their experiences. Over the next few months we will conduct a themed audit to capture the voice of the child.
3. Work is planned to review young people's participation in conferences as numbers continue to be low.
4. A review of work flows on Mosaic for children in care and pathway plans to support more timely recording.

5. Further work with the Performance Team to ensure reporting requirements are met, this will need to be reviewed and amended in line with any work flow changes
6. A piece of work to address the engagement of father's with child protection conferences.
7. For children leaving care a 'later life' letter to be written by their IRO and consideration to be given to providing them with a copy of all the review reports if they do not already have these.
8. Review quality assurance across the service to ensure this supports driving up standards of practice in Social Care.
9. Explore alternative methods for obtaining feedback from parents and young people, through the use of snap surveys and telephone contact.

Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are requested to consider the Annual Report on the Independent Chair's Service and endorse the priorities for 2019-20.

2. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

N/A

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

3. Appendices

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| These are listed below and attached at the back of the report | |
| Appendix A | Annual Report on the Independent Chair's Service |

4. Background Papers

This report was written by Carolyn Knight, who can be contacted on 0152253732 or carolyn.knight@lincolnshire.gov.uk.