

# IRO Annual Report 2012/13

## Report Headlines for the Children in Care Council

Date 12 September 2013

### 1 Background

- 1.1 The IRO Handbook (2010) is statutory guidance for IROs and expects the team manager to present this report to the Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP), commenting on:
  - IRO performance
  - Any pressures affecting performance
  - Whether they have the resources to carry out their duties
  - Create an Action Plan of what's needed to improve performance
- 1.2 The guidance expects the CPP to read and challenge the report and decide if it agrees with the recommendations in the Action Plan

### 2 Key points in this report

#### 2.1 The IRO team need to do the following better:

- 2.1.1 Speaking with looked after children privately in advance of every review meeting. They do well before the first review but not always for subsequent reviews, so the team will need to be more creative in finding ways to do this. This private discussion improves understanding of what will be discussed in the child's meeting, gets the child's view on

the issues, considers any advocacy needs and encourages children to attend their review and contribute as much as possible.

- 2.1.2 Improve ways of checking that the local authority and everyone involved in the child's plan is doing what they should and when they should. It is the IRO's role to promote good practice and challenge poor practice effectively, to achieve better outcomes for children.
- 2.1.3 There have been pressures, particularly the high number of child protection plans, but increased resources have been agreed. These will be used to target the areas of child protection, adoption and permanence so the rest of the IRO team can focus on the above items (2.1.1 and 2.1.2). They will be supported to develop and improve their performance in those areas.