



Independent Reviewing Officer Practice Standards

The IRO'S primary focus is to quality assure the care planning and review process for each child and to ensure that his/her current wishes and feelings are given full consideration.

The IRO handbook draws on a model of best practice to improve outcomes for children looked after and this document serves to ensure that every child in care can expect the best possible service from their IRO.

One of the most important aspects of the IROs role is to meaningfully engage with children and to remain child-centred in everything they do.

IRO Practice Standards

It is important that IROs practise lawfully, safely and effectively. Our standards complement the standards of proficiency set by Social Work England (2017). Our standards recognise that there is normally more than one way in which each standard can be met and the way in which standards are met might change over time because of improvements in practice and technology.

As an IRO you will:

1. ensure the child is central to all planning and decision making.
2. ensure the child's wishes, views and feelings are given full consideration.
3. be satisfied that each child's care arrangement is meeting their needs.
4. ensure that each child knows how to contact you between reviews.
5. make sure each review process results in clear, robust and informed judgements about the progress of the care plan.
6. make sure care plans and decisions have a realistic timescale attached in keeping with the child's needs and a named person to implement them.
7. challenge where there is drift in care planning and where necessary escalate to formal dispute resolution.
8. be satisfied that plans for permanency have been identified by the second review.
9. be satisfied that the corporate parent is meeting the requirements of the care planning regulations.
10. pro-actively chase progress of the child's care plan and the implementation of review decisions.
11. determine whether a review needs to be convened when there is a significant change/event in the child's life.
12. champion the rights and entitlements of children living in care including their right to advocacy, legal support and redress through complaints and challenges.
13. engage with the child's guardian in line with the Cafcass and IRO good practice protocol, to ensure effective communication about the child's care plan.
14. provide both positive and constructive feedback to all the stakeholders to actively promote good outcomes for children.