

# Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	<b>Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel</b>	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	<b>15<sup>th</sup> July 2015</b>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	Independent Reviewing Officers Annual Report 2014- 2015	
WARD:	All	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b> Annex 1		

## 1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The People and Communities Directorate would like to set out for the Panel the activity of the Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) during 2014-2015.

## 2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **Proposal 1:** The Panel are asked to note the report and to make any requests regarding additional information that would be useful to their oversight and scrutiny role. The Panel is asked to consider the effectiveness of the Local Authority's discharging of its duty of care as corporate parent to Children in Care.

## 3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 None

## 4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The Independent Reviewing Officers have the statutory duty to ensure the Local Authority is discharging its duty of care to children and young people as Corporate Parent.

## 5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The report covers the following areas;
- Structure and Reporting Arrangements
  - Profile of Children and Young People in Care

Independent Reviewing Officers activity

Feedback and participation from Children, Young People, Parents and Carers

Areas of IRO Scrutiny and Monitoring

Quality Assurance and Feedback to Children's Specialist Services

Update of Actions identified in the 2013-14 Report

Priorities for 2015-16

Appendix 1 –IRO Caseload

## 6 RATIONALE

6.1 To raise awareness of the work of the IRO service as part of the array of services to children, young people and families provided by the Council and to provide assurance that the Council's Corporate Parenting responsibilities are reviewed and monitored.

## 7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None

## 8 CONSULTATION

The Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

## 9 RISK MANAGEMENT

The IRO Service reviews the risk to children and young people routinely and in accordance with the Council's Risk management processes.

<b>Contact person</b>	Jackie Deas, Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Children and Quality Assurance  Jackie_Deas@bathnes.gov.uk
<b>Background papers</b>	The IRO Handbook 2010  Children's Act (1989) (2004)
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	