

Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report

1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024

On 31st March 2024 there were 726 children in the care of Leicestershire County Council, this is 45 children more than in 2023.

This year the Independent Reviewing Officer Service chaired 1945 Review of Arrangement Meetings.

We support:

137 children - Early Years (Age 0-4)
357 children of School Age (5 – 15)
232 children aged 16 – 17

62% boys
38% girls

We are really proud of the work that IROs do to have oversight of quality of the service you have. This year IROs did 185 alerts for worries to bring improvement and recognised 94 examples of good practice

94.7% of your Review of Arrangements meetings took place within timescale, a significant reduction has been achieved in your reviews taking place in 2 parts.



In early 2023, our Children in Care Council created a survey 'Language of Care' This has developed into the Language that Cares Toolkit, and is due to be launched in June 2024. The IRO's will be pivotal to this and ensure we use the language children use.

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During 2023-24, 93% of children took part in their review meeting either in person or by sharing their views. This is important to keep your views at the centre of everything we do

On 31st March 2024 85.6% of our children have a permanence plan agreed within 4 months which means they have a sense of belonging.

What can we do better?

1. Continue to involve children in their reviews, and consistently track care plans between reviews
2. Better oversight of how your health is managed
3. Explore cultural genograms and your network in review meetings
4. Make sure our data continues to be up to date and drives improvement for children
5. Continue to explore Equality & Diversity needs and understanding trauma for children in care

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