

Hello!

All children in care must have a Care Plan which sets out how everyone will help to look after them and assist them to reach their full potential whilst they are in care. It is the role of the Independent Reviewing Officer (we are known as Children's Independent Safeguarding & Reviewing Officers - CISRO's in East Riding) to monitor the progress of and to make decisions to amend the plan as necessary.

There are two clear and separate aspects to the function of the IRO:

- Chairing the child's review; and
- Monitoring the child's case on an ongoing basis including whether any safeguarding issues arise

The statutory Looked After Children (LAC) review must take place within 20 working days of the child becoming 'looked after', the second review within 3 months of the first and the third within 6 months. Any subsequent reviews are held at a maximum of 6 monthly intervals thereafter.

Between reviews, if the care plan continues to meet the needs of the child, there may be no need for any communication between the IRO and the social worker or the child. However, in the event of a significant change/event in the child's life, the IRO must be informed.

The list is not exhaustive but such changes include:

- A proposed change of care plan following directions from court
- Where agreed decisions from the review are not carried out within the specified timescale; The IRO may then initiate 'disputes' with the Local Authority
- Major change to the contact arrangements;
- Changes of allocated social worker;
- Any safeguarding concerns involving the child, which may lead to a Section 47 child protection enquiry, outcomes of child protection conferences etc.;
- Complaints from or on behalf of the child, parent or carer;
- Unexpected changes in the child's placement provision which may impact on the placement stability or safeguarding arrangements;
- Significant changes in birth family circumstances for example births, marriages or deaths which may have an impact on the child;
- If the child is charged with any criminal offence;
- If the child is excluded from school;

- If the child repeatedly goes missing;
- Significant health, medical events etc;
- Decisions relating to permanency

It may be necessary for the CISRO's to challenge the local authority through the 'Dispute Resolution process' which uses an informal and formal process dependent on the nature of the dispute in order to ensure that a child's needs are met. Please ask the CISRO for more information on this process when you meet them.

The CISRO's also work very closely with the Participation and Rights Team who provide an independent children's rights and advocacy service for East Riding Children and Young People.

As part of the LAC review process you will be consulted to take account of your wishes and feelings, as a foster carer, about the plan and the progress made since the last review. You will be expected to provide certain information for the review and you will receive a copy of the review report within 20 working days after the review took place.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything with us the office contact details are as follows:

ERSCB
Room AF56, County Hall,
Beverley, HU17 9BA

Telephone Number: 01482 396999
Email: lac.reviews@eastriding.gcsx.gov.uk

We look forward to meeting you at your first review!

See you soon,



Ruth Kingdom
CISRO Manager