A red RAG rating arising from the Child in Care Review

Concerns Identified by the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO)

Concerns arising ***outside*** of the Child in Care Review

**Informal discussion between IRO and Social Worker / Team Manager to try and resolve IRO concerns**

**Stage 1** If not resolved

* IRO discusses case in person with Social Worker and Team Manager and informs own line manager
* IRO issues alert via email.
* Team Manager responds within 5 days.

Where the child/young person is of sufficient age and understanding to bring proceedings without the need for an adult to act on their behalf, the IRO should ensure that the child/ young person has access to a suitably experienced solicitor

Issue resolved, no further action

**Stage 2** If not resolved

* IRO alert is progressed
* Discussion/Meeting is arranged between Conference and Reviewing Manager and SDM of relevant C&F Service within 5 working days.

Issue resolved, no further action

**Stage 3** If not resolved

* Discussion/Meeting arranged with Assistant Director, Children’s Safeguarding. Specialist Services and SDM (Service Improvement) within 5 working days.

Issue resolved, no further action

**Stage 4** If not resolved

* IRO seeks independent legal advice
* Within 5 working days meeting arranged with Director of Children’s and Adult Services who considers matters in consultation.

Issue resolved, no further action

Issue resolved, no further action

**Stage 5** If not resolved

* IRO, Conference Reviewing Manager and SDM (Service Improvement) seek interview with Managing Director within 5 working days.

Issue resolved, no further action

**Stage 6** If not resolved

* IRO submits referral to CAFCASS for consideration of legal proceedings to achieve resolution
* The IRO for the child or young person must maintain records of all communication and outcome at each stage of the Dispute Resolution process on the child’s file in line with Dispute Resolution Recording Protocol.
* The IRO is to determine how best to keep the child or young person, parents and carers informed of the progress throughout each stage of the Dispute Resolution process.
* The IRO may bypass any stage of the Dispute Resolution Process if there is a clear rational for doing so.
* The IRO may seek guidance (though not legal advice) from CAFCASS at any stage in the problem Dispute Resolution process.
* The IRO may curtail the process, at any stage, in order to support any urgent needs of a child and make a referral to CAFCASS.

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