

Care Leavers Core Offer – Independent Reviewing Officer Involvement

Introduction

Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) involvement with children and young people in care ends statutorily on the child's 18th birthday. However the local authority continues to have responsibilities to some young people leaving care until they are 25. It is agreed that for some young people it makes sense for their IRO to remain involved to support the young person's transition into the adult world. This will mean the IRO service in Telford & Wrekin working beyond the statutory requirements to support young people that need our help most.

IRO support to young people is to ensure that young people receive the services and help they need and which they are entitled to. The IRO acts as critical friend to the local authority, chairing meetings of the professionals around the young person, ensuring that agencies are doing what they should be doing and holding professionals to account.

Purpose

The IRO will remain involved with the young person after 18 until they are confident that the arrangements made for their adult life are appropriate. It is important to note that after they are 18 the young person will need to consent to the IRO having continued involvement.

Criteria

The criteria for continued IRO involvement will be:

- The RAG rating for the young person's Pathway Plan is Amber or Red when their Leaving Care Review is held.
- The young person is open to the Disabled Children's Team.

Process

IRO involvement will be determined on a case by case basis. A Leaving Care Review will be held in the 4 months before the young person's 18th birthday at which it will be agreed whether IRO involvement after 18 is needed.

The IRO Team Manager will agree the IRO's continued involvement and note this on the young person's file. The IRO's continued involvement will be monitored through supervision.

A Review meeting will be held no later than 3 months following the young person leaving care.

The IRO's involvement will continue for as long as necessary and will be reviewed every 6 months.

The IRO's withdrawal from reviewing and supporting the young person post-18 will be agreed by the young person and ratified by the IRO Team Manager.

Dylan Harrison

February 2020