

Corporate Parenting Board

23 November 2023

QARO (IRO) Annual Report 2022-2023

For Review and Consultation

Portfolio Holder: Cllr B Quayle, Children, Education, Skills and Early Help

Local Councillor(s): Cllr

Executive Director: T Leavy, Executive Director of People - Children

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Report Status: Public

Brief Summary:

This annual report provides evidence relating to the Quality Assurance Reviewing Officer (QARO) Service in Dorset Council, as set out in the IRO Handbook. In Dorset QAROs undertake the statutory function of the IRO. It covers the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

Overall, the information and data describe a service which continues to develop and provide good quality work to support good outcomes for children and young people in care in Dorset. The report includes key information outlining the work of the service with and for children in care and the report includes case examples of QARO work with children.

This report includes a profile of the service, performance data including timeliness of review and the extent of participation, a profile of our children in care, including their age, gender and ethnic background, details of the dispute resolution process and how effective this is. The report concludes with a review of aims and objectives set in the last annual report and aims and objectives for the service for the upcoming year.

Recommendation:

Members are invited to consider the content of the report and give a view on the strengths, challenges and forward plan for the service.

Reason for Recommendation:

To ensure that the QARO service continues to develop and evolve to offer the best possible support and challenge to the Local Authority in meeting the needs of our children in care, and to ensure voices of children and young people in care are heard and acted upon.

1. Financial Implications

1.1 Not applicable

2. Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications

2.1 None identified.

3. Well-being and Health Implications

3.1 None identified.

4. Other Implications

4.1 None identified.

5. Risk Assessment

5.1 Not applicable

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

6.1 Not applicable

7. Appendices

7.1 Quality Assurance & Reviewing Officer (QARO) Annual Report 2022/2023:
Appendix A

8. **Background Papers**

8.1 None