

Title of report:**Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Annual Report 2024–2025**

Helping children in care have better lives.

Who wrote the report

Toni Colledge
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Date written

September 2025

Summary of what the report is about

This report talks about how IROs (Independent Reviewing Officers) help children and young people in care in Dorset. It explains what they do, how they listen to children, and how they make sure plans are working well. It also shows how the service has improved and what still needs to get better.

What are the key messages of this report

- IROs help children in care feel safe, listened to, and supported.
 - Most meetings happen on time and children are involved.
 - IROs speak up when things aren't going well.
 - Children's voices matter and help shape the service.
 - There's still work to do to make things even better.
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Important facts and figures

- 1,251 review meetings were held.
- 94% of meetings happened on time.
- 91% of children had contact with their IRO.
- 93% of children took part in their reviews.
- 55 notes were written to celebrate good work.
- 166 problems were raised and sorted out.

- Children said their IROs were kind, helpful, and got things done.
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Actions or recommendations

For next year, the IRO team will:

1. Write up meeting notes faster so everyone knows what was agreed.
2. Keep challenging delays in planning, especially for older teens.
3. Listen even more to children's views and act on what matters to them.
4. Run more learning events to help staff improve.
5. Support children's identity—who they are and what makes them special.

Summary generated by AI using Co-Pilot and checked by Toni Colledge, Service Manager.