

INDEPENDENT SAFEGUARDING AND  
REVIEWING OFFICERS' ANNUAL REPORT  
SUMMARY FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER  
1<sup>ST</sup> April 2018 to 31<sup>ST</sup> March 2019



# INTRODUCTION

Once a year the Independent Safeguarding and Reviewing Officers (ISROs) write an Annual Report to show what has been happening for all of you who are looked after in foster homes, residential homes, or are living away from your families.

We look at the way we work and think about what we do and what we need to change so we can get better at how we work with you.

We want to say Thank You to you all for meeting us and talking to us and for attending your CLA review meetings and for letting us know what you think about your Care Plan.

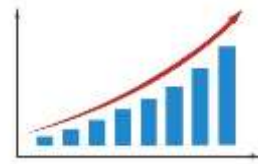
It is really important to us and we want to know what you have to say.

The report is long, and you are welcome to read it, however this is a short version of the report.



This year the number of children and young people being looked after by North Somerset now is 319.

Sometimes the number changes but mostly it stays the same.



Last year there were 597 CLA review meetings held. At 550 of the meetings you attended or met with your ISRO or let us have your views about your Care. This is really positive. 96 of you were aged under 4.

ISROs will always come to visit you if you want to talk about your Care and your Care Plan, if you are unhappy about how you are being looked after, if you are happy about something in your life or if you want to see your family more. We will visit you when you ask us to because we want to know you are safe and doing OK.

Some of you do not live near your family and live a long way away. Last year 168 of you lived 20 miles or more away from your families. We know this is difficult and we want for more of you to live closer. We are all thinking about how we can do this.

56 of you lived with other family members like Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles and family friends.



We would like you to Chair your own meetings if you want to, or to help the ISRO with the meeting so it goes how you want it to go and you get to have your say. ISROs want you to join in your meetings in whichever way you want.

If you don't want to attend you might like to share your views in another way, and the ISRO will come to see you outside of the review meeting. You can have someone else say what you want to say, or you may want to write a letter or text or email your views, we can help you do this.

## **Advocacy**

This is when someone meets with you, goes to your meeting for you and tells the meeting what you want them to say. If you want someone to do this, we can sort this out for you.

## **Interpreter**

If you do not speak English or need help with language, we can get an interpreter for you or use language line which is someone who speaks your language on the phone to help you understand and express yourself.

## **Sign Language and Hearing Loop**

We can make sure that you have this support if you need or want it.



## **Care Plans**

Your Care Plan is the Plan that is made for you and this is reviewed at every review meeting or every time there is a change in your care.

When you are 16 you will have a Pathway Plan to help us all to plan for your future. The Pathway Plan can help support your next steps; if you want to go to college, if you want to go to university, what sort of job you may want to do, and where you want to live when you are older.

ISROs will make sure your Care Plans and Pathway Plans are best for you.

## **Review Meetings**

Your review meeting should be held on time and on the day, it is booked to happen.

Your review meeting should have the people **you** want to be there, your Social Worker should ask you who you want at your meeting.

Your review meeting should not have any surprises, you should know what is going to be talked about.

Your review meeting should be in a place where you feel comfortable, like your foster carers.

Your review should talk about the things you are worried about and the things that are going well.



Your ISRO should meet with you before the meeting.

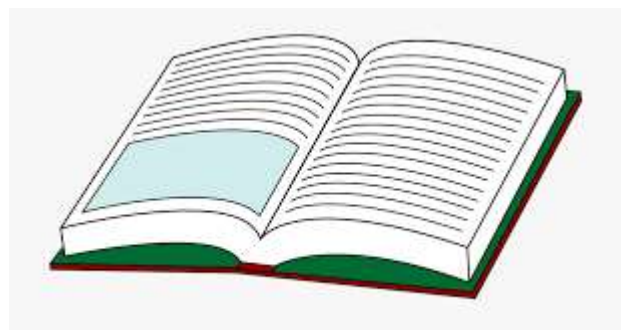
Your ISRO should help you to say what you want in your meeting.

Your ISRO should make a plan with you about what needs to happen that is all agreed, they will leave this plan with you at your meeting.

At your review meeting we will talk about your Care Plan. ISRs can ask Social Workers about your Care Plan and if they think it is not going well or that something should change, they can challenge and raise these concerns on your behalf.

We keep a record of the challenges we raise so that your Care Plan is in your best interests and that the best for you. Last Year ISRO's made 84 challenges on your behalf and that means that 84 times ISROs were able to help you make changes for the better.

The ISROs are doing good work and are getting better at making sure that plans for you are good.





## **This is what we think should happen next...**

The ISROs want to get better at hearing what you have to say, and we are working on plans so that this can happen. We will be talking to you about this soon.

Your review meeting should be with you and about you, (you can chair your own meetings if you like and the ISROs would like to help you to do this).

The ISROs will make sure you know what your Care Plan is.

The ISROs will leave a copy of your plan as talked about with you at your meeting.

The ISRO will send you your review minutes, that is a written record of your meeting within 20 days of your review meeting.

The ISRO will challenge and ask questions about your Care Plan to make sure it is best for you.