

# Attending a Looked After Child Review

## Information for Parents and Carers



This information may be provided, by request, in other languages, in other formats (e.g. CD) or in simplified version. Please contact 01446 704608 to make arrangements.

## **Introduction**

If your child/ren are looked after it is important that you, they, and the people caring for them know what the arrangements are for their care and what the plans for the future are.

Social Services are required by law to ensure that plans for looked after children and young people are reviewed regularly by an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) who is not responsible for providing their care.

The Independent Reviewing Officer will be allocated when your child/ren first becomes looked after, and as far as possible will be the same person for the length of time your child is looked after.

The Independent Reviewing Officer's role is to check that the plans for your child/ren's future are the right ones and that arrangements to meet their day to day needs, such as education, contact and health are in place.

As their parent/carer, you are an important part of this process and your views will be sought.

## **What is a Review meeting?**

The Independent Reviewing Officer will hold regular meetings to check that the plans and day-to-day arrangements are right for your child/ren. Unless there is a specific reason not to, you will be invited to attend these meetings and to contribute your views. If for any reason you are unable to attend, you can express your views before the review and these will be shared at the meeting.

Before the review, you will receive a consultation paper to complete, which may help you to write down what you want to say.

If you need assistance to complete this consultation paper, please ask your child/ren's social worker or contact the Independent Reviewing Officer.

If you, or your child/ren, need an interpreter, your child/ren's social worker will arrange one for you.

If the Independent Reviewing Officer is not happy that the right plans are in place for your child/ren, or is concerned that matters are delayed, they are able to formally express their concerns to managers and senior officers within the Vale of Glamorgan Council and ask for an explanation to be provided. If required, the Independent Reviewing Officer can also refer a matter they are concerned about to the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) Cymru.

## **How often will reviews happen?**

There has to be a review within 28 days of your child/en becoming looked after, or after any significant move or change.

There then has to be another within 3 months, and then at least every 6 months.

If your child/ren only stays in a foster or residential home for short periods, the first review will be in 3 months and after that every 6 months.

If you feel a review needs to be held sooner than this, please talk to your child/ren's social worker or Independent Reviewing Officer.

## **How can I contact my child/ren's Independent Reviewing Officer?**

The Independent Reviewing Officers are based at:

The Docks Office  
Subway Road  
Barry  
CF63 4RT

01446 704608

## **Complaints and comments**

If you wish to make a formal complaint, you can ask for a complaints leaflet and/or write to:

Complaints Officer  
Social Services  
Dock Offices  
Subway Road  
Barry  
CF63 4RT

Or telephone: 01446 704800