

**Job Description**

**Job Title:** Independent Reviewing Officer

**Salary Grade:** Grade 9

**SCP:** 43 - 47

**Job Family:** People Care

**Job Profile:** PC 5

**Directorate:** Children’s Services

**Job Ref No:**

**Work Environment:** Agile

**Reports to:** Independent Review Manager

**Number of Reports:** None

**Purpose:**

Monitor the performance of the Local Authority and partner agencies of their functions in relation to a child’s case, chair the child’s review and monitor the case on an on-going basis, including identifying whether any safeguarding issues arise. Carry out related duties under the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010.

To assist the Independent Reviewing Service within Sunderland in delivering an effective service for children and their families that provides scrutiny of a child’s plan, to deliver timely outcomes for children.

To provide assistance, in the absence of the LADO, to fulfil the statutory requirements required to investigate allegations against staff who work with children.

**Key Responsibilities:**

To ensure that statutory, policy and procedural requirements are being met in keeping with national and local arrangements for children/young people and their families at Child Protection Conferences and Reviews.

To ensure that statutory, policy and procedural requirements for children/young people are being met in keeping with childcare legislation and the IRO Handbook 2010, for children/young people who are looked after.

To be responsible for organising, chairing and the follow-up of Child Protection Conferences/Reviews, in accordance with Sunderland Safeguarding Board procedures (SSCB).

To provide appropriate scrutiny of multi-agency practice and plans to raise concerns on individual children/young people’s cases, where practice has fallen short.

To take appropriate action to improve outcomes for children/young people when safeguarding issues are identified, using the appropriate escalation procedures.

To be responsible for organising, chairing and the follow-up of Looked After Reviews for children/young people, in keeping with childcare legislation.

To ensure that children/young people’s records are updated in accordance with IRO service practice standards, both in the area of child protection and looked after children.

To produce detailed Looked After Review records for individual children/young people, in keeping with childcare legislation.

To support and contribute to the development of services and their wider function, to raise standards and outcomes for children/young people.

To contribute to and support the on-going developing of working relationships with social care and multi-agency staff, to seek to improve practice, standards and outcomes for children/young people.

To provide cover, as and when required, in relation to the Foster Care Reviewing and Regulation Officer and the LADO.

To be responsible for organising, chairing and the follow-up of children/young people’s secure reviews, in accordance with procedures and childcare legislation.

To undertake the role of the IRO in accordance with the IRO Handbook, to prevent drift and delay for children/young people.

To contribute to the quality assurance role and function via the production of data and analysis, in accordance with the safeguarding agenda.

To support the IRO service relationship with partner agencies in the delivery and development of training for childcare staff.

To promote a positive and enabling culture both within the IRO service and via effective relationships with multi-agency partners.

To contribute to annual service reports and plans as required, and to share in the development of a vision for the service, as part of the IRO team.

To participate, support and comply with Council arrangements for responding to emergencies and or business interruptions.

The above list is not exhaustive and the post holder will be expected to undertake any duties which may reasonably fall within the level of responsibility and the competence of the post.

**Statutory Requirements**

To comply with the principles and requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 in relation to the management of Council records and information, and respect the privacy of personal information held by the Council.

To comply with the principles and requirements of the Freedom in Information Act 2000.

To comply with the Council's information security standards, and requirements for the management and handling of information.

To use Council information only for authorised purposes.

As appropriate, duties must be carried out in compliance with the following:

Sunderland City Council’s Equal Opportunities Policy and Strategy,

Information Security Policies,

Financial Regulations and Standing Orders,

Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), and subsequent Health and Safety legislation,

Sunderland City Council’s Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC).