



We are recruiting! Independent Reviewing Officer

We are looking for a passionate Independent Reviewing Officer committed to improving the lives of vulnerable children, young people, and their families, and who will model high expectations for all professionals working with children.

This is a fantastic opportunity to work collaboratively with other professionals and play a key role in the development of best practice in care planning and service provision for children and young people.

**Grade 13, 37 hours per week, permanent
The position is based at one of our Independent
Reviewing Offices**

Hybrid working applies (home and office working)

**Take a look
at our
rewards**

What is involved?

You will act as an Independent Chairperson in Children in Care Reviews, overseeing the progression of timely and high-quality plans for children in our care.

You will also chair child protection conferences, private fostering reviews, secure accommodation reviews, foster carer reviews, disruption meetings and complex planning meetings. You will be key in holding involved agencies to account, ensuring that children living in high-risk situations are protected and their needs met.



You will be focused on improving outcomes for children, young people, and their families. Your excellent communication skills and ability to work sensitively will support you to ensure the child / young person's views are considered.

With professional confidence, you will work constructively with senior managers, offering a critical perspective and appropriate challenge to ensure timely progression of plans for children.

The Independent Reviewing Officer service

We achieved a 'Good' outcome at our last Ofsted Inspection in May 2022. Ofsted said our "Independent Reviewing Officers know their children well and provide effective oversight of children's care plans."

The Independent Reviewing Officer service has achieved Investors In Children Gold award for 10 years' service to children and young people.

We are proud of our supportive team! We value each team member and prioritise their wellbeing. You will be supported to work flexibly and to have a good work/life balance.

You will benefit from a range of training opportunities and professional development through personalised induction, professional supervision, mentoring and a strong management programme to grow and enhance your skills.

Award-winning Children's Services!

Independent Reviewing Officers work alongside Children's Services in County Durham, who hold the lead responsibility for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children.

The key aim of Children's Services is to provide early help for children, young people and families whilst protecting those that need it.

Durham Children's Social Care won a gold award for most supportive employer and one of their social workers won a silver award for children's social worker of the year in the National Social Work Awards 2022.



You will need

- A social care qualification to degree level (a degree in Social Work) or equivalent, a current Social Work England Registration, and 5 years post-qualifying experience with children and families.
- Significant experience of partnership and multi-agency working
- A thorough understanding of the legal framework relating to looked after children, care leavers and safeguarding children
- Highly developed written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to establish constructive working relationships
- Enthusiasm and professional confidence

You will be required to apply for a Disclosure & Barring Service Enhanced Disclosure.

Take a look at the person specification for the full criteria.