

## London Independent Reviewing Officer Networks

<b>FOR THE ATTENTION OF:</b>	
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	<b>Date:</b> 28 July 2008

Dear Colleague,

### **Conference - The Independent Reviewing Officer in the Modern Care System, 19 September 2008**

We are contacting you on behalf of the London networks for IROs to inform you of the conference that we are pulling together in September, as noted above.

The day is designed to share common challenges and successes we have had in carrying out our roles as IROs. As such, the Care Matters Implementation Plan, The Children & Young Person's Bill and speakers on the past, present and future of the IRO role will all feature throughout the day. Whilst you may have attended events on some of these issues recently, this conference seeks to drill down into what they mean for the IRO specifically.

In addition there will be presentations and workshops on conflict resolution, Annual Reports, and the voice of the child. Workshops have been tailored to the key themes that you have contributed to the networks as being central to your role and creating challenges in implementing the IRO Guidance.

The aim of the conference is to bring all IROs together to network, share ideas and discuss the future direction of the IRO role. A central identity, parallel to that of the IRO's position in a Local Authority, will also be a key focus of the day's events.

We feel that the conference is offering an agenda that is not only key to IRO services, but extremely important in moving forward in response to the Children & Young Person's Bill in the next year and beyond. Whether or not you have been actively involved in the network meetings to date, this conference will provide access to information that is central to the work you and your colleagues are trying to achieve in your Local Authority.

As IROs we know that the work we do is engaged in a complicated marriage with frontline practice, and as such we would like to ensure that whatever future the role of the IRO takes we bring our frontline colleagues along side us, in order to ensure

the best outcomes for children in care. We will be eager to highlight on the day and in work undertaken with key stakeholders afterwards, those Local Authorities who have provided resources, support and contribution to this important agenda.

As Children's Services progress through JAR inspections and APA assessments, it will be central to their success to demonstrate relationships with their IRO services that are supportive and effective. IROs are the eyes and ears of Local Authority management, and we help provide direction to future success. The backing of a centralised event will go a long way in demonstrating that both IROs and Local Authorities understand the tasks set before them in the future of children's social care - an agenda that is at the heart of one of our key stakeholders, Department of Children, Schools, and Families.

The event is being sponsored by Government Offices for London, and they will be involved in the day's events. The outcome of the event will form a discussion document with our stakeholders on how IRO services begin to meet the expectations set out by central government on behalf of young people, and in coordination with Local Authorities.

Your participation would be very welcome, and there are lots of ways to participate in the day so please contact us to discuss what you can contribute or how you participate in this event. There will be a great deal of information available on the day so don't miss out!

For your convenience we have enclosed the agenda of the event and a flyer on how to book your place. Our contact details are listed above, so please get in touch!

Sincerely,



Amanda Coorough  
Coordinator/ Chairperson  
Manager's Network

Nicola Cruickshank  
Coordinator/ Chairperson  
Practitioner's Network

Encl Conference Agenda & Booking Form