



# Reviewing Hub

Proposal to enhance capability and resources to help ensure children and families are supported at the right time, in the right place and in the right way



Gweithio dros Gaerdydd, gweithio gyda'n gilydd  
Working for Cardiff, working together



# Overview of the Reviewing Hub

- The Safeguarding and Reviewing Service currently undertakes a number of important independent statutory review functions for children Looked After and on the Child Protection Register. There are other reviews and roles, which broadly fit under the remit of safeguarding and reviewing, are undertaken by other teams and services. It is proposed that all of these review functions are streamlined into one place, offering increased oversight, expertise and outcome focused planning for a wider range of children.
- This will have the added benefit of increasing the number of children the service is able to review, including CASP, along with adding much needed capacity due to the significantly increased numbers of Looked After Children and Child Protection in recent years.
- Whilst there will be additional staffing costs initially, ensuring that children have the most targeted plans, in the right part of the service, and for only as long as they need it. These cost savings should more than offset the additional cost, as well as importantly securing better long term outcomes for the children.

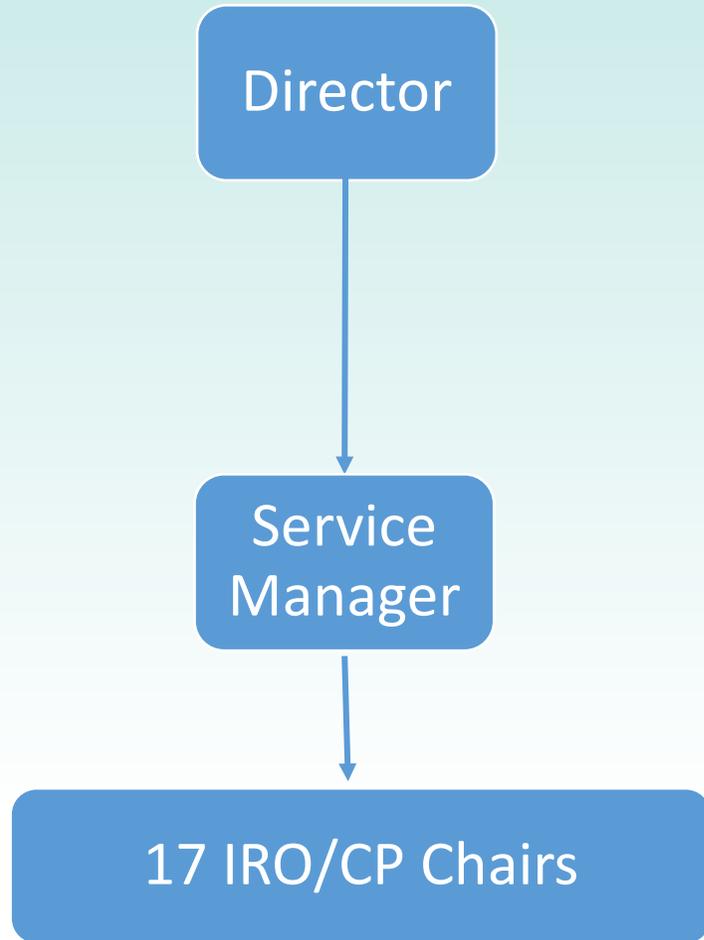
# Reviewing Hub will undertake 4 Key Review Functions:

- 1. CASP** - independently review the CASP cases in the Locality teams. Aim is to quickly step down, close or step up plans so that children are supported in the right part of the service. 4 Grade 8 CASP Reviewing Officers and 4 Business Support Officers have been created.
- 2. Safeguarding** – Child Protection, SAFE Family Conferences, Representation at Safeguarding Meetings. 2 additional CP Chair/IRO posts have been created
- 3. Children Looked After** – More specialised focus and monitoring of core Children Looked After. This will also include children subject to Supervision Orders.
- 4. Transitional Services** – Reorganisation of IRO/CLA Reviews for Care Leavers with enhanced emphasis on future planning for young people

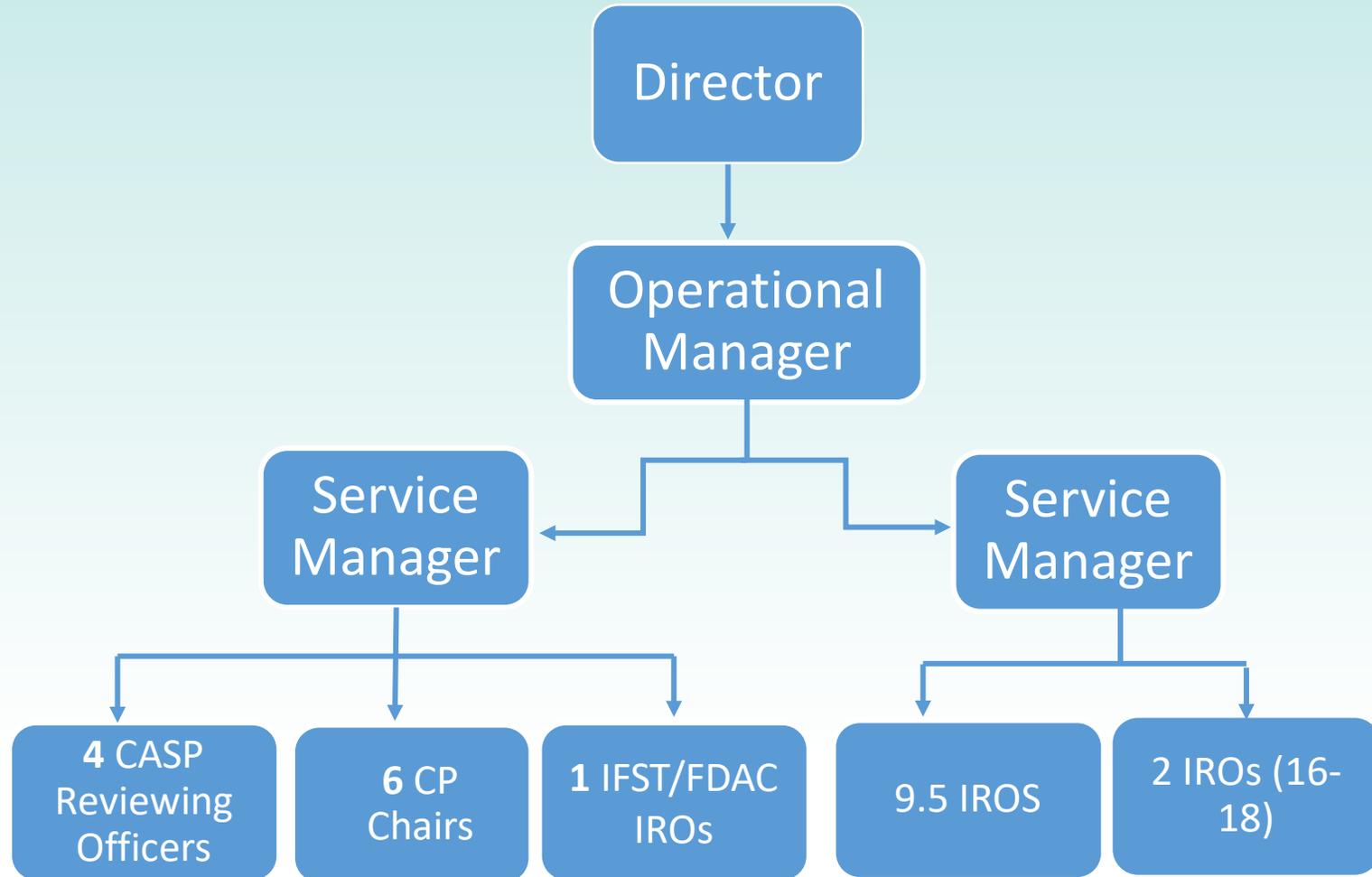
# Benefits of Reviewing Hub

- Undertake screening and in depth monitoring of CPR to safely manage Child Protection Numbers
- Improved outcomes for children and families through more timely, coordinated and in depth planning.
- Independent review of all CASP; to step up, down and improve planning in timely fashion
- Increased confidence that children are safe and supported in the right part of the service
- Increase management capacity in line with other LA's to support staff, workers and measure outcomes more effectively
- Increase capacity in the Safeguarding and Reviewing Service and decrease caseloads to within recommended limits and provide a quality service
- Multi agency training to help others understand safeguarding, thresholds and safely manage risks
- Reduce Care Orders and PWP and increase Supervision Orders
- Identify and promote reunification of CLA where appropriate and in a timely fashion
- Increased focus on successful transition into adulthood and independent living
- Implement Reviewing Process for adolescents at risk of exploitation
- Cost savings linked to ensuring that children are supported in the right part of the service
- Implement reviewing process for FDAC, with improved outcomes linked to reduction in placements
- This paper aligns well with the Childrens Strategy in relation to: improving the way families access advice, assistance and support; keeping child at the centre of all the changes we make; ensuring that planning is reviewed at each stage of the process; enabling children to successfully transition into adulthood and independent living

# Current Structure



# Revised Structure



# Expected Impact, Targets and Milestones

- Independent Reviewing of all Care and Support Plans open to Locality Teams:
  - This will improve compliance for these statutory meetings, help ensure children are supported in the correct part of the service and stepped down effectively when a service is no longer required or can be better met in the third sector. All children (approximately 700) will be reviewed at 12 weekly intervals.
- Enhanced oversight and care planning of children subject to Child Protection process:
  - Routine Screening of all new Child Protection Conference requests to ensure that Child Protection Pathway is most effective way of promoting child's needs/safeguarding them.
  - Introduction of monitoring role for CP Chairs in respect of children on the CPR (similar to IROs)
  - Biannual audit of children on the Child Protection Register by Reviewing Team – to allow greater scrutiny of children's plans, ensure their safety and have a more in depth look at trends.
- Extend reach and support of the service:
  - Introduce multiagency safeguarding training to Children's Services and other agencies, to ensure safeguarding is consistent across agencies and that the same thresholds are applied
  - Reviewing Hub to attend and represent Safeguarding at a wider range of risk assessment forums, including MAPPA, PRUDIC and SAFE, reducing pressure on other services and improving consistency.

# Continued

- Reduction in the number of Looked After Children, through:
  - Independent reviewing for all Supervision Orders
  - Close alignment with Reunification and PWP revocation projects
  - Monitor Special Guardianship plans and financial support packages, to ensure correct support and finances are in place.
  
- Improved Outcomes for Looked After Children, through:
  - Closer oversight of Children Looked After and a more focused Looked After Service
  - Introduce specialised IRO role for children leaving care; to improve transition into independence
  
- Safeguarding of Adolescents- SAFE Family Conferences
  - Alignment with SAFE
  - Introduction of Safe Family Conferences for adolescents where there are safeguarding issues.
  - Improved outcomes and safety for adolescents

# Summary and Next Steps

- The hub will streamline the reviewing functions to enable the service and Council to have enhanced oversight and be better placed in ensuring that we fulfil our ambitions.
- Additional management capacity and staffing, both to be effective in what were already charged with doing, as well as the additional responsibilities that we're looking to undertake.
- These include keeping children safe, promoting their wellbeing and, only when necessary, supported in the right part of the service.
- It will also help Children's Services to shift the balance of care and reduce reliance on Child Protection Plans, children needing to and remaining Looked After, as well as preparing ourselves for the likely increase in CASP and Supervision Orders related to the recent publication of the Public Law Working Group.
- Recruitment is currently underway. Adverts for all positions have gone out and the closing date was the 18<sup>th</sup> October. Interviews for various posts are currently being scheduled.
- Weekly project meetings have been convened, to review and create performance framework.
- Projected go live date is February 2022