



## Independent Reviewing Officers

### TEN important things to know about Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO)

- 1 If you are in care (or “looked after”) **the local authority must appoint an IRO for you**. This is the person whose job it is to make sure that the local authority does what is best for you whilst you are in care.
- 2 **Your IRO chairs your case reviews** – although new guidance says that they can also arrange for you to chair your own review if you want to.
- 3 If you have brothers and/or sisters in care **they too will have the same IRO as you**.
- 4 **You should know who your IRO is** and how to make contact with them.
- 5 **You should be able to keep the same IRO** for the whole time that you are in care.
- 6 **If you are a parent** yourself of a child who is also in care, you should both have a different IRO.
- 7 **You should be given written information** explaining the role of the IRO, and telling you what you can do if things decided at your review aren't carried out, or if you strongly disagree with what is being decided.
- 8 If your IRO leaves (perhaps to go to another job or retire) **they must introduce you to your new IRO**.
- 9 Apart from your very first week in care, **you should never be without an IRO**.
- 10 **Your IRO should meet with you in person** before your first review.

