

# Safeguarding

## Role of the LADO



Every Local Authority has a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) who is responsible for co-ordinating the response to concerns that an adult who works with children may have caused them or could cause them harm. Allegations may be made by a child or parent, a staff member, the police, or social care or from an anonymous source.

Registered early years providers must also inform Ofsted of any allegation of serious harm or abuse and must also inform Ofsted of the action taken in respect of the allegation.

Contact Detail-LADO: 0116 454 2440 [Lado-allegations-referrals@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Lado-allegations-referrals@leicester.gov.uk)

Ofsted: 0300 123 4666 [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)

If you are concerned that someone in a position of trust has harmed a child or behaved in a way that indicates that they may be unsuitable to be in a position of trust, please contact the LADO to discuss your concerns promptly, before speaking to the person of concern.

The LADO will ask for all relevant information and will advise accordingly. Where necessary, strategy meetings chaired by the LADO will be scheduled for those concerned to attend.

Should the threshold for the LADO not be met, individuals will be signposted to the appropriate services or action to take e.g., Duty and Assessment (DAS), Early Help, Ofsted, record low-level concerns etc.

Staff should be confident of their responsibilities regarding allegations. It is important that individuals do not 'investigate' or pass judgement following an allegation.

## **Task 1**

Take some time to reflect on practice as a team.

- Are staff confident in articulating their knowledge and understanding of what to do should they wish to make an allegation about another adult?
- Are staff clear about the process they should follow should an allegation be made to them about another adult/themselves?
- Do policies and procedures make clear the action that is to be taken when an allegation is made?
- Is the LADO's contact details readily available for staff should they need it? Do they know this information is available?
- Have any staff accessed the Allegations training delivered by the LSCB?
- What opportunities have staff been offered to develop their understanding of the LADO's role and the responsibilities they have themselves?

## **Task 2**

One of the most publicised cases of an adult causing harm to children in their care, is the case of nursery worker Vanessa George. Follow the link to find out more about the serious case review (Now referred to as Safeguarding Practice Review)

[Serious Case Review - Vanessa George](#)

After reading the SCR, discuss the key messages and lessons to be learnt.