



Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Guide for employers and voluntary agencies working with children

April 2021

Together For Families



What is a LADO?

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is a statutory role. The role and responsibilities are set out in Working Together 2018 and the process is set out in the South West Child Protection Procedures endorsed by Our Safeguarding Children Partnership (OSCP).

The LADO's primary function is to oversee and co-ordinate any investigation into an incident where an allegation of abuse or harm has been made against a professional or volunteer who has contact with children as part of their work or activities.

The LADO Service sits within Together for Families in Cornwall Council.

When do you contact the LADO Service?

It is your responsibility to contact the LADO Service within 1 working day of an incident arising and **prior to any further investigation taking place** where it appears that an allegation or concerns about a person who works with children, has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may have harmed a child
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child
- Behaved in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children
- Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children

Are you satisfied that:

Your staff are aware and understand your Safeguarding Policy and Whistle-blowing Policy and that you have identified a senior member of staff to take the lead and handle safeguarding matters.

You can access HR support if required.

Your staff know who to approach with a safeguarding issue and that your Safeguarding Lead is confident in liaising with the LADO Service including providing key relevant information at Professional Allegations Oversight Meetings (PAOM) and making key decisions.

You have an appropriate system for keeping information relating to the allegation confidential and that records can be kept separately and securely to safeguard the data of the staff member or volunteer involved and your organisation's reputation.

You are able to support and monitor the staff member or volunteer involved and take interim protective measures to prevent any potential harm to the child involved if required.

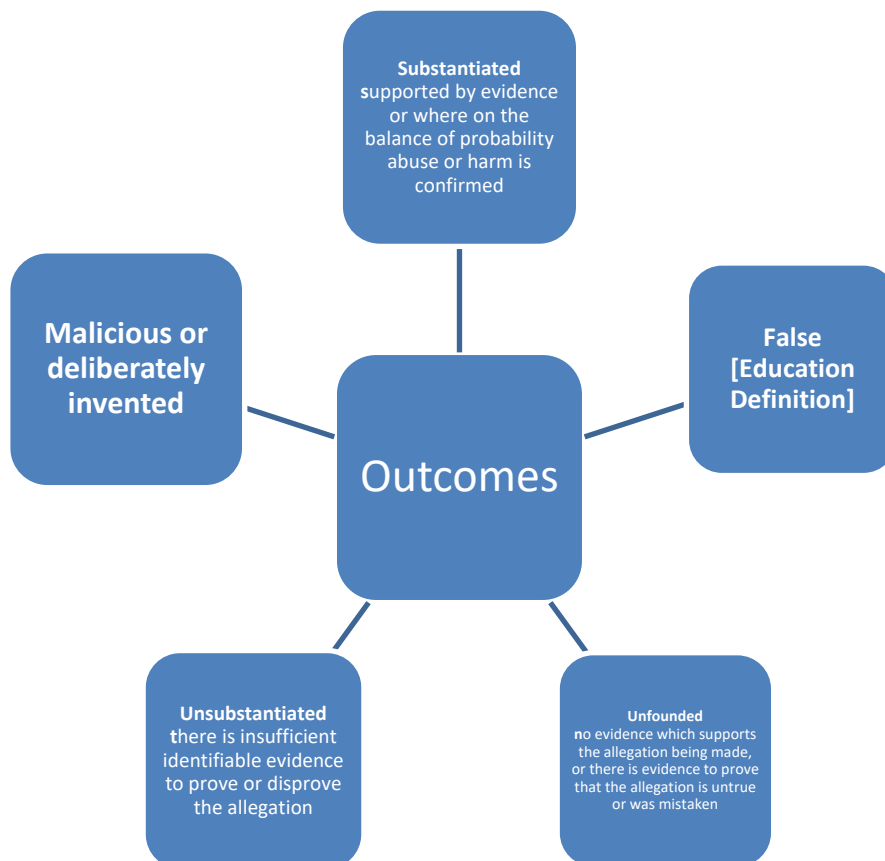
What is the Professional Allegation Process?

Please read this guidance in conjunction with the General Guide for Professionals and Volunteers working with children.

What are the likely outcomes?

The LADO Service will assist the multi-agency participants including the employer / organisation to reach a consensus in respect of whether or not the allegation is substantiated and a copy of the Professional Allegation Oversight Meeting notes will be distributed to relevant parties including the staff member/volunteer who has been affected by this allegation.

- Unsubstantiated, Unfounded or False; you will consider with the LADO Service how to inform the staff member or volunteer involved and consider any additional measures necessary to support the person back to work and/or to be able to resume their work responsibilities.
- Substantiated; you will consider with the LADO Service whether your disciplinary investigation finds misconduct on the grounds of safeguarding concerns. You will consider whether the disciplinary sanction or gross misconduct amounts to dismissal of the person or ceases to use their services, in which case a referral to the DBS and any professional regulatory body must be made.



Employer and Voluntary Agency Check List

| | |
|---|--|
| Date of Allegation | |
| Brief Description of Allegation | |
| Date of Discussion with LADO Service | |
| Identity of support person for staff / volunteer involved | |
| Date of Suspension | |
| Date of Letter of Suspension | |
| Name of key personnel with knowledge of the Allegation | |
| Date of PAOM | |
| Date of Case Summary | |
| Date provided Case Summary to person of concern | |
| Notification to Ofsted | |
| Notification to DBS | |
| Notification to Prof. Reg. Body | |
| Date of Review | |

What should I bring to the Professional Allegation Oversight Meeting?

| Checklist | ✓ |
|--|---|
| Details of the alleged incident (e.g. time, date, location, witnesses). | |
| Details of the employee/volunteer (e.g. date of birth, address, employment record, relevant training records). | |
| Details of any previous concerns about the employee/volunteer in work context | |
| Details of any relevant activities/hobbies outside of work and family information of the employee/volunteer. | |
| Details of your safeguarding policy and procedures. | |
| Details of organisational supervision and support for staff members. | |

Key Information

Your organisations Safeguarding Policy and codes of conduct

Working Together 2018

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020

Disclosure and Barring Service guidance

Need more help?

Please speak to your manager or identified lead safeguarding officer who will be your main contact point during this process.

This guide does not replace any specialist advice that you may require from a trade union or HR and legal adviser.

Other bitesize guides in this series

Guide for employees and volunteers who work with children

General guide for professionals and volunteers working with children

What should I do if I have a concern about a child?

Contact the MARU: 0300 1231 116 or out of hours: 01208 251300 or website <https://ciossafeguarding.org.uk/scp>

This Guide does not replace any specialist advice that you may require from your HR and Legal Advisor.

For more information and advice contact

Contact 1

LADO e-mail: LADO@cornwall.gov.uk

Contact 2

LADO Administrator

e-mail: LADO@cornwall.gov.uk

Tel: 01872 326536

If you would like this information in another format please contact:

Cornwall Council, County Hall

Treyew Road, Truro TR1 3AY

Telephone: 0300 1234 101

Email: equality@cornwall.gov.uk

www.cornwall.gov.uk/togetherforfamilies