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One Minute Guide: The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

What is it?

The scope of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) role is highlighted in chapter 2 of Working Together 2013 and defines the framework for managing cases that meet the following criteria, when it has been alleged that 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; or
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.

Why are we doing it?

The role ensures that all allegations or concerns about professionals or adults working or volunteering with children are recorded appropriately, monitored and progressed in a timely and confidential way. It gives all agencies whether from the statutory, private or voluntary sector a central point of contact for them to discuss and refer concerns falling within the above criteria.

All cases will be subject to an initial evaluation and where necessary involvement of other sectors including Ofsted, the police and social care when appropriate. The initial evaluation will focus on the nature of the concern, safeguarding for the particular child and appropriate consideration for the member of staff/volunteer concerned.

When is it happening?

The LADO function already exists within Redbridge and the majority of referrals made within the Borough come from Education and Social Care but an increasing number are now made by other sectors including Fostering Agencies, Early Year's settings and the Police.

Where is it happening?

The LADO is based within the Safeguarding and Care Planning Team

Who are the key players?

Les Newton is the current LADO and can be contacted (Monday - Thursday) on 020 8708 5350 or 07903 211521. Enquiries and referrals can be e-mailed to lado@redbridge.gov.uk

At other times, cover is provided by Independent Reviewing Officers and on Fridays telephone contact should be made via the Safeguarding and Care Planning Team on (0208) 708 5554 or the Business Support Team on (0208) 708 5373.

Urgent Child Protection enquiries should be made to the Child Protection and Assessment Team (CPAT) at Lynton House on (0208)708 3885 or out of hours (0208) 553 5825.

If you want to know more about the LADO role, or managing allegations against staff, training can be accessed via the LSCB Training Programme. For more information please e-mail LSCB.training@Redbridge.gov.uk.