

# Local Authority Designated Officer

## Information for parents



### Why am I receiving this Leaflet?

You are receiving this leaflet as information has been received which alleges that your child, or a child you care for may have been harmed by an adult working in a position of trust. A safeguarding complaint is different from a complaint about a service.

Most people who work with children act professionally and aim to provide a safe and supportive environment for them. However, sometimes the behaviour of adults who work with or volunteer with children and young people can result in allegations being made against them.

It is never acceptable for an adult in a position of trust to harm a child. Therefore, allegations or concerns raised about people in a position of trust in relation to children are taken seriously.

### What is the LADO Role?

The LADO is the Local Authority Designated Officer.

The LADO is responsible for overseeing allegations about individuals who work with children. The work can be paid, unpaid or voluntary. A concern can be in relation to the person's behaviour outside of their workplace.

The LADO may not be able to share specific information regarding the alleged person involved, however, they will ensure that a named individual will keep you informed throughout the process.



## What next?

1. An allegation is reported to the LADO.
2. The LADO will consider whether a Managing Allegations meeting should be held to decide if further action is needed.
3. If it is necessary to investigate further, a decision will be made whether this will be the police, social care, an employer, or a combination of agencies.
4. The investigators may wish to meet with your child to discuss the allegation. This will be discussed with you beforehand.
5. Following the investigation, a decision will be made to conclude the outcome as: Substantiated, Unsubstantiated, Unfounded or Malicious.

## Outcomes

At the end of an investigation an outcome is needed.

### The possible outcomes are:

- **Substantiated:** Evidence was able to prove that it did happen.  
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- **Unsubstantiated:** It cannot be proven either way that the allegation did or did not happen.  
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- **Unfounded:** Evidence was unable to prove what was alleged did not happen or couldn't have happened or that information has been misinterpreted.  
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- **Malicious:** A deliberate act to deceive.  
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## Personal Support

The meeting will consider the best support for the child/young person and who is the best person/ agency to provide this support.

A named person will be identified to keep you informed throughout the process of any developments. You will be informed when the matter has been concluded.

If you would like to find out more about Managing Allegations, please contact the LADO.

The LADO for Bath and North East Somerset is Victoria Harlin.

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**The LADO in Bath and North East Somerset is called Victoria Harlin.**

You can contact Victoria by:

**Email** [LADO@BATHNES.GOV.UK](mailto:LADO@BATHNES.GOV.UK) and **Phone** 01225 396810

