

Local Authority Designated Officer

For Young People



I would like to make a report

- This leaflet will explain what we will do. Most importantly, you need to know that we will take what you tell us seriously.
- If you believe that you have been hurt or harmed by an adult you know through school or a college, a youth club, sports club, faith group or any other setting, or by your carers if you do not live with your parents, then you must tell someone.
- You should also tell someone if you feel that an adult is behaving in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable or upsets you.

Who should I tell?

- A teacher or tutor
- The person in charge of the group
- Your parents
- You can also phone **01225 477929** or **01225 396111** during the day to talk to a social worker
- or call **Childline 0800 1111**

Who will be told?

All allegations against people working with children or young people have to be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (the LADO) whose job is to make sure all allegations are properly and thoroughly investigated. Your allegation will be reported to the LADO and to the police if a crime may have been committed. Your parents or carers will also need to know, unless the allegation is about your carers.

What then?

The LADO will discuss with professionals who need to know how your allegation will be investigated. The LADO does not do the investigation but agrees who will.

As part of the investigation we may need to talk to you to get more information about what happened and when and ask some questions for example, did anyone see? Do you think this has happened to anyone else?

If the police are leading the investigation it will be a specially trained police officer who talks with you.

You and your parents will be asked not to talk to anyone about this because this might affect the investigation.

As part of the investigation the adult whom you have made the allegation about will be spoken with, and anyone else whom we think can help us understand what has happened.

What will I be told?

You will be updated when the investigation is complete.

The outcomes will be one of the following:

- **Substantiated:** this is the outcome when there is evidence to confirm the allegation.
- **Unsubstantiated:** this is where there are different accounts of what happened and the investigation cannot prove what did or did not happen.
- **Unfounded:** here the investigation has found nothing to support the allegation, it may be the person reporting the allegation mistook what they saw, or they were not aware of all the circumstances.
- **Malicious:** where an allegation has been deliberately made to cause harm or hurt to someone. This is very unusual.

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

You can contact Victoria by:

Email LADO@BATHNES.GOV.UK and

Phone 01225 396810

