

# Local Authority Designated Officer

for managing allegations against those who work with children (LADO)



## What is it?

**The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is the person who should be notified 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
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates she or he may pose a risk of harm to children
- Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may be unsuitable to work with children

### Why do we have it?

The LADO is responsible for providing advice, information and guidance to employers around allegations and concerns regarding both paid and unpaid workers:

- Managing and overseeing individual cases from all agencies
- Ensuring there is a consistent, fair and thorough process for all adults working with children against whom allegations are made
- Managing the process of cases to ensure they are dealt with as quickly as possible

### What does the law say about it?

Legislation and guidance from government sets out the processes to be followed by agencies when responding to allegations against adults who work with children and young people: Working Together 2018, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 and BSCP's Procedures for Managing Allegations against People who work with Children. All allegations that meet the allegation criteria must be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) within one working day.

### What do we have in Bolton?

All those involved in the management of allegations should be familiar with the Bolton local protocol, the 'LADO First Steps process' and should inform their line manager, at the earliest opportunity, when a concern arises which appears to meet that criteria. The LADO should then be informed within one working day of all allegations that come to an employer's attention.

### What should practitioners do?

Any practitioner can seek advice from or refer to LADO directly; however it is often also useful to inform your line manager that you are raising an allegation.

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If you believe there is immediate risk of significant harm contact the Police on **999**.  
If you believe there are significant safeguarding concerns, you can contact Integrated Front Door via [www.bolton.gov.uk/refer-a-child](http://www.bolton.gov.uk/refer-a-child)

## Key contacts and for more information...

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Bolton Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP).  
Tel: **01204 337474**

Please ring if you wish to discuss an allegation or concern, alternatively complete a LADO referral form, which can be found at  
[www.boltonsafeguardingchildren.org.uk/managing-allegations](http://www.boltonsafeguardingchildren.org.uk/managing-allegations)

Email: [LADO@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@bolton.gov.uk)

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