

ONE MINUTE GUIDE TO LADO

Managing allegations

What is it?

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is the person who should be notified when it has been alleged that someone 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; or
- Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children

The role involves having oversight of allegations which meet the above criteria, ensuring that these allegations or concerns about those working or volunteering with children are recorded appropriately, monitored and progressed in a timely and confidential way. It is also important to ensure that the voice of the child or young person is heard and taken into account throughout the process.

The responsibilities of the local authority in relation to the LADO role are outlined in [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#), statutory guidance produced by the Department for Education, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).

What happens once a notification is accepted?

A notification will be accepted by the LADO if it meets the criteria set out in the box above.

Notifications will be subject to an initial evaluation and, where appropriate, the involvement of other agencies such as the Police, Children's Social Care, employers and regulatory bodies. Inter-Agency Managing Allegations Meetings are also convened by the LADO when necessary.

Each agency will use their own procedures to investigate an allegation. The LADO will offer guidance around any safeguarding concerns, for example an individual's contact with children while the allegations are being investigated.

What should you do?

Anybody who has concerns about a person working or volunteering with children should discuss their concerns with the organisation's manager, and/or the LADO.

This discussion should help to clarify whether the criteria for making a LADO notification has been met.

If so, anybody can make a notification using the form on the Milton Keynes Council – The Role of the LADO website page.

If it is still unclear whether the criteria has been met after this discussion, you can contact the LADO at lado@milton-keynes.gov.uk or on 01908 254307 for further advice.

There is a separate process to follow if concerns relate to a person who works or volunteers with vulnerable adults. Please get in touch with the Safeguarding Adults service on 01908 253772 or Access.Team@Milton-Keynes.gov.uk for more information about this process.

Urgent child protection concerns should be discussed directly:

Milton Keynes MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub)
Telephone 9am-5pm: 01908 253169/70

Telephone out of hours: Milton Keynes Emergency Social Work Team 01908 265545

Key contacts and further information:

The LADO in Milton Keynes can be contacted Monday to Friday on 01908 254307 or email LADO@milton-keynes.gov.uk