

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) resources for practitioners

These resources are to support professionals managing allegations and relate to the role of the Salford Local Authority Designated Officer (known as the LADO).

Children and young people can be subject to harm by those who work with them in any setting. This may be by a professional, staff member, foster carer or volunteer.

All allegations must be taken seriously and treated in accordance with agreed procedures. These procedures apply to all organisations within Salford who have contact with children and young people or provide staff or volunteers to work with or care for children and young people.

LADO

Allegations made against workers who are paid, unpaid, volunteer, agency, casual and self-employed as well as foster carers, and adoptive parents of children on Placement Orders should all be reported to the Salford LADO. This should be done within 24 hours of the incident.

If you have concerns about an adult working with children or young people, please report your concern using the [Salford LADO referral form](#).

If you wish to have an informal conversation with the Salford LADO before making a referral, please call 0161 603 4350.

Completed referrals forms should be emailed to LADO@salford.gov.uk – it is essential that all sections of the referral form are completed.

Referrals to the Salford LADO

Schools and Colleges should follow the statutory procedures set out in [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (2018) when allegations of abuse are made against teachers or other school staff (including volunteers).

These procedures should be used when an allegation is made that an adult has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed, 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.

In all cases all the general principles outlined below will apply. For convenience the term 'employer' is used to refer to organisations that have a working relationship with the individual against whom the allegation is made.

At the initial stages the employer should Fact Find – this will include:

- obtain a written account of the allegation from the person to whom the allegation was made
- record details of any potential witnesses
- record the details of any discussions and the rationale for any decisions that have been made about the child(ren) and/or adult.

- Review CCTV or any additional sources of information
- Confirm the child(ren) are safeguarded with an agreed interim safety plan

The **LADO** should be informed of all allegations that come to an employer's attention **and** appear to meet the criteria outlined above, so that they can consult other statutory agencies as appropriate.

Referrals to the Salford LADO must be made within **1 working day** of an allegation being made. All referrals need to be made using the Salford LADO referral form. It is essential that all sections of the form are completed.

The completed referral form should be sent to LADO@salford.gov.uk

On receipt of the referral, the LADO will contact the employer and:

- confirm that the child(ren) have been safeguarded and agree an interim safety plan
- consider whether further information is needed
- discuss details of the allegation considering the thresholds for LADO involvement
- determine whether there is enough evidence or information to indicate whether the allegation is unsubstantiated or false
- determine whether multi-agency investigation of the allegation is required to establish if **a person** has behaved in a way that has harmed, 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
- discuss whether the employer has reached a decision about protective measures including any suspension.

Once an allegation has been made, the LADO's role is to:

- capture and co-ordinate the sharing of all the information relating to the case with the officers and agencies that need to be informed
- provide advice and guidance to the employers or voluntary organisations
- monitor and track the progress of the case through to its conclusion, with the aim to resolve it as quickly as possible.

In addition to dealing with individual cases, the LADO must also look at emerging patterns of behaviour.

Timescales:

Referrals to the LADO must be made within 24 hours of the incident

The LADO has 3-5 working days where strategy meeting is appropriate, the LADO will ensure the initial meeting includes the employer and relevant multi-agency partners

All allegations should be resolved within three months unless there is an ongoing Police investigation. In this instance the LADO will complete monthly tracking to ensure a timely conclusion