**Briefing 5: The Local Area Designated Officer (LADO)**

The role of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is set out in the following guidance and procedure;

* HM Government guidance, [Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013)](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130401151715/https%3A/www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-00030-2013)
* [Chapter 8.2 of the Pan Sussex Child Protection & Safeguarding Procedures](http://goo.gl/bsFhvb)
* Statutory guidance on allegations of abuse made against teachers and other staff: [Keeping Children Safe in Education, Part 4](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/300309/KCSIE_gdnce_FINAL.pdf)DfE, April 2014.

**The guidance outlines procedures for managing allegations against people who work with (paid), care for or volunteer (unpaid) with children. It is** governed by the Authorities duties under section 11 of the Children Act 2004

The role of the LADO is;

* To provide a safeguarding interface with employers and agencies regarding concerns and allegations about staff (including volunteers)
* To provide a strategic role within Children’s Social Work Services as part of the Local Authority Safeguarding Team and the Local Safeguarding Children Board

The LADO should be alerted to all cases in which it is alleged that a person who works with children has:

* behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child
* possibly committed a criminal offence against children, or related to a child
* behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he would pose a risk of harm.

There may be up to three strands in the consideration of an allegation:

* a police investigation of a possible criminal offence;
* enquiries and assessment by children’s social care about whether a child is in need of protection or in need of services;
* consideration by an employer of disciplinary action in respect of the individual.

The LADO responsibilities include;

* + - Provide advice, guidance and help to employers, individuals and organisations to determine whether the allegation sits within the scope of the procedures
* Monitoring the progress of cases to ensure they are dealt with as quickly as possible, consistent with a thorough and fair process
* Ensure the child’s voice is heard and that they are safeguarded
* Liaise with Police, Children’s Social Work and other regulatory bodies e.g. the Disclosure and Barring Service

The LADO is involved from the initial phase of the allegation through to the conclusion of the case. The LADO is available to discuss any concerns and to assist employers in deciding whether they need to make a referral and/or take any immediate management action to protect a child.

In Brighton & Hove, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is Darrel Clews. Please contact Darrel on 01273 295643.

**\*If the LADO is not available, you should contact MASH on: 01273 290400.**

For further information or to request copies of these briefings please contact the Children’s Services Service Development Officer on 01273 293736 or Carolyn.bristow@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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