

## Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

### A guide for parents and carers



#### What is a LADO?

The Local Area Designated Officer, often referred to as the LADO is responsible for overseeing concerns about individuals who work with children and young people. This could be about a teacher, nursery worker, sports coach, or anyone else who works with children. Their role is set out in [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2023\)](#).

#### The LADO can:

- **Offer guidance and support:** advising organisations on what to do when an individual with children has an allegation made about them.
- **Coordinate the management of allegations:** overseeing how concerns are managed, making sure they're dealt with fairly, thoroughly, and in line with safeguarding policies.
- **Provide oversight of responses to allegations:** whilst the LADO doesn't investigate directly, they make sure the right steps are followed—both in terms of child safety and employment law.
- **Protect children & ensure fairness:** The LADO's primary role is to protect children from risk of harm, whilst also making sure the adult involved isn't unfairly judged before the facts are clear. They help make sure the process is balanced and respectful.
- **Ensure children are listened to:** The LADO makes sure that the child's feelings, views, and experiences are taken seriously throughout the process by multi-agency professionals involved.
- **Ensure parents are included:** The LADO works closely with organisations to ensure parents worries are acknowledged and where possible, they are kept informed about what is happening.

#### The LADO can't:

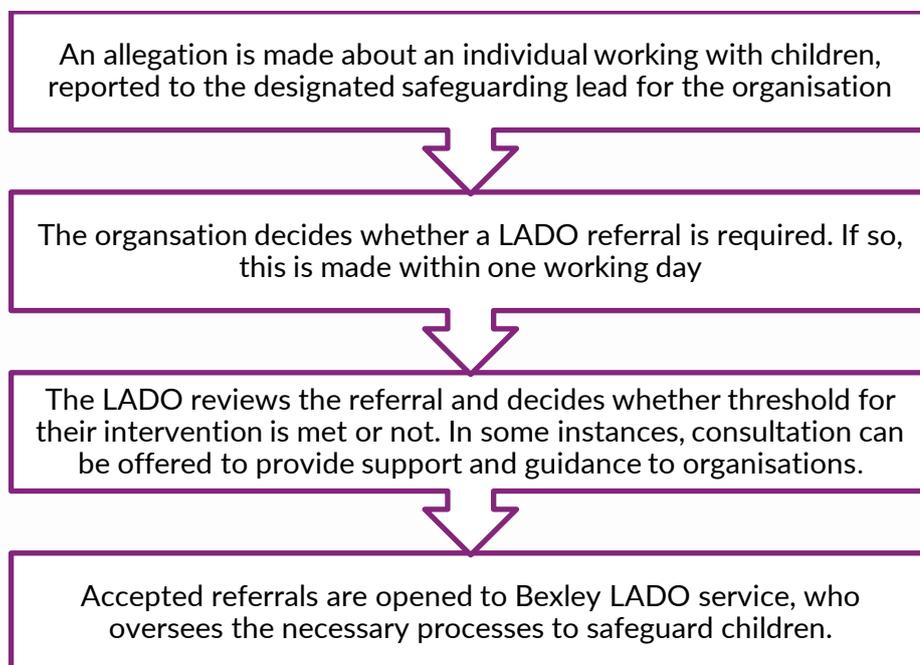
- **Undertake investigations directly:** The LADO oversees the processes—but they don't carry out investigations. These are done by the employer, police, or other professional bodies, like Ofsted.
- **Interview children:** As the LADO does not directly investigate, they do not interview children directly. Rather, they coordinate who will do this and how, if needed, with multi-agency colleagues.
- **Take referrals from parents:** when parents are worried about someone working with children they should speak to the relevant organisation directly. They'll know how to escalate to LADO if needed.
- **Decide outcomes alone:** The LADO works with others—like police, children's social care and employers—to make sure decisions are made together, based on evidence and safeguarding needs.

### What should I do I have a concern about a child?

If you're worried about someone working with a child, you can:

- **Tell the organisation where the person works.** They will refer to the LADO if needed.
- If you think a child is at **immediate risk of harm or danger**, you should call **999**.

### LADO Roadmap



### Complaints

If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of the LADO process, please request contact from the LADO's line manager via [LADO@Bexley.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@Bexley.gov.uk)

### Further information

You can find out more about the role of the LADO via the following websites:

- [Local Authority Designated Officer \(LADO\) - managing allegations of abuse made against somebody who works with children in Bexley | Bexley Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2023\)](#).
- [The role of the LADO - national-lado-network.co.uk](http://national-lado-network.co.uk)

