

## Outcomes:

At the end of an investigation an outcome is required. The possible outcomes are:

- **Substantiated:** Evidence was able to prove that the allegation did happen.
- **Unsubstantiated:** There is insufficient evidence to prove that the allegation did or did not happen.
- **Unfounded:** Evidence was available to prove that what was alleged didn't happen or couldn't have happened or information has been misinterpreted.
- **Malicious:** A deliberate act to deceive. For an allegation to be classified as malicious, it will be necessary to have evidence which proves the intention to deceive.
- **False:** There is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation; and suggest that it was falsely made.

The outcome of any investigation is final. Unfortunately, detailed information regarding the investigation may not be able to be shared with you further than action has been taken and appropriate safeguarding measures have been implemented.

This is due to data protection requirements and is not about withholding this information from you. You can be assured that the Wakefield & District Safeguarding Children Board provide independent scrutiny to all investigations to ensure they are clear and transparent, considering all safeguarding issues to reach a conclusion and that appropriate action is implemented without delay.

## Personal Support:

The meeting will consider what the best support would be and who is the best person or agency to provide it if the child or young person you're caring for is in need.

A named person will be identified to keep you informed throughout the process of any developments. You will be informed when the matter has been concluded.

The named person could be the lead within the investigating agency, such as a social worker or police officer, or it could be a manager within the employing agency of the professional who concerns have been raised against.

## Further Information:

You can find further information regarding the LADO procedures at:

<https://www.wakefieldscb.org.uk/professionals-and-practitioners/lado-local-authority-designated-officer/>

**Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)**

**Five Towns Resource Centre**

**Castleford**

**WF10 1DP**

**Tel: 01977 727032**

**Email: [lado.referrals@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:lado.referrals@wakefield.gov.uk)**



## Raising safeguarding concerns regarding professionals who work with children and young people



Information for Parents and Carers

**WAKEFIELD & DISTRICT**  
**safeguarding**  
**children board**

## Why am I receiving this leaflet?

You are receiving this leaflet as information has been received which alleges the child or young person you care for may have been harmed by an adult working in a position of trust. A safeguarding allegation is not the same as a complaint about a service.

The majority of people who with children or young people act professionally and aim to provide a safe and supportive environment for them. However, sometimes the behaviour of adults who work or volunteer with children and young people can result in allegations being made against them.

It is never acceptable for an adult in a position of trust to harm a child or young person and therefore, allegations or concerns about behaviour raised regarding staff, workers or volunteers in relation to children or young people are taken seriously.

The Wakefield & District Safeguarding Children's Board view all safeguarding allegations regarding people who work with children seriously and will work with agencies to ensure they are investigated. This may include also working with Wakefield Children's Services Child Protection Procedures.

## What is the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) role?

The LADO is responsible for overseeing all safeguarding allegations about individuals who work with children and young people. This may be in a paid, unpaid or voluntary capacity.

A concern can be in relation to the person's behaviour at work or outside of their workplace.

The LADO is a qualified social worker and will consider the following thresholds when an allegation is made:

- **Behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child;**
- **Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child**
- **Behaved towards a child in a way that indicates they would pose a risk of harm to children.**

The LADO will not be able to share specific information regarding the alleged person involved with you, but will ensure that a nominated person in the agency undertaking the investigation will keep you informed throughout.

## What happens next?

Allegation reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

The LADO will consider whether a discussion or meeting should be held to decide if further action is needed

If it is necessary to investigate further, a decision will be made whether this will be undertaken by the Police, Children's Social Care or the professionals employer or a combination of agencies

An appointed investigating officer may wish to meet with your child or young person to discuss the allegation. This will be discussed with you beforehand

Following the investigation, a decision will be made to conclude the outcome of the investigation as:

Substantiated, Unsubstantiated, False, Unfounded or Malicious.