

Outcome

The possible outcomes are:

Substantiated - Supported by proof.

Unsubstantiated - Insufficient evidence to prove or disprove. This is not the same as a false allegation and does not imply guilt or innocence.

Unfounded - Evidence was available to disprove the allegation or information has been misinterpreted. This means there was no intent to harm or neglect.

Malicious - A deliberate act to deceive. For an allegation to be classified as malicious, it will be necessary to have evidence which proves malicious intent.



FAQs

Q: Can I speak to the LADO?

A: *No. To maintain independence your views will be shared by your named person. They will be able to answer any questions you may have about the investigations.*

Q: Will I get a copy of the investigation Report?

A: *No, but you will be provided with the outcome and any information relevant to your child by your named person.*

Q: Will I be informed of the actions taken as a result of the outcome.

A: *Not always. Some information may remain confidential. This will depend on whether there are criminal procedures and/or whether it is deemed in the public interest to share the information.*

Q: Do you keep records?

A: *All matters referred to the LADO are recorded, and stored securely. The database is then referred to whenever a new matter arises and previous referrals are always taken into account, in order to consider whether there is a pattern of behaviour that needs closer examination.*

You can find Warrington Safeguarding Children's Board procedures for managing allegations at:

www.warringtonlscb.org

Safeguarding Allegations about people who work / volunteer with children.

The LADO Process

Information for parents and carers

This leaflet explains what action may be taken if your child, or a child in your care, has been in contact with an adult working in a position of trust who has had an allegation made against them.

WARRINGTON
Borough Council



Children can be subjected to abuse by those who work with them in any setting.

A safeguarding allegation is not the same as a complaint about a service.

All adults who come into contact with children and young people in their work have a duty of care to safeguard and promote their welfare. The vast majority of adults who work with children act professionally and provide a safe environment for children, however there are times when the behaviour of adults can give rise to allegations of abuse being made against them.

It is never acceptable for an adult in a position of trust to harm a child and therefore allegations or concerns raised about staff, workers or volunteers in relation to children are taken seriously and must be referred to the LADO by the employer.

The **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)** is responsible for liaising with, and overseeing investigations by the employing agency, the Police and other relevant agencies, when an allegation is made. The LADO process can run parallel to Police and disciplinary investigations.

The LADO will not be able to speak directly to you. Neither will they speak to the subject of the investigation. This is to ensure that their oversight of investigations remain fair and independent.

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

LADO Process

Allegation reported to the LADO via the Employer, Childrens' Services or the Police



The LADO will liaise with relevant agencies and consider what further action is needed.



If it is necessary to investigate further a decision will be made whether this will be conducted by the Police, Social Care, the employer or a combination of agencies.



If the Police, Employer or Social Care need to speak with your child as part of the investigation they will contact you directly. They will then share your views with the LADO.



At the conclusion of the investigations you will be provided with information relevant to your child and informed of the outcome.