PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

The role of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

A guide for Children and Young People

This leaflet was created in partnership with the Children's Participation Team

We want children and young people to feel safe wherever they are. Either in the care of their parents or carer or in the care of a trusted adult such as a teacher/ swimming instructor/scouts or girl guides/ any club or activity which is overseen by an adult that we call someone in a Position of Trust (PoT).

These are the steps that will be done when the LADO is contacted.

STEP ONE

If an adult working with you or other children has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed or may have harmed you
- Behaved in a way that has harmed or may have harmed another child
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against you or another child you know
- Behaved towards you or another child in a way that could mean they may pose a risk of harm to children

You need to speak to an adult that you trust such as a parent/teacher. They will report this for you.

STEP TWO

This is when the LADO is told. LADO is short for Local Authority Designated Officer. They are employed by Plymouth and oversee all investigations where someone in a PoT is involved.

The LADO will arrange a meeting to make sure all the information is shared and that you and other children are safe. At the meeting, all of the information around the concerns you have told us about will be discussed and the people at the meeting will decide on if you have been harmed and actions to protect you and other young people.

There may be more than one meeting.

Before the meeting, the adult you have reported may be suspended from their working role with children and young people.

This meeting will be arranged within one week of the LADO being informed.

STEP THREE

A responsible adult such as a social worker, police officer, teacher or youth worker may need to speak to your parents or carers and explain what has happened. The social worker's role is to work with you to make sure you feel safe.

STEP FOUR

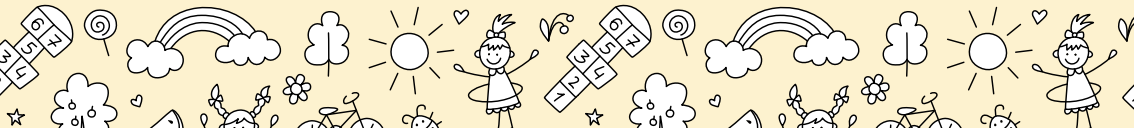
At the meeting, all of the information around the concerns you have told us about will be discussed and the people at the meeting will decide on one of these outcomes:

- They think something serious may have happened to you or could happen to you and they would like you to talk to the police or a social worker as part of an investigation.
- They think something may have happened to you but it doesn't meet the criteria for a formal investigation by the Police and Social Workers. An internal investigation will be considered by who the adult works for. The adult you reported could be disciplined and receive a formal warning or be dismissed.
- No further action will be taken in this situation.

Ideally the investigation should be completed in one month. Sometimes it is longer than this if police or employer have to do their investigation. It is the job of the LADO to make sure everyone does what they should as quickly as possible.

All allegations/concerns are taken seriously.

If you feel concerned enough to report a concern, it's always the right thing to do. You must remember that you are not the person at fault.



Remember...
We want children and young people to feel safe wherever they are

If you have concerns about a child please tell someone who can help

Families First Integrated Care
01752 668000

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
01752 306758 (Office hours) Email: lado@plymouth.gov.uk

Plymouth Police
Emergency 999 Non-emergency 101

Children, Young People and Families Service
Ballard House Plymouth PL1 3BJ
01752 304089
www.plymouth.gov.uk