

THE LOCAL AUTHORITY DESIGNATED OFFICER (LADO)

What is a LADO?

Statutory Guidance: Working Together to Safeguard Children (2026), states local authorities should have a Designated Officer (LADO) to be involved in the management and oversight of **allegations made about people who work/volunteer with children and young people** when the following criteria are met:

The person has allegedly:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children
- Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children

The above criteria relate to the person's behaviour in their workplace, their home and social life, and in the community.

Allegations meeting the above criteria should be referred to the LADO in the area where the person works/volunteers within 1 working day (see how to contact the Stockport LADO below).

What will happen once you've consulted with/referred to the LADO?

The LADO aims to provide an initial response within 1 working day, advising whether the threshold is met for LADO involvement and advising on next steps. The LADO might request further information to be gathered before advising whether threshold is met.

During busy periods the LADO might take slightly longer to respond to lower-level safeguarding concerns.

The LADO will liaise with the police, social care and other agencies if necessary.

If the criteria for LADO involvement are met, the LADO will advise on next steps; this will depend on what is being alleged and the specific circumstances.

The LADO might convene an Allegation Management Meeting, especially if the allegation and the circumstances are complex e.g., they involve several children and / or several adults,

What is an Allegation Management Meeting?

An Allegation Management Meeting is a confidential meeting chaired by the LADO, where involved professionals share information and decide how the allegation should be investigated. The Employer, the Police and Social Care (if there are concerns that a crime has been committed or children need protection) and other involved professionals will attend. The person who the allegation has been made about **does not** attend the Allegation Management Meeting.

The Allegation Management Meeting will consider: the allegation details, employment details, the involved children, immediate and wider safeguarding concerns, and the need for:

- a police investigation if it is suspected a crime has been committed

- An assessment by Children's Social Care if a child is thought to be in need of protection or services
- An employer investigation and possible disciplinary action

If threshold for LADO involvement is met but an Allegation Management meeting is not needed, the LADO will gather the information from involved professionals and provide an overview via email to those professionals, advising on the actions needed including the need for investigation and by who.

The LADO does not carry out the investigation but will provide advice and support throughout the process.

It is expected most investigations will have reached a conclusion within 4 weeks; however, where this is not possible, the LADO service will seek regular updates from involved professionals to ensure the investigation is completed as quickly as possible.

Outcome

A final review will consider the outcome of the investigation and determine whether the allegation is: Substantiated, Unsubstantiated, Unfounded, False or Malicious (definitions will be provided by the LADO).

The LADO will keep a confidential record of the allegation, subsequent actions and the outcome of investigations for future reference.

How to consult with/make a referral to Stockport LADO

If the person works/volunteers with children in Stockport and the criteria above are met, you should make a referral or request a consultation with the LADO via Stockport's secure online portal:

<https://childrensportal.stockport.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/professional>

If the person works/volunteers with children in a different local authority, you will need to make a referral to the LADO in the area where they work.

Contact Details

Email: stockport.lado@stockport.gov.uk (please note **all consultations and referrals for new allegations/concerns must be made via the online portal**)

The Stockport LADO sits within the Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership Service and is supported by a LADO Business Support Officer.

Further information about managing allegations can be found at:

Greater Manchester's Managing Allegations Procedures: [Managing Allegations of Abuse Made Against Adults Who...](#)

WTSC 2026: [Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK](#)