More information:

If you would like to find out more about the role of the LADO, you can access the Gateshead Safeguarding Childrens Partnership: **www.gatesheadsafeguardingchildren.org.uk**

The LADO in Gateshead is Michelle Farry:
Email: LADO@Gateshead.gov.uk
Tel: 07597 527 210

Gateshead Council

8008-SS-MAR26

Gateshead Council

Local Authority Designated Officer

Information for parents and carers



be the difference.

Why have I received this leaflet?

You're receiving this leaflet as information has been received which alleges that your child, or a child you care for may have been harmed by an adult working in a position of trust. A safeguarding complaint is different from a complaint about a service.

Most people who work with children act professionally and aim to provide a safe and supportive environment for them. However, sometimes the behaviour of adults who work with 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. Therefore, allegations or concerns raised about people in a position of trust in relation to children are taken seriously.

What is a LADO and what do they do?

LADO stands for Local Authority Designated Officer. Contact will be made to LADO if there's an allegation about an adult who works with children who has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child; or
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to a child; or
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she 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.

A concern can be in relation to the persons behaviour outside of their workplace.

The LADO is responsible for overseeing allegations against adults who work with children. The work can be paid, unpaid or voluntary. They will ensure that a named individual will keep you informed throughout the process.

Contact the Police if you believe that a crime has been committed.

What might happen next?

1. An allegation is reported to the LADO.

2. The LADO will consider whether an allegation management meeting should be held to decide if further action is needed.

3. If it is necessary to investigate further, a decision will be made whether this will be the police, social care, an employer, or a combination of agencies.

4. The investigators may wish to meet with your child to discuss the allegation. This will be discussed with you beforehand.

5. Following the investigation, the LADO will work with other professionals to decide:
   - Whether the person is safe to continue working with children.
   - Whether they need help, support, or further training.
   - If the person has done something illegal, they may face court proceedings.

6. A decision will be made to conclude the outcome as either: Substantiated, Unsubstantiated, Unfounded, False or Malicious.

7. If an individual has been dismissed or removed from their position due to posing a risk to children, the LADO will give advice on whether referrals are needed to any regulatory bodies such as: Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills), Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA), Sports Governing Bodies, Charity Commission and other Professional Regulatory Bodies.