

# Local Authority Designated Officer

We can help if:

- You are being mistreated or abused by someone and you're not sure what to do
- You think another child/young person is being mistreated or abused
- You need advice or need to talk to someone

**A guide for young people reporting concerns related to staff or volunteers working with Under 18 's**



Most adults who work with children and young people do a great job. Sometimes things may happen face to face or online which make a child or young person feel uncomfortable. If this happens to you, we want you to be able to tell someone. This leaflet will help you know what to do and what will happen next.

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### What is a LADO?

- Every local authority has a LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer). If an adult works with children may have caused harm to a child, then the investigation is overseen by LADO. In Sutton, we work to the Sutton Safeguarding Children's Partnership Procedures which can be found at <https://www.suttonlscp.org.uk/lscp-protocols.php>

If you are worried, you can tell your parent or carer, talk to another adult who you trust (or tell another adult who works in the same place)

If you told someone, such as your teacher or youth worker, they should inform other professionals who are trained to help (e.g. Social Worker, Police Officer, LADO).

An investigation may feel overwhelming. You may want to speak to someone about it. You can speak to your parents or carers. If you prefer, there are other people that will understand what you are going through (see the numbers below). It is best that you and your family don't talk to other people like friends and family about this. This is to protect you and to help the investigation.

### What does a LADO do?

- Provides advice and help to the people in charge. They help to make sure that your allegations are looked into properly. This will sometimes mean talking to other professionals who need to know to make sure you and other children are safe. This might include the Police.
- The LADO will ask the social worker, or the police or the school to talk to you. They will get all the details needed for the investigation.
- If the allegations are found to be true the LADO will make sure that Ofsted and DBS are contacted.



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