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| <b>Committee:</b>   | <b>Dated:</b>            |
| Safeguarding Sub Committee<br>Community & Children's Services Committee   | 03/10/2019<br>07/11/2019 |
| <b>Subject:</b><br>Annual Local Authorities Designated Officer (LADO) Report  | <b>Public</b>            |
| <b>Report of:</b><br>Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services   | <b>For Information</b>   |
| <b>Report author:</b><br>Pat Dixon, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service Manager, Department of Community and Children's Services |                          |

### Summary

This report gives an overview of the Local Authorities Designated Office (LADO) activity that has taken place between April 2018 to end of March 2019. There have, in total, been six referrals to the LADO. All of these referrals met the threshold for the LADO, which indicates that there has been a 50% increase on the previous year. The six referrals have evenly fallen into three categories: two came under the category of 'sexual'; two were 'physical'; and two were related to the individual's behaviour. The report also identifies that the City of London LADO has been delivering training on the role of the LADO as part of the training for Designated Safeguarding Leads offered by the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP).

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

### Main Report

#### Background

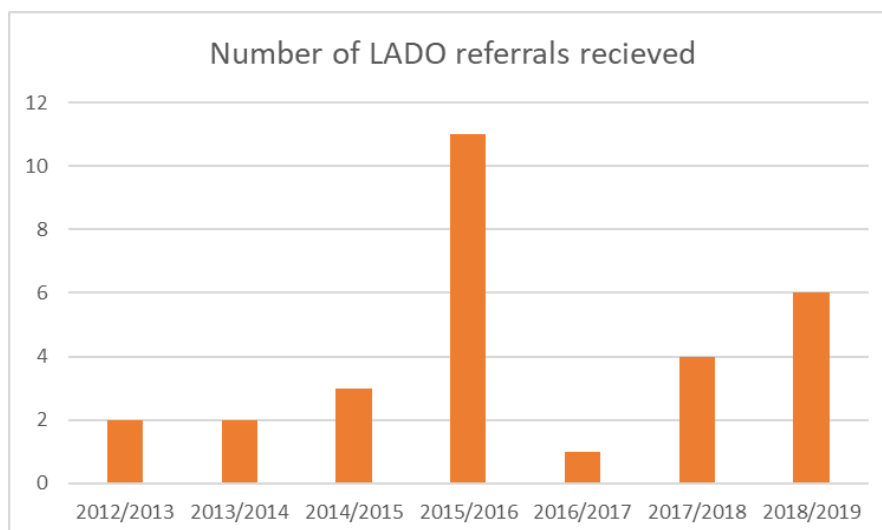
1. The responsibilities of the LADO are set out in *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (July 2018), and the *London Child Protection Procedures 5th edition* (updated 2017), Chapter 7. The LADO deals with all allegations made against staff, including volunteers, that call into question their suitability to work with, or be in a position of trust with, children – whether made about events in their private or professional life, all allegations need to be formally reported to the LADO.
2. Local authorities should, in addition, have designated a particular officer to be involved in the management and oversight of allegations against people who

work with children. Any such officer should be sufficiently qualified and experienced to be able to fulfil this role effectively – for example, qualified social workers. The City of London’s LADO role is carried out by the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service Manager, who is a qualified social worker, with over 15 years’ experience in dealing with professional allegations.

### Current Position

3. There have been six referrals made to the LADO for 2018 to 2019. When this is compared to referrals in 2017 to 2018, there has been a 50% increase in the number of referrals. In 2017 to 2018 there was a total of four referrals, but only three met the threshold for the LADO. Out of the six referrals, two came under the category of ‘sexual’, two were related to ‘physical’ and two were ‘behavioural’. Five of the six referrals were substantiated; one of the referrals under the category of ‘sexual’ was found to be unsubstantiated.

**Figure 1: Number of referrals received since 2012**



4. When this data is compared to previous LADO data in 2015 to 2016, (see Figure 1) where there was a spike of 11 referrals, further scrutiny identifies that only two out of the 10 referrals were substantiated; eight were unsubstantiated. This calls into question the quality of the referrals and whether the thresholds were appropriately applied to these referrals. There is evidence to suggest that professionals have a better understanding of the role of the LADO, the CHSCP have added the role of the LADO on their safeguarding training for Designated Safeguarding Leads.
5. In 2018 to 2019, training was delivered on the LADO’s role as part of the Designated Safeguarding Lead safeguarding training for the CHSCP. Leads were able to ask questions and share experiences with other professionals at the training, which promoted a better understanding of the role. Further training was also offered to Nursery Managers through the Provider’s Forum.

The Lead for Safeguarding for Early Years settings has been integral in supporting the understanding of this role, which has generated more referrals.

## **Conclusion**

6. There has been an increase in the number of LADO referrals received in 2018 to 2019 compared to previous years. When taking into consideration the spike in referrals in 2015 to 2016, there is evidence to suggest that thresholds for referrals to the LADO were not appropriately applied. There has been an increase in training through the CHSCP, and training delivered by the LADO which has supported professionals' understanding of the LADO role. There is evidence to suggest that, rather than this being an anomaly, referrals are set to continue to rise. Since April 2019, there has been significantly more concerns being brought to the attention of the LADO than in previous years.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Annual LADO report.

## **Background Papers**

- *Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children* (July 2018)
- *London Child Protection Procedures 5th edition* (updated 2017), Chapter 7.

## **Pat Dixon**

Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service Manager  
Department of Community and Children's Services

T: 020 7332 1215

E: [pat.dixon@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:pat.dixon@cityoflondon.gov.uk)