

Committee:	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub Committee	08/02/2019
Subject: Local Authorities Designated Officer (LADO) Annual Report 2017 to 2018	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Pat Dixon, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service Manager, Department of Community and Children's Services	

Summary

The Local Authorities Designated Officer (LADO) activity between April 2017 to end March 2018 remains low: in total there were four referrals, with three out of the four meeting the threshold for the LADO. While some agencies engaged and understood the process, there were others who had minimal contact with the LADO. Although there was a higher number of referrals in 2016/2017, only one of the seven referrals received met the threshold for the LADO.

In 2016/2017 a training resource was developed with the support of the Metropolitan Police, City of London Police and the Hackney and City of London LADOs. This has been offered to professionals throughout the year and was taken up by Early Years settings through their providers forum. Training on the role of the LADO is also provided through the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

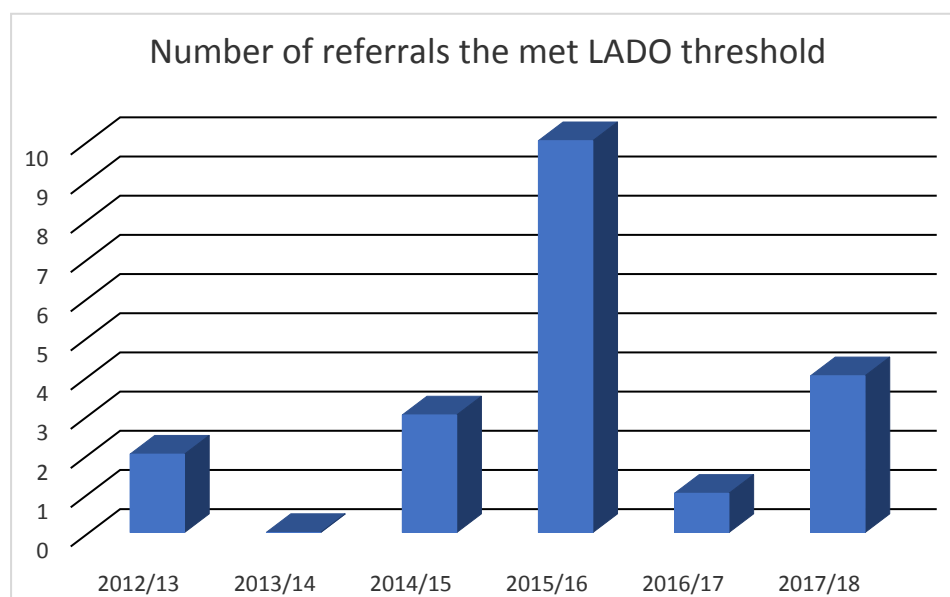
1. The responsibilities of the LADO are set out in *Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children* (July 2018), and the *London Child Protection Procedures: 5th edition* (updated 2017), Chapter 7. All allegations made against 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, need to be formally reported to the LADO.

2. The role of the LADO is carried out by the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Manager who is a member of the pan-London LADO network. This group meets on a quarterly basis, and is a sub-group of the London Safeguarding Children Board. The LADO also reports to the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board and is a member of the Quality Assurance Sub Group, Training and Development Sub Group and City of London's Executive Safeguarding Children Board.

Current Position

3. There have been only four referrals made to the LADO for 2017/2018. Although this is lower than previous years, three out of those four referrals met the threshold for the LADO, whereas only one referral out of seven in 2016/2017 met the threshold. The diagram below shows the number of cases that have met the threshold for the LADO in the past six years. As shown, this averages out at approximately three referrals a year over the past six years. Therefore, taking this average into account, there appears to be no discernible reduction in the number of appropriate referrals.



4. Some agencies engage and understand the process around professional allegations, welcoming the support offered by the LADO. However, there are some agencies that have minimal contact with the LADO, if any. This may be due to the absence of any concerns, but further scrutiny would be needed to discern the underlying reasons. There has been a concerted effort during 2017/2018 to raise the profile of the LADO role through the offer of training. However, there has been minimal interest in this training, with only the Early Years providers taking up this offer.

5. In 2016/2017 it was identified that there could be potential risks around nannys and au pairs: there was limited regulation in this area, and many parents would have limited knowledge about safe recruitment practice when employing someone to care for their child. A priority identified for 2017/2018 was to provide information on a postcard for parents and carers on how to safely recruit nannys and au pairs. Information on the postcard highlighted key areas around safer recruitment and how to register nannys and au pairs on Ofsted's voluntary register. Details were also provided on who to contact should parents have any concerns about someone caring for their child, including details of the LADO in the City of London.

Conclusion

6. There have been continued efforts to raise awareness around the role of the LADO. Where training has been given, there is evidence of impact in relation to increased referrals. The City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board provide information on the LADO role as part of their training for Designated Safeguarding Leads, however, this just gives an overview of the role. The training produced by the Metropolitan Police, City of London Police and the LADOs from Hackney and City is more detailed. It uses actual case scenarios that have been provided by other LADOs across London. A priority for 2018/2019 will be to improve the take-up of training on professional allegations.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Annual LADO Report 2017/2018

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