

Committee: Safeguarding Sub Committee	Dated: 24/06/2020
Subject: Annual Local Authorities Designated Office (LADO) Report	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
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Summary

This report gives an overview of the Local Authorities Designated Office (LADO) activity that has taken place between April 2019 to end of March 2020. In total, there have been eight referrals to the LADO, out of those eight referrals five met the threshold for the LADO and three did not. In the case of two of the referrals that did not meet the threshold for the LADO, there was insufficient evidence to support the allegation, and in the third case, there was difficulty in identifying the perpetrator involved. The report also identifies the training that has been taking place in the City and the impact this has had on the quality of the referrals being made. In May 2019, the City of London hosted the National LADO Conference. This conference raised the profile of the City of London and the role of the LADO.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

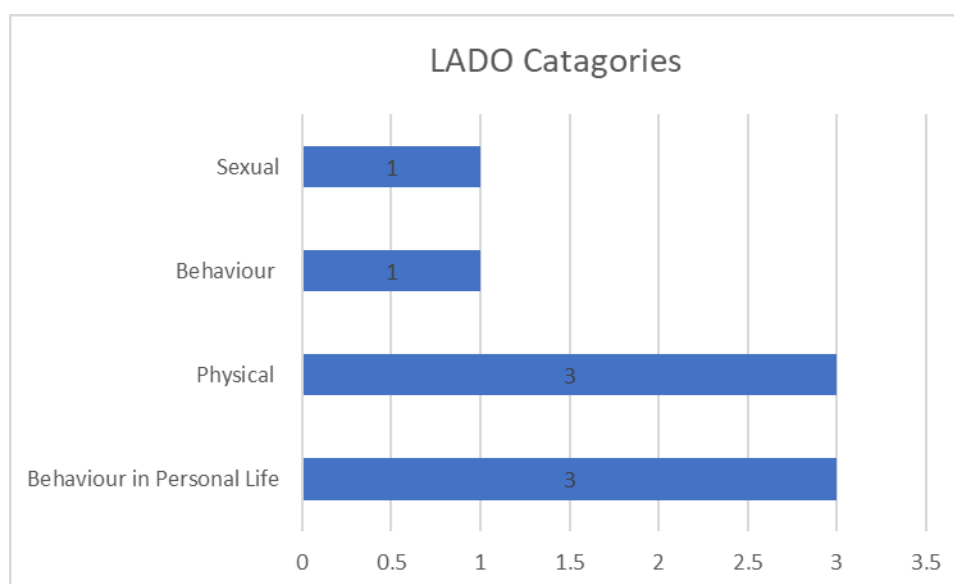
1. The responsibilities of the LADO are set out in *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (July 2018), and the *London Child Protection Procedures 5th edition* (updated 2017), Chapter 7. The LADO deals with all allegations made against staff, including volunteers, that call into question their suitability 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.

Current Position

3. Eight cases were referred to the LADO during the 2019/2020 period of which five met the LADO Threshold. The referral categories have been highlighted below (fig 1). Three (60%) related to incidents in the professional’s personal life, which raised safeguarding concerns in respect of their professional role working with children. One case related to sexual abuse, one related to behaviour and three related to physical abuse. One of the cases relating to physical abuse involved a joint investigation with the Police however no specific individual was identified and thus could not be progressed further within LADO procedures.

Fig 1: Referral Categories for LADO for 2019/2020



4. In 2019 to 2020, training was delivered on the LADO’s role as part of the Designated Safeguarding Lead safeguarding training for the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP). Leads were able to ask questions and share experiences with other professionals during the training, which promoted a better understanding of the role. The LADO also maintains close links with the Designated Safeguarding Leads in Schools, offering advice and support around LADO queries when required.

5. Conclusion

6. It is evident from the quality of the referrals received by the LADO that partner agencies have a good understanding around thresholds. The training delivered

through the CHSCP has recently been updated and the City of London LADO has been involved in delivering this training. There is also evidence that the role of the LADO in the City of London has been raised within the wider London network and nationally through the hosting of the National LADO conference in May 2019. This conference raised the profile of the City not only within Greater London but also nationally and may well have been underlying reason for the increase in the number of referrals from other agencies outside the City of London.

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.

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