

Committee:	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub-Committee	11/10/2021
Subject: Local Authorities Designated Officer (LADO) Annual Report	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Outcome 1
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Pat Dixon, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service	

Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform Member's of the Local Authorities Designated Officer (LADO) activity between April 2020 and March 2021, which has been incorporated in the LADO annual report. There has been a total of 15 referrals during this reporting year, which is a significant increase from the year before, where there had been eight. Five of the referrals received related to incidents in the professional's personal life, and only two referrals resulted in an allegations meeting. In those two cases, the allegations were substantiated.

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 6th edition* (updated 2020), 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. There has been a total of 15 referrals made to the LADO during 2020/2021, which is an increase of seven from 2019/2020. This increase has not been due to any significant surge in referrals, but how referrals and contacts are now being recorded. In the past, only cases that went to an Allegation Against Staff and Volunteers (ASV) Meeting were recorded as a LADO issue, but this did not truly reflect the breadth of concerns and allegations that were being referred to the LADO. In 2020/2021 only 20% of the referrals went to an ASV meeting. However, the other 80% of the cases referred required further investigation and contact with other professionals before they could be concluded and closed. (Attached in Appendix 2 is an anonymised case study of such a case.)
4. The highest proportion of referrals received by the LADO related to incidents that occurred in the professional's person life. Of the five referrals received in this category: two were related to child sexual offences in the professional's personal life; one was related to domestic abuse; and two were related to the professional's behaviour in their personal life. The majority of these incidents were progressed through their own organisation's disciplinary procedures. The range of organisations involved included Health, Education and the Voluntary Sector.

Options

5. N/A

Proposals

6. N/A

Key Data

7. N/A

Corporate & Strategic Implications

8. Financial implications – N/A
9. Resource implications – N/A
10. Legal implications – N/A
11. Risk implications – N/A
12. Equalities implications – N/A

13. Climate implications – N/A

14. Security implications – N/A

Conclusion

15. There has been a significant increase in the number of referrals that have not gone on to require an allegation against staff and volunteer meeting, (ASV) But many of the cases that come through to the LADO can be managed through a discussion between the designated safeguarding lead, police and any other relevant agencies involved. This can be done either through face-to-face meetings or via Microsoft teams, or by having a telephone conversation with the agency involved. An ASV meeting will normally only be convened when it has been decided that the threshold of harm or risk of harm has been met.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Local Authorities Designated Officer’s Report Annual Report 2020 to 2021
- Appendix 2 – Case Study (Non-Public)

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