

Committee:	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub-Committee	09/02/2023
Subject: Local Authorities Designated Officer (LADO) Annual Report 2021 to 2022	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?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Clare Chamberlain, Interim Executive Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Pat Dixon, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service, Community and Children's Services	

Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the Local Authorities Designated Officer (LADO) activity between April 2021 and March 2022, which has been incorporated in the LADO Annual Report. There have been 15 referrals during this reporting year, which is the same as the previous year. Of the 15 referrals received, only five required an Allegation Against Staff and Volunteers (ASV) Meeting. Out of the 10 remaining referrals, three did not meet the threshold for LADO involvement, and seven required advice and support.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The responsibility of the LADO is set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (July 2018), and the London Child Protection Procedures 7th edition, which was updated in 2022. Chapter 7 of the Pan London Child Protection procedures relates to 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. Chapter 7 has recently been amended to provide consistency in the response to low-level concerns and to include the wider definition of people in positions of trust (the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 has extended the definition of Position of Trust within the Sexual Offences Act 2003 section 22A to include anyone who coaches, teaches, trains, supervises or instructs a child under 18, on a regular basis, in a sport or a religion).

Current Position

3. There have been 15 referrals made to the LADO between April 2021 and March 2022, which is the same number of referrals that were received the previous year. When looking at the referral source, there has been an increase in referrals from employment agencies, from health, social care, and education, all based in the City of London. Often in these cases the concerns relate to an allegation that has occurred outside of the City of London, where the professionals have been working. The City of London is often notified to support and advise the agency in dealing with the allegation. The referring local authority would deal with the allegation in their area and advise the City of London of the outcome and recommendations.
4. Of the 15 referrals received, only five required an ASV Meeting. Of the 10 remaining referrals, three did not meet the threshold for LADO involvement, and seven required advice and support from the LADO in managing the concerns. Six of those referrals involved agency staff, whose agency was based in the City of London. In most of these cases, the allegation is dealt with by the LADO in the area where the incident occurred. However, in certain circumstances, where an individual has only been employed for a short period, the LADO responsibility could fall to the LADO where the agency is based. The categories for these referrals are: one was aligned to a professional's behaviour, six related to a sexual incident; and eight were under the category of 'physical'.

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. In November 2022, the City of London received a focused visit from Ofsted in relation to children's services. Part of this focused visit was on the work of the LADO. During this visit, current LADO cases were reviewed. The conclusion was: "The local authority designated officer provides a robust service, taking a forensic approach to analysing current and historical information, and making timely and effective decisions. The designated officer also provides skilled professional challenge to organisations when necessary."

Appendices

- LADO Annual Report 2021 to 2023.

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