

Committee:	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub-Committee	19/06/2023
Subject: Local Authorities Designated Officer (LADO) Annual Report 2022 to 2023	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: Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Pat Dixon, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service	

Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) activity between April 2022 and March 2023, which has been incorporated in the LADO Annual Report. There were 13 referrals during this reporting year, which is slightly lower than the previous two years. Of the 13 referrals received, only one required an Allegation Against Staff and Volunteers (ASV) Meeting. Out of the 12 remaining referrals, two did not meet the threshold for LADO involvement, and 10 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 (see Background Papers below) 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. Allegations, whether made about events in a person's private or professional life, need to be formally reported to the LADO.

Current Position

2. There were 13 referrals made to the LADO between April 2022 and March 2023, which is slightly lower than the two previous years. The threshold for an ASV meeting has been raised, and therefore lower-level LADO referrals requiring advice and support can be dealt with, without an ASV or strategy meeting. The referrals received by the LADO in 2022/23 came from a variety of sources, but the highest proportion came from other local authorities. Often in these cases the concerns relate to an allegation that has occurred outside of the City of London, and the role of the LADO is to support and advise agencies and organisations in managing potential risks.
3. In 2022 to 2023 the LADO met with City of London Police to discuss the role and responsibilities in relation to the LADO role and the thresholds for referral. This meeting proved helpful as it clarified the LADO process and how this supported the management of risk, such as when cases did not meet the threshold for criminal prosecution. This year the LADO received three referrals from the Police – two from the City of London Police and one from the Metropolitan Police.
4. In March 2023 the City of London and Hackney LADO delivered face-to-face training on the role of the LADO in the City of London. This training was aimed at professionals from an educational background and was delivered through the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP). Although the training had been advertised on the CHSCP website, the take-up of this training was disappointing, but this might have been due to the training not being available online.

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. The LADO Annual Report shows all the activity that has taken place within LADO procedures between 2022 and 2023. The number of referrals is slightly lower than in previous years, and the number of ASV meetings has also decreased. However, this has been identified as being due to most of the allegations occurring outside of the City of London. This means that the ASV meetings would have taken place where the allegation occurred, and the role of the City of London LADO would be to offer support and advice to the agency or organisation involved in managing the risk, in relation to the individual involved, as they are based in the City of London.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – LADO Annual Report 2022 to 2023.

Background Papers

- London Safeguarding Children Procedures:
www.londonsafeguardingchildrenprocedures.co.uk/responding_concerns.html

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