

ALLEGATIONS MANAGEMENT

Concerns about a member of staff or a volunteer working with children

If a professional receives an allegation or has a concern about the behaviour of a member of staff working or volunteering with children and that concern could amount to:

- a) A member of staff or volunteer has behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child, or
- b) Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child, or
- c) Behaved towards a child or children in way that indicates s/he may pose a risk of harm to children

Then that professional should:



Report their concerns

Report the concern to the most senior person not implicated in the allegation



Completion of written record

Complete a written record of the nature and circumstances surrounding the concern, including any previous concerns help. Include where the concern came from and brief details only.



Seek advice before proceeding – Initial Discussion

Always contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for advice prior to investigation the allegation. This is because it might meet the criminal threshold and so your investigation could interfere with a Police or Social Care investigation.

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) – Tel: 01452 426994

The LADO will offer advice on any immediate action required and will assist with employment and safeguarding issues



Allegations Management Process

If, after your initial discussion with the LADO, it is agreed that the allegation meets the criteria, please complete the allegation management referral form via the GSCE website.

<https://ges-online.com/Gloucestershire/eLADO/Live#!/Public>

The LADO will review referrals and convene an allegations management meeting. This might result in a criminal investigation, a Social Care investigation and /or an investigation to inform whether disciplinary action is required. If it is agreed that the allegation does not meet the criteria, the LADO will record the initial discussion and send it to you for your records. Any further action will be taken within your setting if necessary.



Further Action

Further meetings might be required and these will be convened by the LADO, with your input at all times. Further information on the Allegations Management process can be found in the Government Document: Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, Part 4 Keeping Children Safe in Education and the South West Procedures. <https://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/gloucestershire/contents.html>