

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ADULTS - Risk of harm to children

GUIDANCE FLOWCHART

If you become aware that a member of staff/volunteer may have:

- Behaved in a way that **has harmed** a child, or **may have harmed** a child;
- Possibly committed a **criminal offence** against or related to a child or
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they **may pose a risk of harm** to a child

Where a young person discloses abuse or neglect

- Listen; take their allegation seriously; reassure that you will take action to keep them safe
- Inform them what you are going to do next
- Do not promise confidentiality
- Do not question further or approach/inform the alleged abuser

Report immediately to the setting's Owner (*or Manager -delete as appropriate
<insert name and title as appropriate>

Any concern or allegation against the Owner (*or Manager) <delete as appropriate>
will be reported to the Manager / Chair of Committee

Unless there is clear evidence to prove that the allegation is incorrect, the person whom the allegation was reported to **must:**

Report the allegation within one working day to the Designated Officer for Allegations (formerly known as LADO):

Designated Officer (direct line): 01225 713945

Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH): 0300 456 0108

Out of Hours Emergency Duty Service (5.30pm – 9.00am): 0845 607 0888

The Designated Officer will:

1. Consider the relevant facts and concerns regarding the adult and child or children, including any previous history
2. Decide on next course of action - usually straight away, sometimes after further consultation with other multi-agency parties such as HR and Police.

If the allegation threshold is NOT met, the Designated Officer will agree with you an appropriate response (*e.g. for the agency to undertake further enquiries or undertake and internal investigation*)

If the allegation threshold is met a strategy meeting will normally be held either by phone or in person. Normally a senior manager/ safeguarding lead, the Designated Officer, HR, Police and social care are invited to attend. Relevant information is shared, risks to children are considered and appropriate action agreed –e.g. child protection and other enquiries, disciplinary measures or criminal proceedings. A record of the meeting will be made, and regular reviews will take place until a conclusion is reached.

NB: This document is intended for use as a brief guide only. For more detailed guidance refer to the WSCB Allegations Management Policy at www.wiltshirelscb.org