

A guide for a child or young person who has made an allegation of abuse against an adult carer, member of staff, or volunteer working with children.



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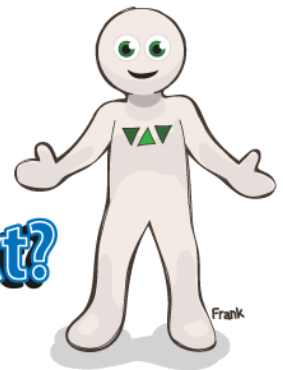
Most adults who work with children and young people do a great job. Sometimes things happen that make children feel uncomfortable or unsafe. If this happens to you, we want you to tell someone. This leaflet will tell you what to do and what will happen next.

Introduction

If you are worried about the way an adult who works with you is behaving, you can do the following:

- Tell your parent or carer
- Talk to another adult who you trust
- Tell another adult who works in the same place.

What happens next?



Concerns raised by a child or young person are sometimes called an allegation. Allegations should be taken seriously and listened to.

Usually someone important will need to be told about what you have said and will decide what to do to help.

For example, in a school this might be the Head Teacher. They will decide if they need to contact someone called the LADO.

What is a LADO and what do they do?

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is there to help sort things out to make sure children are safe. They will ask for information about the allegation and decide how serious it is. If it is very serious the Police or a Social Worker may need to be involved.

Less serious concerns can be sorted out by the place where the person works.

Who can I talk to?



Someone will need to ask you more about what has happened, and the LADO will make sure you know who this is. You should be told how long it will take to sort things out and what happened in the end. Adults will work together to make sure that whatever made you feel unsafe or uncomfortable does not happen again

What is an investigation?



It's what the LADO will oversee and ensure that everyone involved is doing everything to help and make sure that children are okay by finding out what's going on.

What will be the outcome?

The outcome of an investigation into an allegation can be any of the following.

Substantiated: The allegation supported by evidence of proof. The adult's employer may offer further training, seek to dismiss them, and/or refer them to other organisations such as the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Unsubstantiated: The allegation is neither proven nor disproven. This means it is not known if the adult member of staff is guilty or innocent.

Unfounded: There is evidence that the allegation was not true, but may have been misinterpreted by what was heard, seen, or happened.

False and Malicious: There is evidence the allegation is not true and the allegation may have been made up to cause the adult member of staff harm.

Additional support? If you would like to speak in confidence to someone about how you are feeling, you can contact ChildLine on **0800 11 11** (24-hour hotline) or visit: www.childline.org.uk

For online information on local youth information, advice, counselling, and support services you can visit: www.torbay.gov.uk