

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2017/2018 REPORT

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee
6th September 2017

REPORT OF:

Executive Director Children's Services

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Agenda - Part:	Item: Update Report
Subject: Enfield Annual LADO Report 2016/17	
Wards: All	
Cabinet Member consulted: Cllr Orhan	

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report updates the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the annual LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) report April 2016 to March 2017 which is attached as an appendix. In Summary:

- The role of the LADO is undertaken by the Service Manager of Safeguarding and Quality Service (SQS), who has responsibility for overseeing investigations, alerting senior council officers to allegations of a serious nature, and making referrals to the Disclosure and Barring Service. Child Protection Conference Chairs/Independent Reviewing Officers in the Safeguarding and Quality service will lead on investigations in the absence of the LADO.
- In addition to leading on investigations, the service offer advice and guidance when there may be concerns about a person's conduct and when the threshold for a formal investigation has not been met. This has often ensured that advice and guidance has been given to staff when there are low level concerns
- The total number of allegations between 1.04.2016 and 31.03.2017 which met the threshold for formal LADO involvement was 50. 10 allegations (20%) were substantiated.

- This year there have been approximately 80 consultations with the LADO, where the threshold for LADO intervention had not been met.
- The number of allegations has remained consistent in the last 3 years. This year some of the allegations have been complex and have required several review strategy meetings until the conclusion of the investigation. In one case, the DfE and OFSTED had also been involved.
- In addition to the above activity, (investigations and consultations) the LADO has liaised with the Standards and Curriculum Service when there have been referrals from OFSTED to co-ordinate responses in a timely fashion
- Training is an integral part of staff development and several workshops and training sessions have been delivered.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the findings of this report.

3. PLEASE SEE APPENDIX (FULL REPORT) ATTACHED.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

This report is for information.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To report to Members on the work and performance of the LADO.

6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

6.1 Financial Implications

N/A

6.2 Legal Implications

The role of the LADO was introduced in 2007 and is set out in the “Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015”.

6.3 Property Implications

There are no property implications.

7. KEY RISKS

Any operational risks are minimised by attention to good practice and adherence to clear procedures. When appropriate, the LADO will liaise with the Communications Team if there is a possibility of media interest.

8. IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES

8.1 Fairness for All, Growth and Sustainability, Strong Communities

The work of the LADO meets all 3 of the council’s key aims and the objectives and the priorities within the Children and Young People’s Plan primarily keeping children safe from further abuse or future abuse.

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

The Council is committed to being an exemplar of best practice in all equalities work. Corporate advice has been sought regarding equalities and an agreement has been reached that an equalities impact assessment is neither relevant nor proportionate for the approval of the Annual report. Safeguarding forms part of the Councils programme of retrospective equalities impact assessments (EQIA).

10. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Children’s Social Care has a robust data set and annual audit programme supporting the continuous drive for improvement by the Council and its

partners in relation to outcomes for children. The development of the bespoke LADO workspace on ICS will assist in collating data and evidencing impact.

11. HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

12. HR IMPLICATIONS

The LADO works in close collaboration with HR when there are safeguarding allegations against council staff to ensure procedures are adhered and that staff receive appropriate support during an investigation.

13. PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

The work of the LADO is critical in reducing child abuse that occurs within the workplace or in a voluntary capacity. The cost to the public purse of supporting children with emotional and mental health issues relating to past harm is considerable. By preventing further abuse to children there is increased chances of positive health outcomes and less financial pressures upon health.

Background Papers

Draft Annual LADO report 2016-2017