

LADO NEXT STEPS

The LADO may decide, following discussion, that a strategy meeting is required where the criteria for significant harm is reached:

- > Someone has behaved in a way that has harmed or may have harmed a child.
- > There is a possibility that someone has committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child.
- > Someone has behaved toward a child in a way that indicates that they are unsuitable to work with children.

The LADO will arrange the strategy meeting.

Following discussion with the LADO the parents of the child must be informed and support offered to the child and their family.

To report allegations or to seek advice please contact:

Local Authority Designated Officer

Isle of Wight Council
County Hall
High Street
Newport
Isle of Wight

tel: 01983 821000

For further information on the Independent Safeguarding Authority please go to www.isa-gov.co.uk



Safeguarding children and young people

- > Ensuring a safe workforce
- > Managing allegations



This publication is available on request in large print, audiotape or Braille and in other languages. For further details please contact the Isle of Wight Council on (01983) 821000 (Typetalk available)

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Working together to safeguard children is everybody's responsibility

Safeguarding children and young people is a statutory requirement for all organisations that provide services for children. It states that they must have a safe recruitment policy as well as procedures for managing allegations of possible abuse against staff and volunteers. The statutory guidance is outlined in *Working Together (2010)* and *4LSCB Safeguarding Children Procedures (2007)*. Both publications are available at www.4lscb.org

Definition The law states that any person of a child: under the age of 18 years is defined as a child.

WHAT MUST ORGANISATIONS DO?

Every statutory, voluntary and independent organisation offering services to children must have a safe recruitment policy in place.

Every organisation has a responsibility to set personal and professional boundaries for their staff and volunteers, and to be explicit about what behaviour is appropriate and acceptable.

Every organisation must have a clear procedure to follow when an allegation is made against someone working or volunteering in their service.

Every organisation must identify a senior person who has the responsibility for ensuring that the procedure is followed if an allegation is made.

EMPOWERING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

All organisations must ensure that the children and young people they are working with know what to do if they are worried about the behaviour of a member of staff or volunteer.

WHISTLEBLOWING

All organisations must have a policy that gives workers and volunteers the confidence to raise confidential concerns about a colleague's behaviour or actions.

WHAT TO DO IF AN ALLEGATION IS MADE

All allegations must be treated seriously.

A record of the allegation must be made, outlining what has been said, as well as dates and times. The record must be signed and dated.

Child protection procedures must be followed immediately if a child or young person is considered to be at risk of harm, and an immediate referral must be made to the duty social worker at the Children's Services Centre, tel: 01983 525790.

Contact must be made with the senior person responsible for dealing with allegations against staff, who will then liaise as soon as possible with the local authority designated officer (LADO) to discuss the next step. No action should be taken, other than to ensure the protection of children, until there has been discussion with the LADO.

This is important as a police investigation may be required and any action taken must be agreed by them.

