

For concerns about staff or volunteers working with children in Buckinghamshire, contact:

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## **SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT**

In Buckinghamshire we recognise that the impact on you and your family can be far reaching.

Therefore designated advisors are in place to handle allegations against staff and volunteers.

We are committed to providing fair treatment and to achieving just outcomes for all concerned.

APRIL 2015

[www.bucks-lscb.org.uk](http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk)

Buckinghamshire



**Safeguarding  
Children Board**

# **SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**

**A guide for a child or young person who has  
made an allegation of abuse against  
a member of staff or a volunteer working in the  
children's workforce**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Telling someone about any kind of abuse that you have suffered can be very scary, particularly if you have had to speak out against a member of staff, or someone in a position of trust. It is important to remember that you have done nothing wrong, and that what you have said will be taken seriously.

## **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU TELL SOMEONE?**

If you tell someone such as your teacher or youth worker, they will inform other professionals who are trained to help (e.g. Social Worker, Police Officer).

There is a specialist worker called the Local Area Designated Officer (LADO for short) who will also be informed to offer advice.

## **WHAT WILL THE LADO DO?**

The LADO's role is to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and offered support. The LADO will also keep a watch over how long investigations are taking and challenge any unnecessary delays.

It is very important that everyone directly involved is listened to and that all the evidence is considered carefully. In this way the LADO helps to ensure that the right outcome can be achieved.

## **WHO CAN YOU TALK TO?**

While the allegations process may seem overwhelming, it is needed to make sure that everyone involved works together to achieve the right outcome for you (and your family).

Until the investigation is complete, it is best that you and your family do not talk about the matter with other people, such as school friends or friends of your parents. This is to protect you.

However, it is natural that you may want to speak to someone about how you are feeling. You could speak to your parents or to

your school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (lead person for dealing with these situations).

If you do not want to speak to your parents, there are other people that will understand what you are going through.

## **CHILD IN NEED (CIN) ASSESSMENT**

When additional support is needed, Social Care can organise an assessment to identify services that can help. This is called a Child in Need Assessment (CIN for short).

This might be short term while the matter is being investigated, or longer term – going into the aftermath of the incident.

## **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO YOU**

Way In ([www.way-in.org.uk](http://www.way-in.org.uk)) counsellors offer confidential support and advice to Children & Young People in Bucks.

Buckinghamshire Mind ([www.bucksmind.org.uk](http://www.bucksmind.org.uk)) offers counselling services for young people aged between 4 – 18 who are dealing with emotional distress.

If you would like to speak in confidence to someone about how you are feeling, you can contact ChildLine on 0800 1111 (24 hr hotline) or visit: [www.childline.org.uk/Talk/Pages/Talk.aspx](http://www.childline.org.uk/Talk/Pages/Talk.aspx).

For online information on local youth information, advice, counselling and support services (such as Way In) you can visit: [www.youthaccess.org.uk](http://www.youthaccess.org.uk).

If you are feeling angry and would like advice on how to manage your feelings, you can visit: [www.angriesout.com](http://www.angriesout.com).

[www.thesite.org](http://www.thesite.org) provides advice, information and support for young people on a wide range of issues.

