

What will I be told?

You can be told the outcome of the investigation, this will be either

Substantiated There is sufficient evidence to prove the allegation.

Unsubstantiated There is insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation. The term, therefore, does not imply guilt or innocence.

Unfounded There is no evidence or proper basis which supports the allegation being made.

False There is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation.

Malicious There is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation and there has been a deliberate act to deceive or cause harm to the person subject of the allegation.

You will not be told detailed information about the investigation as this will be personal information and cannot be shared. Your personal information will not have been shared with the person whom the allegation was against.

If you have to meet the person whom the allegation is about again for example if they are your teacher someone from school should talk with you about how you will meet again and assure you that you will be safe.

If you are worried always talk to an adult you trust for example a teacher or youth worker

Local Authority Designated Officer



Leaflet for Young People

If you believe you have been hurt or harmed by an adult you know through school or college, a youth club, sports club, faith group or any other setting, or by your carers if you do not live with your parents, you must tell someone. You should also tell someone if you feel an adult is behaving towards you in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable, or if their comments upset or embarrass you.

This leaflet will explain what we will do, most importantly you need to know we will take seriously what you tell us and ensure your concerns are properly investigated.

Who should you tell?

Talk to a teacher or tutor, the person in charge of the group, or your parents.

You can also phone 01454 86000 during the day to talk to a social worker, or call Childline 0800 1111.

What Will Happen?

The person you tell will listen take seriously what you say, they may write what you say down or ask you to. They will make sure you are safe. They will then tell the people that need to know what you have said so this can be investigated.

Who Will Be Told?

All allegations against people working with children or young people have to be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (the LADO) whose job is to make sure all allegations are properly and thoroughly investigated. Your allegation will be reported to the LADO and to the police if a crime may have been committed. Your parents or carers will also need to know, unless the allegation is about your carers.

What Then?

The LADO will discuss with professionals who need to know how your allegation will be investigated. The LADO does not do the investigation but agrees who will. As part of the investigation we may need to talk to you to get more information about what happened and when and ask some questions for example, did anyone see? Do you think this has happened to anyone else? If the police are leading the investigation it will be a specially trained police officer who talks with you. You and your parents will be asked not to talk to anyone about this because this might affect the investigation. As part of the investigation the adult whom you have made the allegation about will be spoken with, and anyone else whom we think can help us understand what has happened.