

LADO Threshold Criteria

Working Together 2023 states that an allegation may relate to a person who works with children who has

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may have harmed a child.
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child.
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.
- Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

It is important to note that the threshold for LADO involvement is lower than the threshold of significant harm applied in child protection section 47 investigations. LADO must satisfy the harm test. The test applied is on the balance of probabilities rather than beyond all reasonable doubt.

Harm means – ill treatment or impairment of health or development

All agencies should take in to account the following definitions when determining the outcome of allegation investigations:

Substantiated: there is sufficient evidence to prove 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

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

Unfounded: to reflect cases where there is no evidence or proper basis which supports the allegation being made.