

Gayle Barry Solihull Local Authority Designated Officer

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) –

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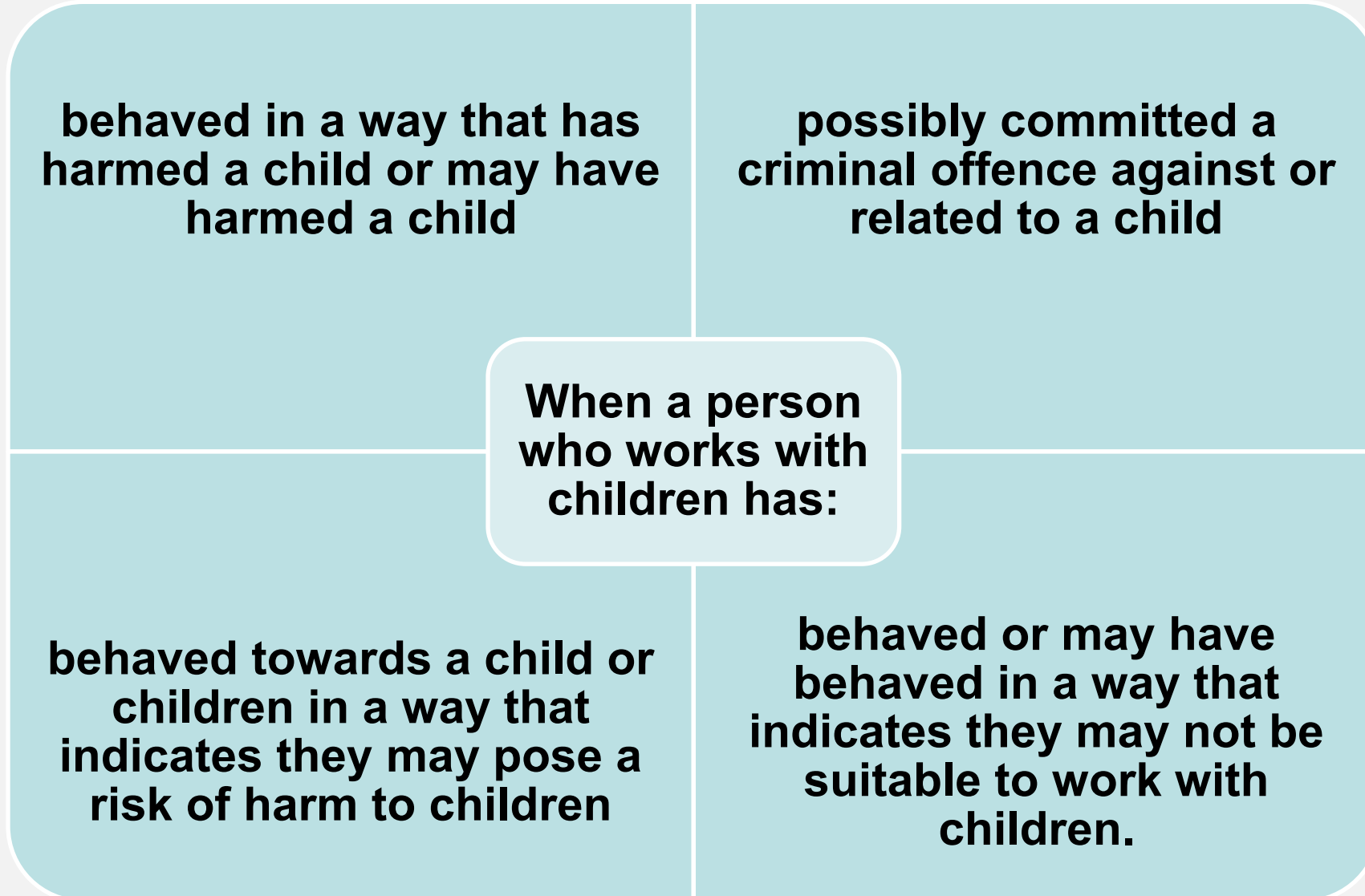
Local Authorities Designated Officers

Provides advice and guidance to employers & voluntary organisations

Liaises with the police and other agencies

Monitors cases to ensure dealt with as quickly as possible via fair process

What is an allegation?



Positions of trust you will have seen make headlines

- Genevieve Meehan- unsafe neglectful sleeping arrangements-she was strapped face down onto a beanbag, under a blanket and left unsupervised for 90 minutes leading to her death.
- Nathan Bennett (Bristol): In March 2026, 30-year-old Nathan Bennett was sentenced to 30 years in prison for sexually abusing five boys aged two and three. Safeguarding concerns raised by staff- CCTV reviewed and concerns found.
- Roksana Lecka, 22,(London), assaulted and mistreated 21 babies while working at a Nursery. She previously pleaded guilty to seven counts of cruelty towards a person under the age of 16 at the start of her trial. Safeguarding concerns about bizarre behaviour raised, then CCTV reviewed and concerns found.

Complaint or Allegation?

- **Complaint** = about **service, practice, or quality of care**
- Complaint: A parent says, “My child’s bottle wasn’t given at the right time and they were very upset.”
- Complaint: “The nursery didn’t update me about my child’s nappy change.”
- This is about care standards / practice.
- **Allegation** = about a **person’s behaviour that may harm a child or make them unsuitable to work with children**
- Allegation= parent says, “I saw a practitioner roughly pull my child by the arm when they wouldn’t sit down, they now have a grab mark to their arm.”
- Allegation: “A staff member shouted aggressively in my child’s face.”
- This is about potential harm by an adult — so it meets the LADO threshold seek advice.

Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025) .

West Midlands Regional Safeguarding Policies and Procedures for Managing Allegations.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026

Early Years Frameworks for managing allegations