**Summary - Dorset LADO Annual Report 2025–2026**

**Title of Report:**

Dorset Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Annual Report 2025–2026.

**Who Wrote the Report:**

Emma Pleece, Service Manager for Safeguarding & Standards, on behalf of Dorset Council's LADO Service.

**Date Covered by the Report:**

This report looks at what happened between **April 2025 and March 2026**.

**What the Report is About:**

The LADO service helps keep children and young people safe when there are concerns about an adult who works or volunteers with children. This may include teachers, foster carers, social workers, sports coaches, health staff, volunteers, or other professionals.

The LADO service makes sure concerns are looked at fairly. The LADO service helps keep children and young people safe while concerns are investigated.

**Main Messages:**

- More people are contacting the LADO service for advice.
- Most concerns do not become formal investigations.
- Behaviour outside work, known as transferable risk, remains the most common reason for referrals.
- Schools make the highest number of referrals.

**Important Facts and Figures**

- **844 contacts** received.
- **155 formal referrals.**
- **69 referrals (44%)** involved transferable risk.



What does "transferable risk" mean?

An adult's behaviour outside work may affect children's safety.

- **58 allegations** were substantiated (proven).
- **17 referrals** involved Dorset Council foster carers.
- Very few allegations were found to be false or malicious.

**What Will Happen Next?**

The LADO service will:

- Continue to provide training to professionals.
- Improve partnership working.
- Check that learning from investigations is being used.
- Create information leaflets and letters for children and young people.
- Improve quality assurance.

**Why Does This Matter to Children and Young People?**

The LADO service helps make sure concerns about adults who work with children are taken seriously.

The report shows that organisations across Dorset are working together to help keep children and young people safe.

*This summary has been written in a format supported by AI to help children and young people understand the key messages from the LADO Annual Report 2025–2026.* The detail has been verified by the report author.