



Safeguarding Adult Reviews: Information for families, friends and carers

When an adult who needs care and support either dies or suffers serious harm, and when abuse or neglect is thought to have been a factor, Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs) may need to review what has happened. This is called a Safeguarding Adults Review or SAR for short.

These reviews are to see whether any lessons can be learned about the way organisations (e.g. councils, the NHS, police etc.) worked together to support and protect the person who suffered harm.

The people in charge of the review are professionals from a range of organisations and understand that this is likely to be a very difficult time for families, friends and carers, but they want to learn as much as possible about how to do things better in the future.

Warrington Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) reviews local cases and would welcome your involvement in the process as much as possible. We believe families, friends and carers should have the opportunity to discuss any concerns you may have and to share your thoughts and opinions.

This leaflet tells you what happens when a SAR is required to be undertaken, and what you should expect.

What are Safeguarding Adult Reviews?

Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) are one way to improve how local services work together to keep adults who need care and support safe from abuse or neglect, with the aim of preventing what happened from happening to others.

They will try to ensure that public bodies like councils, the NHS, police and other community based organisations understand what happened and identify where responses to the situation could be improved.

From this, the public bodies hope to learn all the right lessons including those which impact how they work together. These reviews will not seek to lay blame but to consider what happened and what could have been done differently. They will also recommend actions to improve responses to keep adults with care and support needs safe from abuse or neglect in the future.

SARs are part of the Care Act 2014 and became law from 1st April 2015. They do not replace, but may be in addition to the inquest or any other form of inquiry or review.

How will we undertake the review?

There can be different ways in which a SAR can be done, but they all involve collecting information from the agencies that were involved with the adult and building a picture of what happened to them and the critical factors that resulted in the harm. We will consider whether things could or should have been done differently, and ask how things could be done better in the future.



Your involvement in this review:

Whilst we understand that this will be a difficult and distressing time, it is important we inform you the review is taking place and to give you an opportunity to be involved. If you do decide to take part in the review, we will ask you to share your understanding of what happened and why.

We think family, friends and carers are the best people to help us understand about the person at the centre of the review and what it was like for them. Your contribution will be valuable and may help change the way the community, including public bodies, respond to keeping adults with care and support need safe from abuse or neglect.

The Safeguarding Adults Board offer support to family, friends and carers who participate in reviews and there are a number of ways you can contribute your thoughts and views. This can include a meeting in your own home or somewhere else where you feel comfortable, in a telephone conversation, or in writing or via a recording.

What happens to the information you share?

The information you share will help us to build a comprehensive picture of what happened and in turn will help us identify recommendations for change. These recommendations will then be put into an action plan. Your input will be confidential and we will not include your comments in the report without your permission.

How long will the review process take?

The SAB will try to conclude the review as soon as possible and we aim to do so within six months. However this can take longer especially if it is dependent on the outcomes of other inquiries or reviews.

What does the review produce?

A report identifying the findings will normally be published on the relevant SAB's website. The report will be anonymised (not include real names) and will not contain any details that mean the adult or others involved can be identified. The findings will also be detailed within SAB's annual report.

Next Steps

The decision to take part in this review is entirely yours and if you do not wish to take part your decision will be respected. We will notify you when the review is completed and the report is available.

If you would like to take part or have any further questions about the review process please contact the person who has signed the letter attached to this leaflet. They will either answer your questions or direct you to someone who can.

Further information and support - Please contact the Board on wsabAdministrator@warrington.gov.uk or 01925 444085 for further information.