

SAR3a

Information for Adults, family, carers and friends about Safeguarding Adults Reviews

What is the Worcestershire Safeguarding Adult's Board?

The Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB) brings together the main organisations that work with adults with care and support needs and their families across Worcestershire, including the Police, Health Trusts, Independent Providers, Probation Services and Adult Social Care, with the aim of making sure that they work in partnership to keep adults with care and support needs safe.

The Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults WSAB is established in line with duties set out in Section 43 and Schedule 3 of the Care Act (2014).

The Care and Support Statutory Guidance states that the main objective of a Safeguarding Adults Board is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adults in its area who:

- *have needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and;*
- *are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and*
- *as a result of those care and support needs are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.*

What is a Safeguarding Adults Review?

As of 1 April 2015 there is a legal requirement for Safeguarding Adults Boards to undertake Safeguarding Adults Reviews as and when appropriate. This is in accordance with Section 44 of the Care Act (2014).

A Safeguarding Adults Review is a multi-agency process that considers the circumstances where it is known or suspected that an adult or group of adults, with care and support needs, has died or experienced serious harm and there is concern that partner agencies could have worked together more effectively to protect the adult. The purpose is to promote effective learning and improvement action to prevent future deaths or serious harm from occurring again.

It should be noted that a SAR is not an inquiry into how an adult died or suffered injury or who is culpable. It is not a reinvestigation of the case, and a SAR does not seek to apportion blame or hold individuals or agencies to account. There are other processes that exist for these purposes, including criminal proceedings, disciplinary procedures, employment law and systems of service and professional regulation, such as CQC and the

Nursing and Midwifery Council, the Health and Care Professions Council, and the General Medical Council.

It is vital, if individuals and organisations are to be able to learn lessons from the past, that reviews are trusted and safe experiences that encourage honesty, transparency and sharing of information to obtain maximum benefit from them. If individuals and their organisations are fearful of Safeguarding Adult Reviews, their response will be defensive and their participation guarded and partial.

A review will only be carried out if the criteria above are met. This will be determined by preliminary information sharing by agencies involved. It should be noted that if the decision is that a SAR will not be commissioned, the adult/family can appeal against this decision by using the [SAR Complaint Process](#). However, consideration should be given as to whether accessing the complaints process for individual organisations would provide a more timely response to specific concerns. *During this part of the process, the referring agency is the point of contact for the adult/family.*

Who carries out the Safeguarding Adult Review?

If a SAR is commissioned a Panel of practitioners from Health, Police, Adult Social Care and other representatives, who may have knowledge relevant to the particular situation, will undertake the Safeguarding Adult Review.

There will also be a Chair of the Panel who is independent of the organisations that have worked with the adult, all of which will be asked to complete an Individual Management Review. This outlines their involvement with that adult and the services offered. The Panel considers all these reports and an Overview Report is prepared, which pulls together the information and makes recommendations for future action. For each Safeguarding Adults Review the methodology is chosen to ensure that the most effective learning can be gained from the process.

How long will the Safeguarding Adult Review take?

The Safeguarding Adults Review should normally be completed within 6 months of the original referral. Sometimes this timescale needs to be extended.

How are adults and their families involved?

The Safeguarding Adults Review Panel will give adults and families and, where relevant and appropriate, close friends and carers, the opportunity to share their views and comment on the services they and the adult received *once a SAR has been commissioned*. An Independent Advocate will be provided to an adult who needs assistance with the process but does not have anyone to assist them. *At this point, the Independent Chair of the Panel will contact the adult/family or representative to offer an initial meeting.*

Prior to this, the referring agency is the point of contact for the adult/family. When the Safeguarding Adult Review is complete the Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Review Panel will meet with the adult/family or representative to outline the findings and recommendations. An overview report will be published with anonymised information and will generally be available on the WSAB's website www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/

Further Information:

The aim of this leaflet is to provide general information about Safeguarding Adults Reviews. Further information will be provided as the Safeguarding Adults Review progresses. If you want to know more about the guidance for Safeguarding Adults Reviews, this can be found on Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board website under Policy and Procedures, www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/