

## **SAR3a**

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



### **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 (SAR) is a multi-agency learning 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. The Care Act also states that a SAR can be carried out for any other case; this is known as a discretionary SAR.

A SAR is not an inquiry into how an adult died or suffered injury or who is culpable; 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, coroner's inquest, disciplinary procedures, employment law and systems of service and professional regulation.

A review will only be carried out if the criteria above are met or WSAB agree that a discretionary SAR is to be undertaken to identify learning. This will be determined by the Rapid Review Process chaired by an independent chair. The Rapid Review will gather information from all agencies involved. A Rapid Review meeting will then be held. If the criteria are met for a SAR, a report will be written following the Rapid Review meeting. If it is decided that more information sharing is needed, then the Rapid Review will lead to an Extended SAR.

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](#).

Consideration should be given as to whether accessing the complaints process for individual organisations would provide a timelier response to specific concerns. A SAR is unlikely to answer directly the concerns of a family in a way that a complaint might.

### **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 but not exclusively, the Police, NHS 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.

WSAB was 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.*

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### **Who carries out the Safeguarding Adults Review?**

If an Extended 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 SAR.

There will also be a Lead Reviewer who is independent of the organisations that have worked with the adult, all of which will be asked to complete an Agency Review Report. This outlines their involvement with that adult and the services offered. The Panel considers all these reports, and an Overview Report is prepared by the Lead Reviewer, which pulls together the information and makes recommendations for future action.

## **How long will the Safeguarding Adult Review take?**

A Rapid Review aims to be completed within 60 days if at all possible, an Extended SAR should normally be completed within 6 months of the original referral. These timescales often need to be extended for a variety of reasons. The Rapid Review Chair/ Lead Reviewer will keep the family updated on timescales as necessary.

## **How are adults and their families involved?**

The involvement adults and families and, where relevant and appropriate, close friends and carers within a SAR is a very important part of the process. Adults and their families and friends offer a unique perspective about the services they and the adult received. The SAR will also want to include information about the person who is subject of the SAR to ensure it can highlight the 'voice' of the person, enabling that to be a focus of the review. An Independent Advocate will be provided to an adult who needs assistance with the process but does not have anyone to assist them.

Once a referral proceeds to a Rapid Review Process, the Rapid Review Chair will contact the Adult/Family/Friends to try and arrange a meeting as soon as possible but at a time and place convenient to family. Prior to this, the referring agency is the point of contact for the adult/family. The Rapid Review Chair and then (if an extended SAR is commissioned) the Lead Reviewer will keep the family updated at various stages throughout the process and will explain in detail the arrangements for that particular review.

If an Extended SAR is required, the Rapid Review Chair will hand over to the Lead Reviewer.

When the Safeguarding Adult Review is complete the Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Review Panel and the Rapid Review Chair/Lead Reviewer 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 under the [Safeguarding Adult Reviews page](#).

## **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](#).

## **Contact information:**

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