



BIRMINGHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD
SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REVIEWS
Information for families, friends and carers

Introduction

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, Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) 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 worked together to support and protect the person who suffered harm.

The people in charge of the review understand 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.

The BSAB wants families and carers to be involved in the process as much as possible. They believe families, carers and the person who suffered harm should have the opportunity to discuss any concerns they may have and to share their thoughts and opinions.

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

What is a Safeguarding Adults Review?

A Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) is held to find out how organisations, families, friends, carers and care professionals can work together better to keep adults who need care and support safe from abuse or neglect.

A SAR is not an enquiry into the cause of an individual death or injury. It does not look for someone to blame and it is completely separate from any investigation being undertaken by the police or a coroner. The SAR concentrates instead on whether care professionals can learn anything from what happened.

How do we carry out a SAR?

There are different ways in which a SAR can be done, but they all involve gathering as much information from as many sources as possible. The review team can then try to work out exactly what happened, and why. They will consider whether things could or should have been done differently, and ask how things could be done better in the future. The findings are then summarised in a public written report, normally published by the BSAB. It is, therefore, a public document. However, no individuals are named in it and no information is included that could lead to the people involved being identified.

A SAR will often find there have been lots of agencies involved in the person's life. Sometimes the best way forward is to ask the people who were directly involved in the case to sit round a table together, and discuss face-to-face what went on. An independent chairperson, who had no involvement in the case, will help the discussion. A panel of other professionals will then consider whether we have found out what we needed to know, before the final report is written.

Another approach we sometimes take is to ask each agency to separately write their own detailed written reports about their involvement in the person's life. The panel of professionals then considers what these reports are telling us and an independent author writes a summary of events and lessons in the final written report.

The BSAB will choose the best approach. You will see a final report written by someone independent of the case, identifying what has been learnt, and what recommendations for change have been made.

Family, friends and carer involvement

A really important part of undertaking a SAR is to ask you, the family, for your opinion about what happened. Your views should be reflected in the final report. We will discuss with you how best to do this and make sure you are kept up-to-date.

Sometimes a SAR can take several months to complete, but we will update you regularly and explain the reasons for any delays.

Contact us

Write to:

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