

Safeguarding Adults Review – Information for families 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, Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board (KSAB) may need to review what has happened. This is called a Safeguarding Adults Review or SAR for short.

Sometimes KSAB will also arrange for a SAR to take place in other situations where they feel there need to be lessons learnt.

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 carrying out 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 KSAB wants families and carers to be involved in the process as much as possible. They believe families, carers and where appropriate, 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, what you should expect and the support the KSAB offers.

What is a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR)?

The purpose of a SAR is to find out how organisations, agencies, carers and professionals can work better together in the future to keep adults at risk safe from abuse or neglect.

It is completely separate from any investigation being undertaken by the Police and/or Coroner and it concentrates on the work of the professionals, organisations and agencies who have been involved with the adult to look to see if they can learn anything from what has happened.

This is not an enquiry into the cause of an individual death or injury. It does not look for someone to blame.

The KSAB has a sub-group of professionals from different agencies who look at all requests for a review; this group then decides on whether a SAR needs to take place. If a review is required this group also decide how a review is to take place. This must then be approved by the Independent Chair of the Board.

How do we carry out a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR)?

There are different ways in which a SAR can be done. The SAR sub-group will decide on what type of review will promote effective learning and improvements to prevent future death or serious harm. Each SAR will involve gathering as much information from as many sources as possible.

An independent person who has no involvement in the case will be asked to lead on the review and report back to the SAR sub-group.

The SAR sub-group will try to ensure that there is appropriate involvement in the review process of professionals and organisations who were involved with the adult. They will also decide the best way to involve the adult and, or, their family. In some cases it may be helpful to communicate with the person who caused the abuse or neglect.

How do we involve you?

A really important part of undertaking a SAR is to ask you, the family, for your view. The SAR sub-group will discuss with you how best to do this and make sure you are kept up-to-date.

A person nominated by the KSAB (usually the Chair of the review) can arrange to meet with you to discuss the SAR process. A suitable date, time and venue will be arranged for this.

Having support during this meeting is encouraged, this could be another family member or a family friend, an advocate or any other professional you think appropriate. Home visits will be agreed if you wish, alternatively, a venue of your choice will be considered.

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

What happens after the review?

The independent person will be asked to provide the SAR sub-group with any lessons learnt and any improvement that may be required.

The sub-group will finalise the recommendation and improvement on behalf of the KSAB and then will monitor the improvement plan over a period of time.

A KSAB representative will talk to you about the outcome of the Review and of any lessons that have been learned.

There may be a report that is published on the KSAB website, however, no individuals are named in it and no information is included that could lead to the people involved being identified.

The KSAB must publish an annual report which will include the findings of any SAR and subsequent improvement/s. These again will not contain any names.

If you have any queries on this process, please contact the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Team:

Telephone: 01484 221717

E-mail: protection@kirklees.gov.uk

Web: www.kirklees.gov.uk/safeguardingadultsboard

Kirklees Council are committed to ensuring that our communication is clear, plain and available for everyone. This information can be made available in languages other than English. It can also be made available in large print, audio CD and Braille. Full details are available by telephoning 01484 414933.