



# What is a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR)?

## **This leaflet provides information about:**

- Why we do Safeguarding Adult Reviews
- What a Safeguarding Adult Review is
- What happens on a Safeguarding Adult Review
- How people and their families are involved
- Who else is involved in the Safeguarding Adult Review
- How things are changed from doing a Safeguarding Adult Review

## **Why do we do Safeguarding Adult Reviews?**

Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) brings together the main organisations that work with adults and their families across Lancashire, including Health Integrated Care Boards, Police, Health Trusts, District Councils, Adults Services and the Voluntary and Community Sector, with the aim of making sure that they work well together to keep adults safe.

Under the Care Act 2014 (Section 44) the LSAB must arrange for there to be a Safeguarding Adult Review, if an adult in its area with care and support needs when, as a result of abuse or neglect dies or is seriously harmed and there is a concern that agencies could have worked together more effectively to protect the adult.

## **What is a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR)?**

The purpose of a SAR is to establish how organisations, agencies and professionals worked together to support an adult. The review concentrates on the work of the professionals, organisations and agencies which had been involved to understand what might have been done differently that could have prevented harm or death.

This is not an inquiry into the cause of an individual's death or injury. It is separate from any investigation being undertaken by the Police, Coroner, Health Boards and/or Local Authority.

It is important to note that any investigations being undertaken by other areas usually need to conclude before a SAR can be started.

This is to ensure that information being asked for is not duplicated and that learning being identified is being managed in the most appropriate place.

## **What happens on a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR)?**

A decision will be made to confirm that referral for a SAR meets the criteria, and if this is agreed each organisation or agency may be asked to gather and analyse any professional records relating to the individual and their family.

This is to identify whether any lessons can be learned about the way agencies and organisations work together to safeguard adults.

To manage the SAR, an independent reviewer will be appointed to the case and a panel of multi-agency representatives will be set up to consider the case. This will involve:

- Each agency or organisation providing full details of when and what services they provided.
- A summary of the decisions that were made and any other actions that were taken will be considered in detail.
- Panel meetings to consider all the information in detail in order to find out if expected standards of work have been met and that organisational or agency policies and procedures have been followed.
- A report with recommendations being made on how agencies and organisations can work better together to reduce the risk of the situation happening again.

A Safeguarding Adult Review often takes between 6 to 12 months from the decision being taken to start the Review. Sometimes this timescale needs to be extended.

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

As part of the review the person involved and/or their families/carers will be contacted to ask for views and experiences to contribute to the review.

This is a key part of the review as the person and family members are often in a position to really help us understand what it is agencies need to do better, so that future professional practice is able to improve.

To support the person involved help will be offered from [Advocacy Services in Lancashire - Advocacy Focus](#) Telephone 0300 323 0965

## **Who else is involved in the Safeguarding Adult Review?**

As well as the independent reviewer and person and/or family members, agencies involved could include representatives from Health, Adult Social Care, Police, Hospitals and Care Providers. Other organisations and agencies may be asked to attend or give information depending on their involvement and circumstances.

## **How are things changed from doing a Safeguarding Adult Review?**

Safeguarding Adult Reviews ensure that lessons are learned across all organisations responsible for keeping people safe, and recommendations are put into practice.

Once the findings from the review are shared with the Lancashire Safeguarding Adult Board (LSAB) actions will be agreed and progressed. This may include things like:

- Changes to frontline practice
- Identifying risks to safety and make changes to how things are managed
- Changes to policies and guidance
- Multi-agency training for particular issues, to help them do their job as well as they can
- Awareness raising and information updates on websites and to the public through communications and engagement

**For more information see our Website:**

[//www.lancshiresafeguarding.org.uk](http://www.lancshiresafeguarding.org.uk)

**Abuse is always wrong - No one should have to live with abuse. In Lancashire, we have zero tolerance to all forms of abuse. We always respond promptly when we are made aware of suspected abuse. By reporting abuse, you can help bring it to an end.**