

What to expect when a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) is required

Information for families, friends and carers

Safeguarding Adult Reviews are part of the Care Act 2014 and became legal requirement for Adult Safeguarding Boards from 1 April 2015.

Hounslow Safeguarding Board (HSAB) is a partnership of organisations that work with adults and their families. This includes the police, West Middlesex Hospital, other NHS organisations, housing, voluntary and private sector organisations together with anyone else who can help to make and keep adults with care and support needs safe.

The partnership works together to help safeguard adults with care and support needs from abuse, neglect, and harm.

When will a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) be carried out?

When an adult who needs care and support, either dies or suffers serious harm, abuse, or neglect, the multi-agency HSAB may need to review what has happened. This is called a Safeguarding Adults Review or a SAR for short.

A SAR is separate from any investigation being undertaken by the police and/or coroner. It concentrates on the work of the professionals, organisations and agencies who have been involved with the family, to see where there are lessons to be learnt and make improvements where needed.

Family, friends and carer involvement in the Review

HSAB acknowledge this is a very difficult time for families, relatives, friends, and carers, however 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, memories, and opinions. It is important to note that a SAR does not

seek to punish or blame anyone. A SAR is focused on whether care professionals can learn from what happened and continually improve practice.

HSAB will inform you as soon as possible when the review is taking place to give you an opportunity to be involved. Your opinions, memories and thoughts can be shared in several ways including via a telephone discussion, email, or a face-to-face conversation with the Independent Reviewer. The Reviewer will ask questions to assist the discussion and the whole process should last no longer than a few hours or as long as you feel able to participate. You can be involved as much or as little as you wish, or not at all.

A SAR can take several months to complete, but we will update you regularly.

Who will undertake the SAR?

The Review Panel may be made up from a range of statutory, voluntary, independent third parties and private sector agencies. HSAB will appoint a lead Independent Reviewer with the appropriate skills and experience to join the Panel. The Review Panel will not include any individuals who have been directly involved in the case.

The SAR process

The lead Reviewer will contact the family. A Practitioners Event and/or one-to-one conversation will take place with those involved in the case, to gather as much information from professionals as possible. Other information will also be sought from various sources, 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.

When the review is completed

The panel of professionals will then consider whether they have all the information they need before the final report is written. The final report will identify what has been learnt and what recommendations for change have been made or are still needed. The report must be approved by HSAB and shared with the individual's family. The identity of the person who died is kept confidential unless the family requests that the person's own name is used. Where the subject of the report is still living, they will be asked their views on how they would like to be known.

What happens next:

- The Independent Reviewer will meet with the family members, if they wish to discuss the content of the report.
- The report will be presented to HSAB and the Boards of the organisations involved.
- A multi-agency action plan will be developed to implement the recommendations. HSAB will oversee any actions required from agencies and/or HSAB itself, to make the necessary improvements.
- If a decision is made for publication, a summary of the final report will be published on the LBH website and will be fully anonymised, unless otherwise agreed with the family.
- The report will be available for all professionals to ensure that recommendations and lessons learned are put into practice.
- HSAB will also report on the progress of any completed SARs in its next Annual Report.

If you would like more information about Safeguarding Adults Reviews, please contact Monuara Ullah, Business Manager via

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Useful links

Hounslow Adults Safeguarding Board

https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/info/20130/safeguarding_adults_at_risk/1610/safeguarding_adults_board

Safeguarding Adults Review – Information for family friends and carers October 2021
LBH Adult Social Care