

Safeguarding Adult Reviews: Panel Member and Practitioner Responsibilities

Introduction

A Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR), is a statutory review under the Care Act 2014 and became law from 1st April 2015. They do not replace, but may be in addition to the inquest or any other form of inquiry or review.

The Care Act established a specific criteria for when a SAR should take place:
Criteria from s44 of the Care Act 2014:

(1) An SAB (Safeguarding Adult Board) must arrange for there to be a review of a case involving an adult in its area with needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority has been meeting any of those needs) if:

- (a) there is reasonable cause for concern about how the SAB, members of it or other persons with relevant functions worked together to safeguard the adult, and
- (b) condition 1 or 2 is met.

(2) Condition 1 is met if:

- (a) the adult has died, and
- (b) the SAB knows or suspects that the death resulted from abuse or neglect (whether or not it knew about or suspected the abuse or neglect before the adult died).

(3) Condition 2 is met if:

- (a) the adult is still alive, and
- (b) the SAB knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect.

(4) An SAB may arrange for there to be a review of any other case involving an adult in its area with needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority has been meeting any of those needs).

When a SAR is undertaken, a Review Panel will be established. This will follow the initial referral received and a scoping panel made up of senior representatives from the partner organisations (who had not been involved in the case) will decide if the situation meets the conditions above. The role of a Review Panel is to agree the terms of reference, consider all information being submitted to the Panel, consider the findings and conclusions, and make recommendations in relation to what action is required to address the learning identified.

During the SAR process, practitioners who were directly involved with the Adult(s) may be asked to participate in a Learning and Reflection Workshop(s) facilitated by the Author, to highlight where practice worked well and aid the learning and improvement process to form a first draft of the

report. However, it is not essential if you have not been involved with the case and it is understood if this is not possible.

A statutory review is a forum for formal information sharing and all members of the Review Panel will be expected to **critically analyse all the information presented**. We want to learn all the right lessons including those which impact how they work together. These reviews will not seek to lay blame but to consider what happened and what could have been done differently. They will also recommend actions to improve responses to keep adults with care and support needs safe from abuse or neglect in the future.

The Review Panel will consider, amend as necessary and finalise the Report prior to its submission to the SAR Panel. The SAR Panel will consider, amend as necessary and ratify the Report prior to its submission to the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) for further ratification and sign off.

Once recommendations and action plan(s) are agreed it will be the responsibility of the relevant SAB Subgroup to monitor the implementation of action plan(s).

N.B. Whilst the report remains confidential, there is an expectation that an organisation's Executive/Director (depending on the governance arrangements in place in a particular organisation), will have had sight of the unredacted report and will have been informed by the Panel member of any Organisational concerns or learning as they emerge during the review.

Panel Member Responsibilities

Each Panel member has a key role and professional responsibility within the statutory Review process. Agencies must be robust in selecting their nominated panel member and be clear on time commitment.

As a Panel member, attendance at and thorough preparation for each Panel meeting is expected. The nomination of any deputy is only permitted under **exceptional circumstances**. Continuity is crucial to the process.

Each Panel member must be of requisite seniority to be able to fully secure their organisation's full participation in the Review. This includes supporting the Panel Chair to convey any urgent learning points emerging from the review while it is in progress.

The panel member must not have been directly involved in the first line management or frontline care of the individual(s) concerned.

The Panel members will undertake an assessment of good practice, what might have been done differently or better and recommend how to embed this learning into practice or procedures.

The Review Panel will support the Independent Author to formulate and then finalise recommendations as part of the Report which will indicate:

- What action is required to meet each recommendation
- Who will be responsible for the various actions
- The intended outcome of the various actions and recommendations

- The means of monitoring and reviewing intended improvements in practice and/or systems

Practitioner Responsibilities

The Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership requires that the Panel member from your organisation would have had a discussion to inform you, the practitioner, of the reasons for the review and the process.

The Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) enables practitioners and managers to have a constructive experience of taking part in the review to seek essential learning and not to apportion blame. The practitioner experiences are central to the review for the appropriate learning to be identified.

The role of the workshop enables you the opportunity to develop and shape future good practice based on your experience. Each Practitioner nominated is ideally expected to have had direct involvement with the Adult(s), however this is not essential.

Each Practitioner is expected to attend (exceptional circumstances must be discussed with your line manager or relevant panel member if you cannot attend) any Learning and Reflection Workshop(s) and fully engage in a first-hand collaborative process in order to gain maximum learning from the Review in order to:

- Enhance partnership working
- Improve outcomes for adults and families
- Prevent similar abuse and neglect in the future

Prior to the workshop it is expected that the nominated practitioner would have familiarised themselves with the case files. Each Practitioner is expected to fully consider and comment on draft version/s of the report issued to them.

What happens to the information you share?

The information you share will help us to build a comprehensive picture of what happened and in turn will help us identify recommendations for change. These recommendations will then be put into an action plan. Your input will be confidential and you will not be named in the final report.

How long will the review process take?

It is really difficult to say how long a review will take, it very much depends on the amount of information to be gathered and/or people spoken to. You will be given a point of contact who will contact you by your preferred means to keep you updated so that you know how the review is progressing.

What does the review produce?

A report identifying the findings will normally be published on the Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership website. The report will be anonymised and will not contain any identifying details. The findings will also be detailed within SAB's annual report. Any learning that is identified will be

implemented across the relevant agencies and best practice that has been highlighted will also be shared to ensure that safeguarding continually improves within Telford and Wrekin.

Publication:

The Care Act says that the SAB should consider publishing the review so that others may also learn from the findings. Your views on this will be taken into consideration but it is hoped that you will support any decision to publish the report which will be anonymised and no real names used.

Support Services:

We understand that being involved in any part of this process can be emotionally challenging and is likely to trigger a mixture of feelings. The review process and report will contain information about the death of an individual you have worked closely with and which may also have similarities to your own personal experiences. We would encourage you to reach out to your line manager, GP or access support services provided by your agency if you are in need of support at any point during the process.

If you have any further questions about the review process please contact the Safeguarding Partnership at partnerships@telford.gov.uk and they will either answer your questions or direct you to someone who can.



Call 116 123 for free or visit www.samaritans.org

For a full list of services available in Telford and Wrekin please visit the 'Help and Support Services' section at livewell.telford.gov.uk



Adapted from Home Office Guidance for Domestic Homicide Reviews, Birmingham Safeguarding Adult Board SAR leaflet, Stoke and Staffordshire Safeguarding Adult Board SAR leaflet, Lancashire Safeguarding Adult Board SAR leaflet and Worcestershire Panel and Practitioner Responsibilities leaflet.