



# Safeguarding Adults Reviews

## A Guide for Families, Friends and Carers

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland  
Safeguarding Adults Boards

# Introduction

## What is a Safeguarding Adults Board?

A Safeguarding Adults Board, or SAB for short, is a partnership of organisations in its area, formed to help and protect adults with needs for care and support. The SAB works towards this objective by co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what each of its members does.

Each local authority area must have a SAB by law, in this case, the Care Act 2014. In Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, there are two SABs; one for the Leicester City area where Leicester City Council is the local authority and one for Leicestershire and Rutland, covering the Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County Council areas, including the District and Borough council areas in Leicestershire

The Care Act also requires each SAB to carry out a Safeguarding Adults Review, or SAR for short, when certain criteria are satisfied.

## What is a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR)?

Safeguarding Adults Boards have a duty to carry out a SAR in cases of an adult with care and support needs where there is reasonable cause for concern about how organisations worked together to safeguard the adult, where the adult:

- Has died and the SAB knows or suspects that the death resulted from abuse or neglect, **or**
- Is still alive but the SAB knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect.

The purpose of a SAR is to identify the lessons to be learnt from the adult's case, about how organisations work together, and apply those lessons to keep adults with care and support needs safe from abuse or neglect in the future. This is done by gathering information to understand what happened and why it happened. It is important to note that SARs do not seek to lay blame. They will also recommend actions to be taken forward by organisations to make improvements to services.

# SARs and Involvement of Family, Friends and Carers

## Who carries out the Safeguarding Adults Review?

An independent person, with appropriate skills and experience, is usually appointed by the SAB to oversee the review and is referred to as the Lead Reviewer. The review will also be supported by organisations that have worked with the adult, with each providing a person who has not been directly involved in the case to supply information and make contributions to discussion on behalf of their agency.

Either one of the SAB office team, or the Lead Reviewer, will make contact with you to invite you to contribute to the review and keep you updated with progress.

## How long will the Safeguarding Adults Review take?

The SAR should be completed within a reasonable period of time; usually within six months, unless there are good reasons for a longer timescale being required. It may sometimes become necessary for reviews to be delayed due to ongoing proceedings, such as a criminal trial.

## Involvement from family, friends and carers

It is very important that our reviews include important people in the adult's life, such as family members, friends or carers. We will ask you to share your experiences so that we can understand what happened and why. This will help us to identify what lessons can be learned as well as what may have worked well. The SAB will make contact with you early in the process to discuss the review and agree how much you wish to be involved. It is your decision as to how much involvement you wish to have and your information will be confidential.

You can choose to communicate your thoughts and views in different ways, for example by a telephone conversation, in writing or by a face to face meeting with one of the SAB office team or the independent reviewer.

The review will still go ahead if you decide not to contribute as we have a legal duty to undertake a SAR.

We understand that contributing to the review may be difficult and upsetting and we will support you as much as possible if you decide to contribute.

# When the SAR Report is Finished

## What happens when the report is finished?

The report and recommendations will be presented to the SAB to be agreed and will be shared with you as family members, friends or carers who have contributed to the review. In most cases, the finished report will be published on the SAB website but, sometimes, a decision is made not to publish. The SAB works to anonymise the published report to prevent the identification of people and places as much as possible

Each year, the SAB must publish an annual report which will include the findings of any SAR and subsequent improvements. Any mention of the SAR in the annual report will not include any names.

The recommendations to be taken forward from the review will be put into a plan, called an Action Plan, and will be monitored to make sure that the organisations involved do what they have agreed to do.

## More information

If you have any questions, please contact the SAB offices using the methods below:

### **Leicester Safeguarding Adults Board:**

- Telephone: 0116 4546270
- Email: [LSAB@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:LSAB@leicester.gov.uk)

### **Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board:**

- Telephone: 0116 3057130
- Email: [lrspto@leics.gov.uk](mailto:lrspto@leics.gov.uk)