

We understand that this might be a difficult and upsetting time for you, and we will try to support you as much as possible if you decide to contribute to the review.

Who will see the report and what will happen next?

The report and recommendations will be presented to Board members. It will also be shared with the adult where appropriate, any family members, friends, and carers who have contributed to the review.

The report will be published on the Board's website, but sometimes a decision can be made to not publish depending on the circumstances of the case. Published reports can be anonymised or can include the adult's name.

The Board will decide on an action plan based on the findings of the review to make sure any recommended improvements are made to services.

More information

At any point in the SAR process, please feel free to contact the Board Support Team in your area.

Brighton & Hove SAB

SafeguardingReviews@brighton-hove.gov.uk

East Sussex SAB

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West Sussex SAB

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Adult safeguarding



Safeguarding Adults Reviews

A guide for adults, families, friends, and carers

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What is the Safeguarding Adults Board?

The Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, and West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Boards work with organisations across Sussex to ensure that they have safeguarding policies and procedures in place and work together in the best way possible to protect adults with care and support needs.

What is a Safeguarding Adults Review?

Our Boards have a duty to carry out a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) when an adult dies and it is thought that abuse or neglect may have contributed to the death. This is whether abuse or neglect is known or suspected, and there is information to suggest that organisations could learn lessons and improve the way they work together to support adults at risk in the future.

A SAR may also take place when an adult has not died but it is known or suspected that they have suffered serious abuse, harm, or neglect. The full criteria of a SAR is set out in the Care Act 2014.

The purpose of a SAR is not to apportion blame or to carry out another investigation. It usually takes place after other processes like enquiries and complaints have been concluded and is to identify ways in which learning and improvement can be taken forward. This is to minimise the risk of future deaths or serious harm occurring again.

Each of our Boards have a SAR subgroup which considers SAR referrals, oversees SAR processes, and ensures learning from reviews is used to make improvements to services. The groups also consider reviews from other Safeguarding Adults Boards for learning.

Ideally, we aim for the review to be completed in around nine months, unless there are good reasons for a longer period being required.

The review will include organisations who have worked with the adult, and the SAB will appoint an Independent Reviewer with the appropriate skills and experience to lead on the review. The review will include contact with the adult where appropriate, key family members, carers, professionals, and the organisations involved, to invite them to contribute.

How will I be involved?

It is very important to our Boards that our reviews include the adult where appropriate, family members, or important people in the adult's life. We will ask you to share your experiences so that we can understand fully what happened, identify what lessons should be learned, and what has worked well so that your contributions can be used to develop recommendations for improvements.

The Board leading on the review will contact you early in the process to discuss the review and agree how much you wish to be involved. If you decide you would like to contribute to the review, you will be asked to share your views of what happened and why.

You can give your thoughts and views in different ways. Some examples include having a face-to-face meeting with the Reviewer, a telephone conversation, or providing feedback in writing. It is your decision as to how much involvement you would like to have in the review. As there is a legal duty to undertake a SAR, the review will still go ahead if you decide not to contribute.