

West Sussex
**Safeguarding Adults
Board**
Making Safeguarding Personal



West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board

Adult B Safeguarding Adult Review Press Release

Version: 1

Effective from: October 2019

West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board

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A Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) for Adult B was published today (14th October 2019) by West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board. The purpose of a Safeguarding Adults Review is to promote learning and improve practice, not to re-investigate or to apportion blame.

The objectives include establishing:

- lessons learnt from how professionals and their agencies work together;
- how effective the safeguarding procedures are;
- learning and good practice issues;
- how to improve local inter-agency practice and
- service improvement or development needs for one or more service or agency.

Safeguarding Adults Reviews provide an opportunity to:

- improve inter-agency working;
- cascade lessons learnt to partner agencies (see professional briefing);
- share best practice and
- better safeguard of adults at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

This SAR considered the case of Adult B, a woman in her early thirties. Adult B, who had been known to mental health services since childhood and had significant physical health needs, had died. The cause of death was recorded as sepsis and acute pyelonephritis; additionally, there was agreement that there was an acute cardiac arrhythmia which developed because of dehydration - secondary to high output of stoma/fistula. Her particular needs around self-harming resulted in her requiring a stoma¹ and fistulas².

There had been a particular challenge around finding a suitable placement to meet her highly complex needs and at the time of her death, Adult B was diagnosed with a personality disorder, Asperger's Syndrome, epilepsy, asthma, being morbidly obese and she was detained under Section 3 of the Mental Health Act 1983.

This report identifies learning which agencies can use for future improvements. West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board is committed to working alongside partners in order to ensure that the recommendations are implemented and understood by professionals.

¹ A stoma is an artificial opening made into a hollow organ, for example to bowel from the surface of the body.

² A fistula is an abnormal passageway between two organs in the body or between an organ and the exterior of the body.