

# Safeguarding Adults Reviews

## Information for family members and carers

### Introduction

Cumbria Safeguarding Adults Board brings together organisations that work with adults and their families across Cumbria with the aim of making sure that they work well together to keep adults safe.

Cumbria Safeguarding Adult Board may be required to undertake a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) when, as a result of abuse or neglect, an adult dies or is seriously harmed **and** there is a concern that agencies could have worked together more effectively to protect the adult.

We acknowledge this will have been a very difficult time for you and we do not want to add to your distress but it is important we inform you the review is taking place and to give you an opportunity to be involved.

Cumbria Safeguarding Adult Board would like you to contribute your views and experiences to the review if you feel able as families are often in a position to really help us understand what it is agencies need to do better so that future professional practice is able to improve.

The information in this document has been designed to explain what happens in a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR).

### What is a Safeguarding Adult Review?

The purpose of a Safeguarding Adult Review is to establish how organisations, agencies and professionals worked together to support an adult.

The review concentrates on the work of the professionals, organisations and agencies who have been involved to understand what might have been done differently that could have prevented harm or death.

This is not an enquiry into the cause of an individual death or injury. It is completely separate from any investigation being undertaken by the Police and/or Coroner.

A Review Group will be set up and the members could include representatives from Health, Adult Social Care and the Police with other organisations or agencies asked to attend or provide information. There will also be a Chairperson of the Review Group who is independent of the organisations involved, and an Independent Reviewer who will write a report.

Once it is known that a Safeguarding Adults Review has been agreed, each organisation or agency may be asked to gather and analyse any professional records relating to the individual and their family.

## What happens next?

Each agency or organisation will provide the Safeguarding Adults Review group full details of what services provided and when.

The group will consider all information gathered in detail to find out if expected standards of work have been met and that organisational or agency policies and procedures have been followed. A summary of the decisions that were made, services that were either offered and/or provided and any other actions that were taken will be considered in detail.

This is to identify whether any lessons can be learned about the way agencies and organisations work together to safeguard adults.

## How long will the Review take?

SARs follow a process which examines events in detail and so these can take several months to complete but the Review Group will keep you updated regularly.

## Publication of the SAR

The final SAR report will normally be published on Cumbria Safeguarding Adults website. The report will be fully anonymised and will not contain any identifying details. It will be made available to all professionals to ensure that the lessons learned and recommendations are put into practice.

## How will you be involved?

Where possible the Review Group will give you and other family members (where appropriate), the opportunity to share your views and comment on the services received. If appropriate, it is likely you will be contacted by the Chair of the Review Group through a practitioner who knows you and your family.

When the review has been completed agencies and organisations will then consider what actions they may need to take to change the way they support adults and their families.

If appropriate, the Chair of the Review Group will meet with you to outline the findings, lessons learnt and recommendations from the review.

If you have any queries about a review, please contact the Board Business Manager;

[csab@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:csab@cumbria.gov.uk)

01228 226455

Further information can be found on our website;

**Cumbria Safeguarding Adults Board**