

Safeguarding Adults Board and Review

Safeguarding Adults Board

Under the Care Act 2014, each local authority must set up a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB). The main objective of a SAB is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements are in place, and partners act to help and protect adults at risk in its area. The Croydon SAB has an independent Chair.

The SAB has a strategic role that is greater than the sum of the operational duties of the core partners. It oversees and leads adult safeguarding across the Borough and considers a range of matters that contribute to the prevention of abuse and neglect.

A SAB has three core duties:

- It must publish a strategic plan for each financial year that sets how it will meet its main objective and what the members will do to achieve this. The plan must be developed with the involvement of the local community, the local Healthwatch, and partners.
- It must publish an annual report detailing what the SAB has done during the year to achieve its main objective and implement its strategic plan, and what each member has done to implement the strategy as well as detailing the findings of any Safeguarding Adults Reviews and subsequent action.
- It must conduct any Safeguarding Adults Review in accordance with Section 44 of the Act.

Practitioner: If you need to approach the SAB for information or to present/discuss a case, contact the SAB Manager.

Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR)

The SAB must arrange a SAR when an adult in its area dies as a result of abuse or neglect, whether known or suspected, and there is concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult. The SAB must also arrange a SAR if an adult in its area has not died, but the SAB knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect.

In the context of SARs, something can be considered serious abuse or neglect where, for example, the individual would have been likely to have died but for an intervention, or has suffered permanent harm or has reduced capacity or quality of life (whether because of physical or psychological effects) as a result of the abuse or neglect.

The SAB can arrange for a SAR in any other case involving an adult in its area with needs for care and support. The SAB should be primarily concerned with weighing

up what type of 'review' process will promote effective learning and improvement action to prevent future deaths or serious harm occurring again. This may be where a case can provide useful insights into the way organisations are working together to prevent and reduce abuse and neglect of adults. SARs may also be used to explore examples of good practice where this is likely to identify lessons that can be applied to future cases. See SAR procedures for more details.

The purpose of having a Safeguarding Adult Review is not to reinvestigate or to apportion blame, but rather it is:

- To establish whether there are any lessons to be learnt from the circumstances of the case, about the way in which local professionals and agencies work together to safeguard vulnerable adults
- To review the effectiveness of procedures
- To inform and improve local inter-agency practice
- To improve practice by acting on learning
- To highlight good practice.

Referrals are not initially heard at the full Croydon SAB but go to a Committee of the Board known as the Safeguarding Adults Reviews Committee, which is a committee set up specifically to hear such cases and decide on action required. Not all cases will require a full SAR but may have learning events and processes. These may include:

- systems analysis
- learning together (events/away days)
- significant incident learning process
- significant event analysis/audit
- appreciative inquiry.

Practitioner: Therefore, if you consider that a safeguarding case you are involved with may be suitable for a SAR, check with your manager, complete the referral form and send to the SAB Manager at csab@croydon.gov.uk. If you are in doubt, email the Safeguarding Adults Coordinator in order to discuss the case. Send emails via secure email (such as EGRESS).

See flow chart below:

