

## Safeguarding Adults Review – Information for families and carers



### Introduction

- When an adult who needs care and support dies and abuse or neglect is thought to have been a factor, the Safeguarding Partnership may need to review what has happened. This is called a Safeguarding Adults Review or SAR. Safeguarding Partnerships must also arrange a SAR when an adult with care and support needs has not died, but the partnership knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect.
- These reviews are undertaken to find out if any lessons can be learned about the way organisations have worked to support and protect the person who suffered harm.
- We understand this is likely to be a very difficult time for family and we want to learn as much as possible about how to do things better in the future.
- We would welcome family involvement in the process as much as possible. We believe families, friends and carers should be able to discuss any concerns they may have and to share their thoughts and opinions.
- This information tells you about what happens when a Review needs to happen and what you should expect.

### What is the Northumberland Children and Adults Safeguarding Partnership (NCASP)?

- NCASP brings together all the main organisations who work with adults who have care and support needs who may be unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect as a result of those needs – this is called an ‘adult at risk’. The Board works together to help and safeguard adults at risk from abuse or neglect.

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

- The purpose of a Safeguarding Adult Review is to find out how organisations, agencies and professionals work together to keep adults, who need care and support, safe from abuse or neglect. It also aims to prevent what happened from happening to others.
- A Review will try to ensure that organisations providing public services like Councils, Health services, Police and other organisations understand what happened and identify where responses to the situation could be improved.
- These Reviews will not seek to lay blame but to consider what happened and what could have been done differently. They will also recommend actions to improve responses to keep adults with care and support needs safe from abuse or neglect in the future.
- Safeguarding Adult Reviews are part of the Care Act 2014 and became law from 1st April 2015.

- The review is completely separate from any investigation being undertaken by the Police and/or Coroner and it concentrates on the work of the professionals, organisations and agencies who have been involved with your family.

#### How will we undertake the review?

- The review will be overseen by a panel formed of members from local statutory and voluntary bodies which may include Adult Social Care, Health Services, the Police and sometimes other organisations. The panel will not include any individuals who have been directly involved with the adult.
- NCASP will also appoint an Independent Report writer (or author) with the appropriate skills and experience, and who will be independent of any of the organisations involved in the Review.
- This Report writer will gather information from those organisations who worked with the adult, and other people who were important to the person, including family members, friends, or carers. This is to identify whether any lessons can be learned about the way agencies and organisations work together to safeguard adults at risk.
- They will produce a final report with recommendations on how to improve future practice.
- 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 at risk and their families.

#### How long will the Safeguarding Adult Review take?

- The Safeguarding Adults Review is usually completed within 6 months of the original referral. However sometimes they can take much longer, because of the complexity of the situation, and other related investigations, enquiries or court proceedings.

#### Your involvement in the review

- Family, friends and carers can be the best people to help us understand what happened. Your contribution will be valuable and may help change the way organisations respond to keeping adults with care and support need safe from abuse or neglect.
- We understand 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 give you an opportunity to be involved.
- If you do decide to take part in the review, we will ask you to share your understanding of what happened and why. You can give your thoughts and views in a face-to-face meeting, via a telephone conversation or in writing.
- The information you share will help us to build a fuller picture of what happened and in turn will help us identify recommendations for change.

- An Independent Advocate will be provided to an adult who needs assistance with the process but does not have anyone to assist them.
- If family members choose not to take part in the Review, we will still ensure they are kept fully informed of the outcome.
- The decision to take part in this SAR is entirely yours and if you do not wish to take part your decision will be respected. If you decide not to take part, we will contact you again to let you know when the SAR has been completed and if the report is going to be published.

#### What will happen to the information you share?

- The information you share will help us to build a comprehensive picture of what happened and will help us identify recommendations for change. These recommendations will then be put into an action plan.
- Your contribution will be confidential, and you will not be named in the final report.

#### Outcome of the Safeguarding Adults Review

- A final overview report will be produced which will identify what lessons have been learned and make recommendations for NCASP. An action plan will be produced as a result.
- NCASP will approve the final version of the report, which will be shared with family.

#### Publication of the Safeguarding Adults Review

- The final overview report will normally be published on the NCASP webpage [Adults safeguarding](#). The report will be fully anonymised and will not contain any identifying details. It will be available to all professionals to ensure that the lessons learned, and recommendations are put into practice. However, where there is highly sensitive information, a redacted summary may be created for publication.

#### Further information and support

If you require any support or information regarding the Review please contact the NCASP Safeguarding Adults Business Manager:

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