

Safeguarding Adults Reviews:

Information for Families

What is Salford Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB)?

Salford Safeguarding Adults Board brings together all the main organisations who work with adults who have care and support needs and as a result of those needs, may be unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect – this is referred to as an ‘adult at risk’. The Board works together to ensure that there are effective arrangements in Salford to try keep adults at risk safe from abuse or neglect.

What is a Safeguarding Adults Review which can also be known as a SAR?

A Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) looks at how local organisations worked together to look after the adult at risk at the centre of the review. It may also look at how they are working with other adults at risk in the immediate family or care settings. The review considers what was done, what worked well, what lessons can be learned for the future and what changes may need to be made.

A Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) is not an enquiry into the cause of an individual death or injury. It does not look for someone to blame and it is completely separate from any investigation being undertaken by the police or a coroner. The SAR concentrates instead on whether care professionals and organisations can learn anything from what happened.

The purpose of a learning review is;

- To establish whether there are lessons to be learned about the way in which local professionals or organisations work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults at risk
- To identify clearly what those lessons are, how they will be acted upon and what changes might be necessary
- To improve how agencies work together and better safeguard adults at risk.
- To identify any areas of good practice and what worked well.

Why are we carrying out a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR)?

Salford Safeguarding Adults Board will carry out a SAR whenever an adult at risk has been seriously harmed or has died in circumstances where abuse or neglect is suspected or confirmed and agencies could have worked better to protect that individual.

This is a requirement set out in the [Care Act 2014](#).

Who Will Carry Out the Review?

There are different ways in which a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) can be done, but they all involve gathering as much information from as many sources as possible. There may be occasions when an independent person will be commissioned to produce a report and make recommendations about what actions and learning is required. Regardless how the review is undertaken there is a review team which is a panel of professionals from Adult Social Care, the Health Service, the Police, Mental Health Services and other organisations that may be involved in

the case who will oversee the review and will try to work out exactly what happened, and why. They will consider whether things could or should have been done differently, and ask questions to improve how things could be done better in the future

The review panel will meet to review reports from each organisation or agency which has worked with or provided services to the adult at risk or their family. The Lead Reviewer or Author will prepare a report. This report will say what lessons have been learnt or need to be learnt and make recommendations for Salford Safeguarding Adults Board.

What will happen after the report is finished?

Salford Safeguarding Adults Board will write an action plan to make sure improvements are made to the way organisations work together to keep adults at risk safe. Sometimes an individual organisation involved in the review will also write their own action plan which will work alongside the action plan created by the review panel.

The final report and action plan will then be presented to the Salford Safeguarding Adult Board for the members of the Board to have an opportunity to read the report, ask questions of the author and provide authorisation for the report to be published.

Salford Safeguarding Adults Board will make sure the actions are completed and improvements are made.

What will I / we have to do?

You do not have to do anything. However, you will have the opportunity to give your views if you would like to. We will make sure that there is someone who can help you to do this (see contact details of the Business Manager below).

Who will see the report?

Before the report is presented to the Salford Safeguarding Adults Board, the full report will be kept confidential to those people who represent their organisations at Salford Safeguarding Adults Board and the staff within those organisations who worked with the adult at risk and their family or contributed to the review until it is published. The Executive Summary sets out the key findings and recommendations of the review. It does not give any personal details or information which would identify the adult at risk, family or anyone else involved.

The Business Manager of the Board will meet with you and discuss the findings of the report before it's published on the website. If this meeting takes place before the report has been seen by the Salford Safeguarding Board you will need to sign a confidentiality agreement to confirm that the report will not be shared prior to publication.

As mentioned earlier the purpose of a Safeguarding Adults Review is not to re-investigate or apportion blame but to establish whether lessons can be learnt from the circumstances that may improve practice or the way in which agencies and professionals work together to safeguard adults at risk. This is the reason why the Safeguarding Board supports publication of the reviews to enable transparency and it also reinforces the focus on learning and improvement.

Once published on the SSAB website, it is available to anyone who wants to read it. This is to ensure that the learning is shared as widely as possible.

How long will the review take?

The review will be undertaken as quickly as possible. However, in some cases it can take around six to nine months from the start of the review to publication of the report.

Who can I contact?

In this information leaflet we have answered some of the most frequently asked questions families have about Safeguarding Adults Reviews. Of course, each case is different and you may have other questions you would like to ask. If so, you can contact the person named in your attached letter or you can contact Jane Bowmer, the Safeguarding Adults Board Manager.

Complaint/Concern

If you have a complaint, you must contact the SAB Manager in writing, who will then arrange for your complaint to be considered by the SAB Independent Chair.

A response would be received within 28 days of receipt of your complaint. If you are unsatisfied with the outcome of your complaint, you should contact the SAB Manager who will arrange for the SAB Independent Chair to reconsider your points.

The Independent Chair will provide a further written response within 28 days. All written complaint responses will include details of how to contact the Local Government Ombudsman.

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Additional support

We understand being involved with a Safeguarding Adult Review can be very upsetting because you have to re-live or be reminded of challenging and difficult times especially if you have lost someone close to you.

If you feel you need additional support we have included some contact numbers and useful links on the page below.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information leaflet but please do not hesitate to contact Salford Safeguarding Adult Board Business Manager if you feel you need any further information.

Jane Bowmer
Salford Safeguarding Adults Board Manager

Tel: 0161 212 6176

Email: jane.bowmer@salford.gov.uk

Additional Support

Greater Manchester Bereavement Service provides a directory of bereavement support and counselling services across Greater Manchester.

Telephone number - 0161 983 0902

Cruse

Telephone number - 0808 808 1677

Six Degrees provide bereavement counselling to adults in Salford bereaved by suicide.

Samaritans offer 24 hour confidential listening and support for anyone who needs it.

They can be contacted 24 hours a day for free on 116 123

Gaddum provide bereavement counselling for young people in Salford.

0161 834 6069

info@gaddum.org.uk

Once Upon a Smile provide bereavement support for families, including children following the loss of a parent or sibling.

0161 711 0339

Info@onceuponasmile.org.uk