

Derbyshire **Safeguarding Adults** Board



Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)
A guide for families, friends and carers

What is the Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board?

The Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board (DSAB) works with organisations across Derbyshire to ensure they have safeguarding policies and procedures in place and work together in the best way possible to protect adults with care and support needs.

What is a Safeguarding Adult Review?

Safeguarding adults boards have a duty to carry out a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) when an adult dies as a result of abuse or neglect, whether known or suspected, and there is information to suggest that partner agencies could learn lessons and improve the way they work together to support adults at risk in the future. A SAR may also take place when a person has not died but it is known or suspected that they have suffered serious abuse, harm or neglect. The full criteria of a SAR are set out in the Care Act 2014.

The SAR brings together and analyses the findings from individual agencies involved, in order to make recommendations for future practice where this is necessary and also highlights good practice.

The DSAB has a SAR sub-group which meets quarterly to discuss and make decisions regarding new referrals, oversees current reviews and ensures learning from reviews is used to make improvements to services. The group also monitors reviews from other safeguarding adults boards to ensure any relevant learning for Derbyshire is considered.

Who will carry out the review?

The review will be supported by agencies who have worked with the adult. Each agency will provide a panel member who has not been directly involved in the case.

The DSAB will also appoint a lead independent reviewer with the appropriate skills and experience to join the panel. The panel and

lead reviewer will contact the key family members, carers, professionals and organisations who were involved with the adult to invite them to contribute to the review.

How long will the review process take?

The review should be completed within a reasonable period of time usually within six months, unless there are good reasons for a longer period being required.

Family, friends and carer involvement in the review

The DSAB believes it is important that its reviews include family members or important people in the adult's life. We will ask you to share your experiences so that we can understand fully what happened, identify what lessons should be learned and what has worked well and you can contribute to developing recommendations for future practice.

The DSAB will contact you early in the process to discuss the review and agree how much you wish to be involved.

If you decide you would like to contribute to the review, you will be asked to share your understanding of what happened and why. You can give your thoughts and views in different ways. Some examples include having a face-to-face meeting with the independent reviewer, a telephone conversation or providing feedback in writing. It is your decision as to how much involvement you would like to have in this review and you can provide information confidentially. The review will still go ahead if you decide not to contribute as we have a legal duty to undertake a SAR.

We understand that this might be a difficult and upsetting time for you and we will try to support you as much as possible if you decide to contribute.

Who will see the report?

The report and recommendations will be presented to DSAB members for sign off and will also be shared with any family members, friends or carers who have contributed to the review. If possible, the report will be published on the DSAB's website but sometimes a decision is made to not publish depending on the circumstances of the case. Any published reports are completely anonymised so that people, places and staff cannot be identified.

The DSAB will write an action plan based on the findings of the review to make sure any recommended improvements are made to services. The SAR sub-group is responsible for making sure that agencies report on their progress and provide evidence for how practice has changed and improved.

Further information

If you have any questions, please contact the DSAB office, email derbyshiresab@derbyshire.gov.uk

For further information please visit: www.derbyshiresab.org.uk

