



One minute guide

Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR)

Number 4, December 2018

What is a Safeguarding Adults Review

A Safeguarding Adult Review is a multi-agency process that considers whether or not serious harm experienced by an adult (or group of adults) at risk of abuse or neglect, could have been predicted or prevented.

The process identifies learning that enables the partnership to improve services and prevent abuse and neglect in the future.

The Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board SAR process is only relevant to an adult with care and support needs in the area if there is reasonable cause for concern about how safeguarding partners worked together to safeguard the adult and either of the following conditions are met:

- The adult has died, and there is a suspicion that the death resulted from abuse or neglect (whether or not it knew about or suspected the abuse or neglect before the adult died) or
- The adult is still alive, and there is a suspicion that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect.

What is Considered Abuse and Neglect

In the framework of a SAR, something that can be considered serious abuse or neglect is where an individual would have been likely to have died but for an intervention, or has suffered permanent harm, has reduced capacity or reduced quality of life as the result of abuse or neglect. Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board is also free to arrange a SAR in other situations involving an adult in its area with care and support needs.

A SAR will include the following: to establish any lessons that can be learned, to give the adult/adult's advocate a voice, to review how effective Coventry's procedures are, to highlight good practice and to improve multi agency practice.

How Does It Work

The criteria around holding a SAR is set out in the Care Act of 2014. The SAR will consider why and how serious abuse or neglect happened to an adult and what could have been done to prevent it happening. It will also look at whether partner agencies could have worked together differently to better protect the adult and prevent the abuse or neglect.

A SAR is to identify and share lessons learned to prevent similar abuse or neglect from happening again in Coventry. It is not to apportion blame.

Under Section 44 of the Care Act, Safeguarding Adults Reviews are a statutory requirement. Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board is the only body that can carry out a SAR within the Coventry area.

The initial stage of an eventual SAR is for a professional to undertake a safeguarding enquiry to identify whether there are multi agency lessons to be learned. This recommendation will then be included within a SAR referral form and taken to the SAR subgroup for consideration. Every request for a SAR is heard by the SAR subgroup and agreed by the Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board.

Once it has been agreed that a SAR should be held, then a panel of all partner agencies involved is agreed. This panel is chaired by an independent person and an independent report author is appointed. The Terms of Reference are written and all relevant partner agencies will collaborate and contribute fully to the independent author's investigations.

What Happens Once the SAR is Completed

Once the review is completed, it is anonymised and presented with an action plan to the full Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board and is then taken to the Health and Social Scrutiny Board 5 of Coventry City Council. Each agency involved with the review will then complete and evidence any actions allocated to that agency. This is monitored by the SAR Subgroup and signed off by the Quality Assurance and Performance Subgroup of the SAB. If appropriate, the findings of the review are also shared with the adult and/or their family.

Key Contacts and Further Information

SAR Toolkit for Professionals

http://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/4434/serious_adult_review_tool_kit

Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board website

<http://www.coventry.gov.uk/csab>

Education Health and Care Plans information including contact details

[Coventry City Council EHC](#)