



Safeguarding Adults Reviews **(SARs)** *A Guide* for Families and Friends





Introduction

The Safeguarding Adults Executive Board (SAEB) is a partnership of organisations across the Bi-Borough of Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea who work together collaboratively to safeguard adults with care and support needs from abuse, neglect and exploitation

This leaflet tells you what happens when a Safeguarding Adults Review needs to be undertaken and what you should expect as a family member, friend or carer involved in the review process.

What are Safeguarding Adults Reviews?

Safeguarding Adults Reviews are part of the Care Act 2014 and became law from 1st April 2015. They do not replace but may be in addition to the inquest or any other form of inquiry or review.

The SAEB has a duty to commission a Safeguarding Adults Review when an adult in its area dies or suffers 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 aim of the review is to give organisations an opportunity to reflect, learn and put processes in place to prevent similar things happening to others. The review process will ensure that organisations like the Council, the Police, health partners and other community-based organisations understand what happened that led to the incident, are able to identify where responses to the situation could be improved and will also recommend actions to improve services in the future. These reviews will not seek to lay blame but to consider what happened and what could have been done differently.



How will we undertake the review?

There are different ways in which a SAR can be done, but they involve gathering as much relevant and proportionate information from as many sources as possible. The SAEB will often commission an Independent Reviewer to undertake the review and this person will look at all the information available and they may wish to talk to the people involved, including yourself and other family members, if you agree. They will provide a report to the SAEB which sets out their findings and recommendations.

Your involvement in this review:

We acknowledge that this is likely to be a difficult time for you and we want to learn all we can for the future. It is very important that, wherever possible, we hear the views of the family, friends and carers who knew the adult. We will ensure that you have a point of contact and that we keep you informed of progress and you will have an opportunity to see the report before it is published. We would like to hear about what your family member/friend was like, what your thoughts are about anything positive and anything that could have been done differently about the services they received. You might also want to recommend other people who should be invited to give their views.

If you do decide to take part in the review, we will ask you to share your understanding of what happened and why. If you do not wish to be involved we will respect your decision.

You can give your thoughts and views in all or some of the following different ways:

- Face-to-face meeting with us,
- Via a telephone conversation, or
- In writing or via a recording.



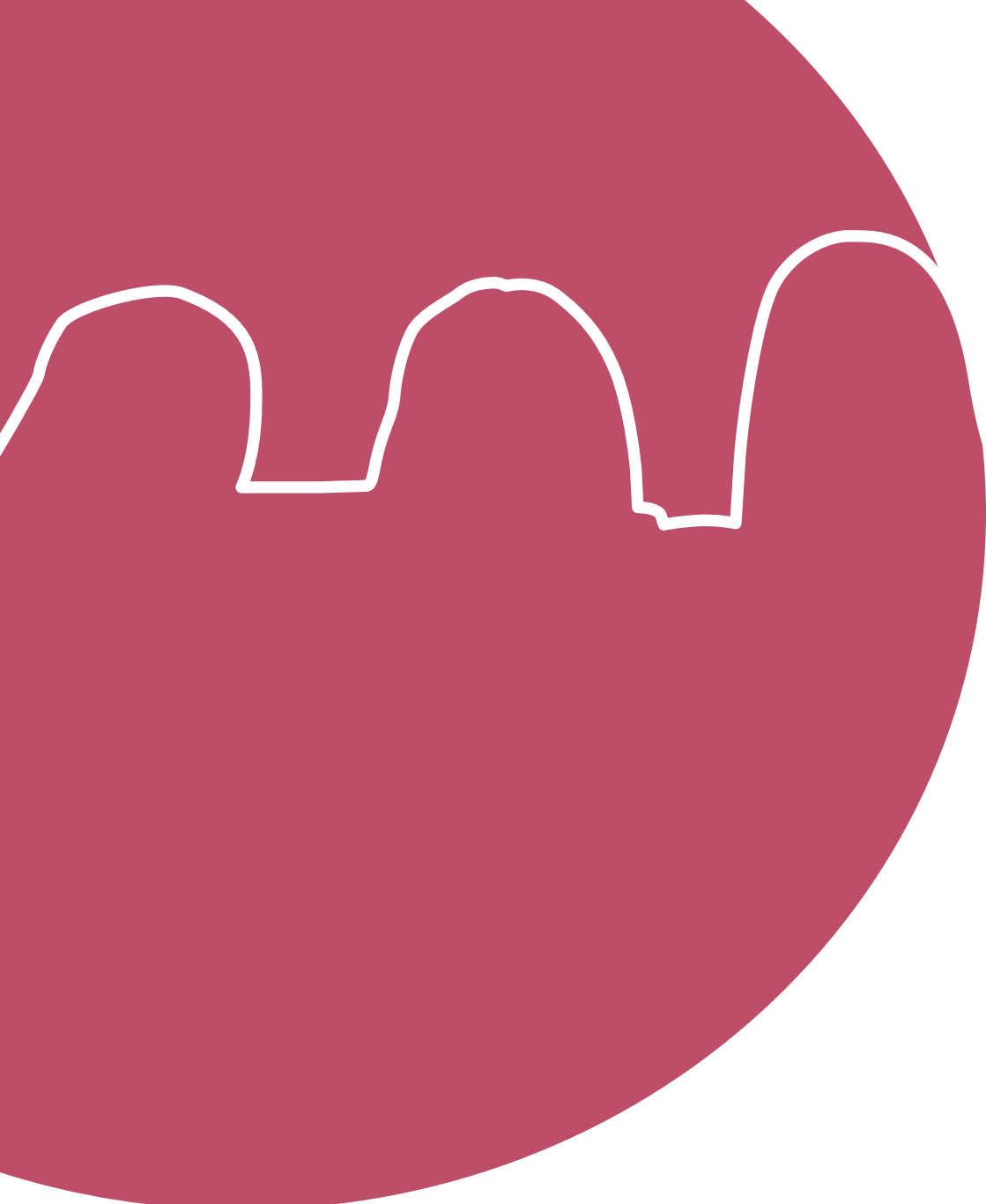
What happens to the information you share?

The information you share will help the review team to build a comprehensive picture of what happened to the person and in turn will help the team formulate their recommendations for change. Your input will be confidential, and you will not be named in the review report unless you wish to be. Your contribution will be valuable and may help change the way local organisations respond to serious situations in the future.

How long will the review process take?

It is really difficult to say how long a review will take, it very much depends on the amount of relevant information to be gathered and/or people spoken to. You will be given a point of contact who will contact you by your preferred means to keep you updated so that you know how the review is progressing.





Next Steps:

If you would like to take part or have any further questions about the review process, please contact the person who has signed the letter attached to this leaflet. They will either answer your questions or direct you to someone who can.

A detailed report outlining an overview of the case and recommendations will be agreed by the SAEB. You will have a chance, if you wish, to read the report before it is published. An action plan will be developed to ensure any recommendations made in the report are taken forward appropriately.

Publication:

The Care Act says that the SAEB should consider publishing the review so that others may also learn from the findings. Your views on this will be taken into consideration but it is hoped that you will support any decision to publish the report on the SAEB website which will be anonymised, and no real names used.

If you have any questions you can contact us in a number of ways:

Email: makingsafeguardingpersonal@rbkc.gov.uk

Visit: www.saeb.org.uk

Write to us:

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A huge thank you
to our Safeguarding
Ambassadors who
co-produced
this leaflet.

