

Camden Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board

Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR)

A Guide for families, friends and carers

This leaflet tells you what happens when a SAR is required to be undertaken, and what you should expect.

What is the Camden safeguarding Adults Partnership Board?

The Camden Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (CSAPB) is a partnership of organisations who work with adults and their families. It is made up of Police, Council, NHS, Prison, voluntary and private sector organisations. The partnership works collaboratively to safeguard adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect.

What is a Safeguarding Adults Review?

The Care and Support Statutory Guidance 2016¹ states when an adult who needs care and support either dies or suffers harm, and when abuse or neglect is thought to have been a factor, the Safeguarding Adults Board need to review what has happened. This is called a Safeguarding Adults Review often called a SAR for short.

Reviews are held to see whether there is learning about the way organisations worked together to support and protect the person who suffered harm. This learning is then used to make any improvements necessary.

It is important to note a SAR is not an enquiry in to the cause of death or injury. It does not seek to punish or blame anyone involved and is completely separate to any investigations undertaken by the police or a Coroner. A SAR is focused purely on learning and improvement.

The CSAPB acknowledge this is likely to be a very difficult time for families, friends and carers, however, they have a duty to learn as much as possible about how to do things better in the future.

The CSABP wants families, friends and carers to be involved in the review process as much as possible to provide their opinions, concerns and to ensure the reviewers know as much as possible about the person who has died. Where a person has suffered significant harm but has not died, the person will be supported to be involved in the review if they wish to be.

¹ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/315993/Care-Act-Guidance.pdf



Who will undertake the review?

Review panel members who analyse the events prior to the death or serious incident, will be experienced people from a range of statutory, voluntary and private sector agencies. The CSAPB will appoint an Independent Reviewer to join the panel and write the final report. The Independent Reviewer will make contact with all those involved with the adult including family, friends and carers.

How can I share my views?

Relatives, friends and carers are very important to the review and the understanding of the person and what happened to them. When a SAR is first commissioned, the Independent Chair of the CSAPB will make contact with family members as early as possible.

If you decide you would like to contribute to the review, you can share your thoughts and opinions in a number of ways. For example, you can meet face to face with the Independent Reviewer, have a telephone conversation, provide a recording or write a letter.

You can be involved as much or as little as you wish. You may also agree how you would like to be kept up to date with the progress of the review and how you would like to receive the final report. A SAR can take up to six months to complete and sometimes longer if it is very complex. Explanations will be provided for any delays.

What happens when the review is complete?

The final report must be approved by the CSAPB and family, friends and carers given an opportunity to discuss it before sharing it publicly on the CSAPB website. The identity of the person who died is normally kept confidential unless family request that the person's own name is used. Family may discuss with the Independent Author what name or initials they would like used in the report. Where the person is still living, they will be offered to support to share views on how they would like to be known.

Following publication of the review, the CSAPB will oversee the actions required from agencies and the CSAPB itself, in order to make any necessary improvements.

The CSAPB will also report on the progress of improvements required following the SAR in its next Annual Report.

For further information about Safeguarding Adult Reviews or other work of the CSAPB, please contact the Board Manager, Fatima Fernandes on:

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