

## Advocacy

In some circumstances it may be appropriate for an Independent Advocate to support the adult to understand and participate in the SAR process. Your Key Worker can tell you more about this.



**If you would like further information about Safeguarding Adult Reviews or to provide feedback on how you have found the SAR process, please contact:**

Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board Business Unit

**Telephone:** 01642 527263

**Email:** [tsab.businessunit@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:tsab.businessunit@stockton.gov.uk)

# Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)

**Information for Adults, Families,  
Friends and Carers**

This leaflet tells you what a Safeguarding Adult Review is and what you should expect.

## What is the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB)?

TSAB is a partnership of organisations across Teesside who work with adults who have care and support needs. They work together to help keep people safe from abuse and neglect.

## What is a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR)?

TSAB will carry out a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) whenever an adult with care and support needs has been seriously harmed or has died and abuse or neglect is suspected and there are lessons to be learnt about how organisations worked together.

A SAR is not an enquiry into the cause of death or injury. It does not seek to blame **or hold individuals/agencies to account** but is a multi-agency learning process to consider what happened and what could have been done differently to prevent similar instances occurring in the future. A SAR does not replace, but may be in addition to a Coroner's Inquest or other forms of inquiry or review.

TSAB has a legal duty to carry out a SAR when the criteria has been met.

## How is a SAR carried out?

Usually, TSAB will appoint an Independent Reviewer, who has not been involved with the case to lead the SAR and write a report. The Reviewer will gather as much information as possible to understand what happened and why. The SAR will be supported by agencies who have worked with the adult. **In some cases a report may not be required and another approach may be taken to address the learning—your Key Worker will talk to you about this.**

## How can I share my views?

SARs can take place at a time that is very difficult and distressing for families. It is important however for you to have the opportunity to be involved if you would like to. Your views are important to help understand what happened. You can be involved in the SAR as much or as little as you would like and can change your mind at any point. **Your Key Worker will be your point of contact throughout, you can share your views with them and they will ensure that your views are listened to.**

Your input will help the Independent Reviewer to understand what happened to develop meaningful recommendations within the report. You will be asked for your views on how you would like the adult to be referred to in the report and whether or not they should be named - other people, places and staff cannot be identified within the report. If you would like to be involved your Key Worker (see details opposite) will talk to you about this.

## How long will the SAR take?

Once an Independent Reviewer has been appointed a SAR usually takes about six months to complete. However it very much depends on the amount of information to be gathered and/or people spoken to. A SAR can also be delayed if there are other proceedings (such as criminal investigations). Your Key Worker can keep you updated on how the review is progressing.

## What happens when the SAR is complete?

The Independent Reviewer or Key Worker will offer to meet/speak with you to discuss the findings of the review before publication. The report may be published on the TSAB website ([www.tsab.org.uk](http://www.tsab.org.uk)) so that others can learn from the findings.

Media interest for cases is rare. However, your Key Worker will make you aware of any known press interest as soon as possible.

Once the SAR is complete, TSAB will write an action plan based on the findings to make sure any recommended improvements are made to services. Evidence is gathered over time to show how practice has changed.

## Complaints

TSAB has a Complaints Policy & Procedure in relation to its core duties and can be accessed via the TSAB website ([www.tsab.org.uk](http://www.tsab.org.uk)). If you would like to make a complaint about a specific service, please speak to them directly or your Key Worker for advice.

## Next Steps

The decision to take part in the review is entirely yours and if you do not wish to take part in the SAR your decision will be respected. If you would like to be involved please speak to your Key Worker:

**Name:**

**Job Title:**

**Telephone:**

**Email:**