GUIDE TO
SAFEGUARDING ADULT REVIEWS

The vision of the Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board is that all adults in Surrey live a life free from fear, abuse and neglect.

WHAT IS A SAFEGUARDING ADULT REVIEW?

When someone with care and support needs – such as mental illness, learning or physical disabilities, or dementia – dies or is harmed as a result of abuse or neglect and it is thought that agencies could have worked better together to prevent the death, Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board needs to understand what has happened and why, in order to take action and stop the same thing happening again. This process is known as a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR).

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The purpose of a SAR isn't to place blame. A SAR aims to help the organisations and agencies involved with the person who has been harmed to understand what could have been done differently and to explore how things can be done better in future.

HOW DOES THE REVIEW PROCESS WORK?

The exact process will vary, but in a typical review:

» A multi-agency panel will be formed to gather and analyse as much information as possible from the professionals and agencies involved with the adult at risk. This may include Adult Social Care, hospital trusts, the person's GP, the police and the ambulance service.

» An independent person will usually be asked to review the information to understand what happened, consider how best to prevent future harm, and make recommendations for change.

» The whole process generally lasts six months to a year.

Family, friends and carers are a vital part of this process:

» If you choose to take part in the review, you'll be given a chance to share your views on what happened and why.

» You won't have to attend a face-to-face meeting if you don't want to. You can share your thoughts in writing or over the phone if you prefer.

» Even if you decide not to take part in the SAR, you'll be kept informed and notified of the outcomes.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE REVIEW?

At the end of the review, the Safeguarding Adults Board will publish a report outlining the findings and any decisions that have been made. This report will be published on the Safeguarding Adults Board's website; however, any identifying details will be removed.

GETTING HELP

To find out more about the SAR process, or to request a SAR, contact us: **surreysafeguarding.adultsboard@surreycc.gov.uk**

If you're worried that a person may be at risk of harm, contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH):

» Call on **0300 470 9100**
» Text on **07527 182861**
» Email **ascmash@surreycc.gov.uk**
» Out of hours, call **01483 517898**

In an emergency, or if you believe someone is in immediate danger, always dial 999 for the police.

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