



Safeguarding Adults Review 'Bernard'

Publication Statement

The Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) has today published the findings of a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) regarding Bernard.

This SAR was commissioned to ensure that there was an independent review of the circumstances surrounding the death of Bernard, in order to identify any insights and learning about the ways in which professionals and agencies worked together to safeguard him.

The purpose of a Safeguarding Adult Review is to promote learning and improve practice, not to re-investigate or to apportion blame.

Firstly, I would like to extend my sincere condolences to Bernard's family who have suffered a great loss, and we thank those who knew him and contributed to the review

The review considered the following specific issues.

- Assurance that all Agencies are meeting their Care Act 2014 duties to an Adult with care and support needs.
- All agencies are ensuring their staff or volunteers and those that commission services are applying the Mental Capacity Act 2005 effectively, when working with someone who may lack capacity.
- All agencies are to ensure that their staff are aware of the importance of understanding conscious or unconscious bias, when assessing or working with Adults with care and support need.

As well as highlighting good practice, the review identified important learning and key areas for further improvement. The SSAB accepts the recommendations in full and will work with agencies to share and embed this learning within respective organisations and the wider system.

The SSAB will hold involved agencies to account and seek assurance that the recommendations are implemented and also monitor the impact of changes to ensure that others are protected in the future.

Teresa Bell,
Independent Chair
Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board
May 2025