

## **Safeguarding Adults Reviews - Information for Families**

### **What is Bolton Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB)?**

Bolton Safeguarding Adults Board brings together organisations who work with adults who have care and support needs and as a result of those needs, may be unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect – this is referred to as an 'adult at risk'. The Board works together to ensure that there are effective arrangements in Bolton to try keep adults at risk safe from abuse or neglect.

### **What is a Safeguarding Adults Review (often referred to as a SAR)?**

A Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) looks at how local organisations worked together to look after the adult at risk at the centre of the review. It may also look at how they are working with other adults at risk in the immediate family or care settings. The review considers what was done, what worked well, what lessons can be learned for the future and what changes may need to be made.

A Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) is not an enquiry into the cause of an individual death or injury. It does not look for someone to blame and is separate from any investigation being undertaken by the police or a coroner. The SAR concentrates on whether organisations and professionals and volunteers can learn anything from what happened.

The purpose of a learning review is;

- To establish whether there are lessons to be learned about the way in which local professionals or organisations work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults at risk.
- To identify what those lessons are, how they will be acted upon and what changes might be necessary
- To improve how agencies work together and better safeguard adults at risk.
- To identify any areas of good practice and what worked well.

### **Why are we carrying out a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR)?**

Bolton Safeguarding Adults Board will carry out a SAR whenever an adult at risk has been seriously harmed or has died in circumstances where abuse or neglect is suspected or confirmed and agencies could have worked better to protect that individual. This is a requirement set out in the Care Act 2014.

### **Who Will Carry Out the Review?**

There are different ways in which a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) can be done, but they all involve gathering information from agencies that knew or had involvement with the adult. There may be occasions when an independent person will be commissioned to produce a report and make recommendations about what actions and learning is required. Regardless how the review is undertaken, there is

likely to be a review panel, which is a team of professionals from Adult Social Care, the Health Service, the Police, Mental Health Services and other organisations that may have been involved with the adult. The review panel will oversee the review and will try to work out exactly what happened, and why. They will consider whether things could or should have been done differently and ask questions to improve how things could be done better in the future.

The review panel will meet to review reports from each organisation or agency which has worked with or provided services to the adult at risk or their family. The Lead Reviewer or Author will prepare a report. This report will say what lessons have been learnt or need to be learnt and make recommendations for Bolton Safeguarding Adults Board.

### **What will happen after the report is finished?**

The final report will be presented to the Bolton Safeguarding Adult Board for the members of the Board to have an opportunity to read the report, ask questions of the author and provide authorisation for the report to be published. In some circumstances the report it may not be appropriate to publish the report.

Bolton Safeguarding Adults Board will work with the review panel to produce an action plan to make sure improvements are made to the way organisations work together to keep adults at risk safe. Sometimes an individual organisation involved in the review will also write their own action plan which will work alongside the action plan created by the review panel.

Bolton Safeguarding Adults Board will make sure the actions are completed and improvements are made.

### **What will I / we have to do?**

You do not have to do anything. However, you will have the opportunity to give your views if you would like to. We will make sure that there is someone who can help you to do this (see contact details of the Safeguarding Board Manager below).

### **Who will see the report?**

During the review process, only the Chair / Author and review panel members representing their organisations will see the report. Once the report is finalised, it will be shared with the Safeguarding Adult Review Sub-group and the Safeguarding Adults Board.

Once the report has been agreed by the board, it will normally be published on the Board's webpages. This can either be in the person's actual name, where it's been agreed with the family or an anonymised version.

A representative of the board will meet with you and discuss the findings of the report before it's published on the website. This could be the review chair / author, the chair of the Safeguarding Board or the Board Manager. If this meeting takes place before the report has been seen by the Bolton Safeguarding Board, you will need to sign a

confidentiality agreement to confirm that the report will not be shared prior to publication.

The purpose of a Safeguarding Adults Review is not to re-investigate or apportion blame but to establish whether lessons can be learnt from the circumstances that may improve practice or the way in which agencies and professionals work together to safeguard adults at risk. Publishing the report helps us to share the learning.

Once published on the BSAB webpages, it is available to anyone who wants to read it. Most reports are published without personal details to protect the identity of the adult.

In some circumstances, the Board may decide not to publish the report because of sensitive issues or concerns. If this happens, or if you have any worries about publication, we will talk this through with you. If the report cannot be published, we will create another way to share the learning. It is important that the learning is shared wherever possible whilst remaining sensitive to the adult and respecting their privacy.

### **How long will the review take?**

The review will be undertaken as quickly as possible. However, in some cases it can take around six to twelve months from the start of the review to publication of the report.

### **Who can I contact?**

In this information leaflet we have answered some of the most frequently asked questions families have about Safeguarding Adults Reviews. The circumstances in each review is different and you may have other questions you would like to ask. If so, you can contact Michelle Hulme, the Safeguarding Adults Board Manager.

### **Additional support**

We understand being involved with a Safeguarding Adult Review can be very upsetting because you have to re-live or be reminded of challenging and difficult times especially if you have lost someone close to you.

If you feel you need additional support we have included some contact numbers and useful links on the page below.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information leaflet but please do not hesitate to contact Bolton Safeguarding Adults Board Manager if you feel you need any further information.

**Michelle Hulme**

**Bolton Safeguarding Adults Board Manager**

Email: [boltonsafeguardingadultsboard@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:boltonsafeguardingadultsboard@bolton.gov.uk)

Tel: 07824 557 936

### **Additional Support**

**Greater Manchester Bereavement Service** provides a directory of bereavement support and counselling services across Greater Manchester.

Telephone number - 0161 983 0902

#### **Cruse**

Telephone number - 0808 808 1677

**Samaritans** offer 24 hour confidential listening and support for anyone who needs it. They can be contacted 24 hours a day for free on 116 123

**Once Upon a Smile** provide bereavement support for families, including children following the loss of a parent or sibling.

0161 711 0339

[Info@onceuponasmile.org.uk](mailto:Info@onceuponasmile.org.uk)

Thanks to Salford Safeguarding Adults Board who originally produced this information and have given us permission to adapt it for Bolton.