

hitting, teasing, stealing money or benefits
intimidation, **neglect**, leaving on own
scalding, **restraint**, withholding food and drink, ignoring needs
emotional abuse, sexual abuse, bullying
pushing, pinching, **coercion**, shaking
blaming, isolating, misusing medication

Serious Case Reviews Explained

Working Together
to safeguard adults

in Solihull

What are Serious Case Reviews?

The purpose of a serious case review is not to reinvestigate or to apportion blame, it is to:

- Establish whether there are lessons to be learned from the case in which local professionals and agencies work together to safeguard vulnerable adults.
- Identify what those lessons are, how they will be acted upon and what is expected to change as a result within a given timescale; and as a result to improve practice.
- Inform and improve local inter agency working.
- Review the effectiveness of procedures (both multi agency and those of individual organisations) and make recommendations for improvement.
- To prepare or commission an overview report which brings together and analyses the findings of the various reports from agencies in order to identify the learning points and make recommendations for future action.

Serious Case Reviews are not enquiries into why an adult dies or who is culpable. These are matters for the Coroner's Court, Criminal Courts and employment procedures as appropriate.

Serious Case Reviews are also not disciplinary proceedings and should therefore be conducted in a manner which facilitates learning and appropriate arrangements must be made for support of those staff involved.

Who are responsible for Serious Case Reviews?

The Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) has the lead responsibility for conducting a serious case review.

What are the criteria for a Serious Case Review?

A Serious Case Review should be considered if the following criteria are met.

- When the adult at risk experiencing abuse or neglect dies (including suicide), or it is suspected that abuse or neglect contributed to or was a factor in their death. In such circumstances the SSAB should always conduct a review into the involvement of agencies and professionals associated with the adult at risk.
- When an adult at risk adult has sustained a potentially life threatening injury through abuse, neglect, sexual abuse or sustained serious or permanent impairment of health or development through abuse or neglect, and the case gives rise to concerns about the way in which local professionals and services work together to safeguard adults at risk.

Working Together
to safeguard adults

in Solihull

- In circumstances involving the abuse and neglect of a large number of adults at risk or multiple people causing harm. With regard to institutional abuse there must be clear evidence that standards of care are so low that all or the majority of service users are at risk.
- Where a case(s) gives rise to concerns about the way in which local professionals and services work together to safeguard adults at risk.
- Any case(s) where there are public interest issues and where the SSAB agree there is a specific need to carry out a review.

How to make a referral?

Any agency or professional can request a Serious Case Review by writing to the Chair of the Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board with a copy to the Solihull Safeguarding Adults Business Manager (the case must meet the criteria for a Serious Case Review).

The referral must include all relevant details about the adult(s) at risk and the particular circumstances giving rise to the request. A Serious Case Review Referral form is available at www.solihull.gov.uk/adultabuse

The Chair of Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board with the Chair of the Quality and Audit Subcommittee and Safeguarding Adults Business Manager will consider the circumstances and can make the following decisions:

- The criteria has not been met and the request denied.
- The Serious Case Review criteria has been met and should proceed.

If a request is denied

If a request is being declined, the reasons will be recorded in writing and shared with the referrer and the Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board.

In such circumstances, the Chair of Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board could request a service to conduct a Management Review relating to this case/situation.

Management reviews are reviews undertaken by a single agency/organisation and are a critical analysis of that organisation's management of the case.

Management reviews will identify lessons the organisation has learnt from the review and the actions they intend to take to address them.

Management reviews will be reported through the Safeguarding Adults Quality and Audit Sub Committee.

When a request is accepted

When a request is accepted, the Chair of Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board will:-

1. Notify the referring agency and all constituent agencies.
2. Notify all Board members, a Serious Case Review has been accepted.
3. Instruct the Quality & Audit Sub Committee to set up a Panel and appoint an independent Chair/Author.
4. Organise for all records, from all agencies involved, to be secured.
5. Where applicable notify the victim and/or their family as appropriate.
6. Inform the Care Quality Commission.
7. Notify other Safeguarding Adults Boards who have an interest in the case that Solihull is conducting a Serious Case Review.

Once a Serious Case Review has been accepted, no member agency should comment publicly upon the case without the express agreement of both their senior management and the Chair of the Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board.

How are Serious Case Reviews Conducted?

The Panel will be identified on the basis of independence of the immediate management of the case under review.

An independent chair will be identified.

Terms of reference will be established.

All agencies involved in the case will be Identify and will be required to complete an Individual Management Review.

Special consideration will be given as to how families can be involved in the case review. Each case is unique and it is therefore is important that careful consideration is given to the best means of achieving this.

The Panel will review all Individual Management Review Reports, have an opportunity to seek clarification if required and will identify findings and agree the overall issues and make recommendations.

The independent Chair will produce a full report and an executive summary for publication.

Working Together
to safeguard adults

in Solihull

Reporting to the Safeguarding Adults Board

All Serious Case Reviews will be presented to the Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board.

The SSAB will be responsible for ensuring learning from Reviews take place and are embedded into day to day practices.

The SSAB will usually publish an Executive Summary on their website.

Serious Case Review Executive Summary can be found on the Safeguarding Adults Documents page.

Working Together
to safeguard adults

in Solihull