

A guide to multiagency review: your involvement

Multiagency review processes

Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (formerly known as Domestic Homicide Reviews), Safeguarding Adults Reviews and Safeguarding Practice Reviews are one way to improve responses to domestic violence, safeguarding children, and adults. They aim to prevent what happened to in either a domestic homicide or a serious safeguarding incident from happening to others. They try to ensure that public bodies like social services, councils, police, housing, and community-based organisations understand what happened that led to the need for the review and identify where responses to the situation can be improved. From this, the public bodies hope to learn all the right lessons including those which impact and support how they work together more effectively.

These reviews will not seek to lay blame but to consider what happened and what could have been done differently. They will also recommend actions to improve responses to domestic abuse and safeguarding situations in the future. A key focus is on learning across our system at the individual, service and strategic level.

All three reviews are statutory and involve gathering information from professionals who engaged with parties relevant to the review. This document sets out what those professionals can expect from a review process and is intended to alleviate any concerns about the process you might have.

You can find out more about the three types of reviews by following these links:

<https://www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk/who-we-are/community-safety-partnership/domestic-abuse-related-death-reviews-dardr/>

<https://www.norfolksafeguardingadultsboard.info/publications-info-resources/safeguarding-adults-reviews/>

<https://norfolkscp.org.uk/people-working-with-children/child-safeguarding-practice-reviews>

Value of engagement

We understand that engaging in a review process may be daunting, scary, or upsetting. It may not be something you may have done before. Hearing your voice as part of the process ensures we do not miss something important and the direct knowledge you have of a case will influence the outcome of the review. Your involvement could help to provide you with closure and assure you that there will be lessons learnt from the case.

What you can expect

Information gathering work is always focused on gaining learning to inform the review. You will not be blamed as part of this process.

Your unique knowledge of the case can help direct learning for the review, which can lead to stronger practice and wherever possible preventing events like this happening again.

There is no set approach to undertaking reviews, but generally they undertaken using principles of no blame, an openness to learning from the case, a willingness to listen and share, and using a victim centred approach.

- 1-2-1 conversation with your safeguarding lead/panel members.
- You may be asked for a written submission about your experience.
- There may be a small group discussion with others from your organisation online or face-to-face.
- There may be small group discussion between a number of organisations coming together online or face-to-face.
- There may be a bigger event, bringing together multi-agency partners to discuss the case.

Each review is unique in its circumstances. Ahead of any event, meeting or any written submission you are asked to make, you will be given more specific information on the ask.

You will be encouraged to play an active role in shaping the event. Consider what you want to get out of the event.

Support available to you

Your organisation is responsible for your wellbeing in taking part in a review before, during and afterwards. The safeguarding lead/panel member will be able to help you navigate to the support available to you. If you want to access support outside of your organisation, you could seek to access help via your GP or the Wellbeing Service - <https://www.wellbeingnands.co.uk/norfolk/>.

If there is something you would like to ask ahead of a session that will help you engage, please ask.

How to approach involvement in information gathering process to inform a review

- Be open and honest.
- Feel safe in sharing your experience.
- Ask questions based on your direct involvement, to help the review identify learning.

FAQs

Will this impact my job?

The review process is not about apportioning blame. Disciplinary action and professional development are all out of scope of the review process. Anything disclosed during information gathering regarding professional conduct would be dealt with in line with your own organisational policy.

Would you be interested in what I have got to say?

Yes, you may have unique and crucial experience and knowledge of working with involved parties that support lessons being identified and acted upon.

How long will this take?

It depends. Reviews can be very complicated processes that may be delayed by criminal justice, inspectorate processes or other review processes. The process may take months and can take up to couple of years to complete.

Will I be supported to attend any events / meetings?

Yes, your organisation will provide you with support from senior colleagues to attend any meetings or events that relate to multiagency review.

Who else will attend the events / meetings?

This will depend on who else is involved in the review. Generally, it will be safeguarding leads and senior representatives of statutory services, which could include police; council services, such as housing or social services; Integrated Health Board commissioned health services, such as GPs, mental health services, community health care, or hospitals; the probation service; fire and rescue service; or relevant voluntary sector providers. Only those professionals who need to be there will be and you will be told who has been invited prior to attending.

What will the outcome be?

The review will make local and sometimes national recommendations to organisations who will develop action plans that they agree to deliver.

Do I have to take part?

Taking part is encouraged as it will support the creation of learning for the review. If you want to have a five-minute break from the meeting or leave, you will be supported to do so.

Will I be identified in the final report?

No, all reports do not discuss the names of professionals who worked directly with the subjects of review.

What will you do with my information?

The input that you provide will be used to inform the creation of the report and be stored confidentially by the organisation that manages the review process, deleting all files in line with retention policies.