

## Publication of the Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) in respect of Phyllis

The Rotherham Adult Safeguarding Board (SAB) has today published the findings of an independent report into the circumstances of the death of Phyllis on 9 June 2013. The review was undertaken in accordance with obligations under Section 44 of the care Act 2014. The purpose of a review is to examine whether agencies and individuals involved in the case in question might have done things differently to prevent harm or death. Findings are published setting out actions which need to be taken to prevent re occurrence. It is not the role of a SAR to hold individual organisations to account, apportion blame or address professional negligence. Where such issues exist, these matters are addressed in other legal processes.

A death in any circumstances is a tragedy and the Board wishes to extend its deepest sympathy to the family of Phyllis and acknowledges the length of time it has taken for the review to be commissioned.

The independent reviewer was engaged to conduct a SAR using the significant incident learning process. She identified a number of recommendations for action and noted a number of improvements which had already been made. An action plan has been prepared which will be overseen by the Rotherham SAB and progress reported in the annual report.

During the course of agreeing this report, there have been a number of contacts with Phyllis's son. It would always be the aim of the Board to establish agreement with the family on the findings of a SAR. However, it is regrettable that in this instance it has not been possible. Attached to the report is a separate statement representing the view of the family.

The Rotherham SAB considered the family statement prior to agreeing the final report and very much regret that the family remains dissatisfied.

Sandie Keene CBE  
Independent Chair  
Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board