



### Section 1 What is a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR)?

A SAR is a multi-agency review process, which seeks to determine what relevant agencies and individuals involved could have done to have prevented harm or death from taking place. It will establish whether there are lessons to be learned and promote effective learning and improvement to prevent future deaths or serious harm happening again. A SAR should reflect the six safeguarding principles of **empowerment, prevention, proportionality, protection, partnership and accountability**

### Section 2 Background

Ian was a 47 year old gentleman who had a diagnosis of Schizophrenia (unspecified) and a history of involvement with mental health services dating back to 1995. In June 2014, Ian became homeless and deterioration in his mental health, with an associated risk of suicidal thoughts, led to an admission into hospital. He was receiving care and support under the 'Care Programme Approach' (CPA) and went on to live in supported accommodation under the provisions of Section 117 aftercare. On 12th April 2017, Ian was found dead at his flat in Harrogate after taking his own life.

### Section 7 Key learning: Support planning

There was a lack of an effective support plan in place for Ian whilst he was residing within supported living accommodation. This would have supported the CPA process and given clear guidance to staff who were supporting Ian. Comprehensive support plans are to be in place for all vulnerable people who may take up residence at premises owned or managed by the Council.

### Section 3 Key Learning: Mental Health

There were early warning indicators during Ian's contact with services that would suggest a possible deterioration in his mental health. It is important that all agencies recognise that deterioration in an individual's mental health does not always manifest itself with a crisis episode. All agencies are to ensure that mental health training is of sufficient quality and available to all staff and included within their contractual requirements

### Section 6 Key Learning: Professional Challenge

There is clear evidence throughout the review of a lack of professional challenge. There are many instances where records indicate staff from different organisations did not agree on a course of action but these concerns are not raised or escalated. All agencies are to be aware of when and how to use professional challenge / curiosity and have effective guidance and training to support.

### Section 5 Key Learning: Care Programme Approach

Ian was receiving care and support under CPA. There were elements of the CPA which were not followed in line with current guidance.

Organisations with responsibility for CPA planning are to have effective systems in place to scrutinise the review processes for identification and management of risk.

### Section 4 Key Learning: Information Sharing

It is acknowledged within the SAR that information was shared and stored differently across the agencies involved in supporting Ian. The sharing of, and access to, this information is vital when working collaboratively to provide the appropriate level of support to individuals in their services. Guidance for effective information sharing is to be followed and can be found within the Safeguarding Adults **Joint Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures** and **Information Sharing Agreement**.

The Joint Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures can be found [here](#)



**For the full SAR report click here**