

7 minute briefing – February 2024:

Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) for ‘Ivan’

For all those working with adults, children and families

A SAR takes place when an adult with care and support needs is seriously harmed or has died due to abuse and/or neglect and there are concerns about how agencies have worked together. Its purpose is to look at what happened / why / what action will be taken to improve practice as a result of the review’s findings.



Strategic Partnership Boards
SAFETY SAFEGUARDING WELLBEING

1 About Ivan

‘Ivan’ was a single 69-year-old white British man who loved the outdoors. He had become estranged from his family and was described by some as a bit of a ‘loner’. He was found deceased in Epping Forest in March 2023 after a brief period of being missing. Following his death, it was agreed by the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) that there was learning about how agencies worked together whilst providing care and support under the deprivation of liberty safeguards.

2 SAR findings

The review concluded that systemic improvement is needed in relation to providing high level leadership to develop a local protocol and understanding about risk management and responses regarding vulnerable people at risk of going missing. The SAR also recognises the importance of the SAB priority [Mental Capacity](#) and DoLS and the need to improve practitioners’ awareness and understanding in this area.

3 What needs to change?

A swifter response to vulnerable people who go missing

The review stresses the importance of the ‘golden hour’ which relates to the police investigation once someone is reported missing. The following action is needed in the event of someone vulnerable going missing:

- A sense of **urgency**
- Partners **working together**
- Support and **guidance from leaders**
- Prioritising the missing person and **clearing diaries** as required
- **Sharing of accurate information** with the right people
- **Single points of contact**
- Timely access to **CCTV footage**
- **Use of escalation** as needed – ([Note the escalation processes](#))



The Waltham Forest Local Safeguarding Partners have accepted the review’s findings and recommendations and have committed to working together to improve practice. Points 3 to 6 outline what needs to change.

7 WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

- **SHARE this briefing** and SAR Ivan within your team and networks
- **ADOPT this principal:** Finding a missing person is Police-led and involves collective, immediate and urgent action by all
- **FOLLOW UP safeguarding concerns** with a conversation where required
- **NOTE the actions** required when reporting a vulnerable person missing
- **REFRESH your understanding of mental capacity** – [refer to the local guidance to assessing mental capacity](#)

6 What’s next?

The SAB is developing a local missing toolkit and protocol which is part of a wider action plan that will be used to understand how practice has changed and what difference has been made since Ivan’s tragic death.

5 What needs to change?

Checking mechanisms for residential care providers

+ **Better oversight by the SAB**

Direct work will take place with residential care providers and the SAB will explore how to improve oversight of the effectiveness of safeguarding measures for vulnerable people in residential care, particularly those at risk of going missing.

4 What needs to change?

The culture around responses to safeguarding concerns

The SAR references the low expectations around receiving a response by those initiating safeguarding concerns. An automated response from MASH is in place however not all agencies confirm receipt of this which will be further explored.

The review reinforces the importance of following up any safeguarding concerns with human conversation / contact, particularly when no confirmation of receipt has been received.