

DEBORAH BARNETT

SAFEGUARDING ADULT REVIEW CHAIR AND REPORT AUTHOR CV

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Independent Social Worker | Safeguarding Consultant | Expert Witness | SAR Chair and Report Author | Trainer | Published Author

Professional Profile

Deborah Barnett is an Independent Social Worker, safeguarding consultant, Safeguarding Adult Review Chair and Report Author, Expert Witness, published author and national trainer. She has more than thirty years' experience in adult social care and safeguarding, including frontline practice, operational and strategic leadership, Safeguarding Adults Board work, independent review, consultancy and professional learning.

Her review practice is systemic, trauma-informed and evidence-led. It begins with established national and local learning, identifies what is distinctive about the case, examines why known learning was not enacted, and links recommendations to implementation, ownership and measurable assurance.

Safeguarding Adult Review Expertise

- Independent Chairing and report authorship for mandatory and discretionary Safeguarding Adult Reviews.
- Individual or case-specific reviews, thematic reviews and repeat-learning/gap-analysis reviews.
- Terms of Reference, review methodology, panel governance, evidence schedules and proportionate project planning.
- Systemic analysis across direct practice, inter-agency collaboration, organisational conditions, Board governance and the national context.
- Meaningful involvement of the adult, family, advocates, practitioners, managers and partner agencies.
- Analysis of trauma, loss, suicide, domestic abuse, homelessness, self-neglect, hoarding, executive functioning and complex multi-agency safeguarding.
- Practitioner learning events, reflective enquiry, accessible executive summaries, seven-minute briefings and implementation tools.
- Recommendations that distinguish new learning from established learning and identify barriers to implementation.
- Action and assurance planning focused on evidence that learning has changed routine practice and outcomes.

Selected Published Review Work

- SAR Paul – individual review addressing trauma, mental ill health, domestic abuse, suicidal distress, cultural considerations and multi-agency safeguarding.
- Bexley Thematic Self-Neglect Review – multi-case analysis of trauma, loss, executive functioning, engagement and systemic responses to self-neglect.
- SAR PB and Paul Gap Analysis – repeat-learning review examining suicide, trauma responses, executive dysfunction and barriers to embedding previous learning.
- Additional thematic and safeguarding review work concerning self-neglect, hoarding, complex risk and multi-agency practice.

Relevant Leadership and Practice Experience

- Former Safeguarding Lead and Chair of a Safeguarding Adults Board.
- Strategic and operational adult safeguarding leadership across local-authority and partnership settings.
- Independent safeguarding consultancy, complex-case review, audit, supervision and organisational assurance.

- Mental-health and substance-misuse social work, multi-agency risk management and complex community practice.
- MARAC chairing and experience of domestic abuse, professional challenge and partnership decision-making.
- National Mental Capacity Act advisory and training work.
- Qualified teacher and experienced facilitator of practitioner, management and strategic learning events.

Review Methodology

The review method is tailored to the Terms of Reference and scale of the commission. It may include chronology and documentary analysis, agency reports, family and practitioner interviews, learning events, hypothesis-led enquiry, national and local learning comparison, functional decision-making analysis where relevant, and an implementation tracker. The approach is non-blaming while remaining clear about accountability, professional standards, systemic barriers and the evidence required for improvement.

Qualifications and Professional Standing

- Diploma in Social Work – University of Northumbria at Newcastle (2001).
- Postgraduate qualification in Applied Sociology: Equality, Diversity and Criminology (2001).
- Practice Teacher Award – University of Sunderland (2007).
- PGCE / adult teaching qualification – New College Durham (2012).
- Registered Social Worker: Social Work England SW67557.
- Member of the SAR Reviewers Network Community of Practice.

Professional Approach

Deborah works independently within the agreed commission, distinguishes evidence from analysis and opinion, and gives fair consideration to the perspective of the adult, family, practitioners and agencies. Her reports are designed to be clear, proportionate and usable by Safeguarding Adults Boards, practitioners, leaders and the public.

Commissioning

Scope, methodology, deliverables, timescale and fees are agreed with the commissioning Safeguarding Adults Board. Current professional rate: £100 per hour, plus agreed travel and accommodation expenses where required. No travel time is charged unless expressly agreed otherwise.