

Statement on Simon SAR from the RWSAB Independent Chair

On behalf of the Richmond and Wandsworth SAB and Executive, I would like to express our condolences to Simon's sister and family on the sad circumstances of his death.

The Richmond and Wandsworth Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) commissioned an independently led Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) concerning the multi-agency support provided to Simon until 6th March 2023 when he died at his home. Simon had serious physical health conditions following substance misuse and received mental health support.

I appreciate the very full involvement Simon's sister had in influencing the SAR with the Independent Author Trish Stewart, to share her clear views. The Author ensured Simon's sister was involved through the process of the SAR, and acknowledged her feelings about the multi-agency care and how the support to her brother did not meet expectations for him or for her. In particular, the SAR found multi-agency consideration should have been given regarding the impact of his serious ill health and a non-malignant diagnosis in order to access End Of Life Care.

We acknowledge and regret the distress caused and are grateful for the learning that has come about by the SAR process. A key recommendation is to ensure multi-agency partners understand that those with substance misuse and non-malignant diagnosis can access the available palliative care pathway. Additional recommendations include having a better understanding of a person's mental capacity, discrimination concerning misuse of substances when there is no homelessness and assuring use of health communication tools to accurately convey physical deterioration for those with alcohol dependency. These recommendations have all been accepted and will be actioned by the multi-agency partners with oversight by the SAB Executive.

The SAB will monitor the implementation of the recommendations through the multi-agency action plan. This will aim to assure improvements are achieved with continued learning and collaborative ways of working to try to prevent such a situation from happening again.

Christabel Shawcross

21-05-2025