

Seriously Vulnerable Individuals Procedure

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BACKGROUND

The SVI procedure has been in place since 2010 following several serious case reviews in the UK, notably that of Stephen Hoskins, where partner agencies need to respond to situations where an adult may be at risk of serious harm or death.

INTRODUCTION

This procedure does not replace existing multi-agency processes and is not a substitute for processes such as: Adult Protection Procedures, MAPPA, MARAC, and Channel (Prevent multi-agency meeting).

The SVI procedure will only be used where the adult at risk does not fall within existing partner agency processes / multi-agency processes.

E.g. Adult Care staff would initially consider Adult Protection Procedures or Risk Enablement Meeting.

The procedure is to facilitate effective multi-agency working with adults who are at risk of serious harm or death and where the adult at risk does not fall within existing partner agency processes / multi-agency processes. These individuals often have chaotic lifestyles, where risks are out of control, and the person may display very difficult behaviour. The picture often emerges over time due to a culmination of events. The procedure focuses on individuals who are at the highest level of risk and cause a high level of concerns to partner agencies.

This may include an individual who:

- Appears not to have care and support needs but is potentially an adult at risk.
- Is not receiving services as they are deemed not eligible or have refused or stopped services.
- Is on the margins of social care eligibility criteria and receiving little or no support.
- Does not meet section 42 or Adult Protection criteria but there is concern that they are at risk of harm.
- Is exposed to serious risk to life, even when there does not appear to be specific or immediate safeguarding / adult protection concerns.

Case example:

Steven Hoskins was a vulnerable man who did not have care services in place. He was physically, financially and emotionally abused in his own home. Steven was tortured, made to take an overdose and jump off a viaduct to his death. The Serious Case Review found that Steven had made numerous calls to various agencies, including the Police, Health Services and Social Services. Every agency had information and a piece of the jigsaw but did not discuss the information they held or concerns they had with other agencies. SCIE state that people who are on the margins of social care eligibility criteria and receiving little or no support may highlight their need by repeatedly calling on emergency services. SVI process is about sharing key pieces of information as in the learning identified from the case of Steven Hoskins. SVI meetings are bespoke meetings. Meetings should be chaired

by a senior officer e.g. Head of Adult Care to chair meetings where Adult Care is the lead agency.

Information Sharing

This protocol should be read in conjunction with the LSAB Information Sharing Agreement (ISA) and related practice toolkit. Information sharing is an essential part of the SVIP to determine whether an individual requires support and for agencies to determine the level of risk and any action needed.

All partners participating in the SVIP process will as a matter of course consider whether the information shared is necessary and proportionate and in line with a lawful basis.

Parties to this agreement should be mindful of their own internal policy, the LSAB ISA, and the regionally agreed Information Sharing Agreement.

Parties should always consider a default position of seeking consent and where this is not possible, that their lawful basis for sharing is recorded, for example, when sharing information is for the purpose of safeguarding an adult.

When an adult is referred under the SVIP and a meeting convened, all parties with knowledge of the adult may be requested to attend and share information to support identifying any appropriate action/steps.

Referral process

- Referrals must be authorised by a senior manager / officer in the individual organisation.
- Referrals should be submitted to the SAB Business Unit via secure e-mail (sabsecured@durham.gov.uk).
- SAB Business Manager (or Strategic Manager Safeguarding in the absence of the SAB Business Manager e.g. during annual leave):
 - in consultation with partner agencies will recommend the most appropriate agency to chair the SVI meeting.
 - Where there is disagreement / dispute over who should chair the SVI meeting, the SAB Business Manager will notify the SAB chair and re-consult agencies.

SVI meeting process

- SAB Business Unit will co-ordinate the SVI meeting, organise minutes and any subsequent reviews.
- Invitations to SVI meetings should be to those of a senior position to make a decision for their agency.
- SVI research form – information held by agencies to be shared and collated at the meeting, this is particularly important when an agency is unable to attend the meeting.
- Agency identified to chair the SVI meeting and any subsequent reviews.
- SVI Action Plan to be completed at the SVI meeting.
- Outcome of SVI meeting to be fed back to SAB Business Unit to enable a log to be kept of SVI meetings.
- Where there is disagreement / dispute the SAB Business Manager will notify the SAB chair.

It is recommended that each SAB partner agency identify a Single Point of Contact (SPoC). This will assist the SAB Business Unit to contact agencies when needed.

All SAB partner agencies are responsible for informing their staff of this procedure.

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Concerns re: vulnerable individual at risk of serious harm or death
SVI procedure will only be used where the adult at risk does not fall within existing partner agency processes / multi-agency processes.



Individual known to any SAB partner agency - agency to consider SVI procedure.



Where appropriate complete referral and provide to SAB Business Unit (sabsecured@durham.gov.uk).



SAB Business Manager to screen referral and consider whether criteria is met for a SVI meeting.



Where criteria is met - SAB Business Manager in consultation with partner agencies will recommend the most appropriate agency to chair the SVI meeting. Where there is disagreement / dispute over who should chair the SVI meeting, the SAB Business Manager will notify the SAB chair and re-consult agencies.



SAB Business Unit to co-ordinate the SVI meeting, organise minutes and any subsequent reviews. Invitations to attend SVI meetings should be to those of a senior position to make decisions for their agency.



Outcome of SVI meeting to be fed back to SAB Business Unit to enable a log to be kept of SVI meetings.

Seriously Vulnerable Individuals Meeting

REFERRAL FORM – return to sabsecured@durham.gov.uk

(Agencies should refer to the agreed SAB information sharing protocol for related guidance)

Individuals name	
DOB	
Address	

Referring Agency	
Contact person	
Email	
Tel	

Reason for referral:
Relevant information held by the agency in respect of the individual:

Outcome of referral (administration use only)
