

# Safeguarding Adult Review

## 7 Minute Briefing

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### Introduction

Section 44 (1) of the Care Act 2014 places a statutory duty on Safeguarding Adults Boards (SAB) to conduct Safeguarding Adult Reviews in certain situations. They must conduct mandatory reviews for adults with care and support needs where there is reasonable cause for concern about how professionals worked together to safeguard the adult; and certain conditions are met

### Conditions for a SAR

Condition 1 is met if:

a) The adult had died, and b) The SAB knows or suspects that the death resulted from abuse or neglect (this is regardless of whether or it was known about beforehand).

Condition 2 is met if:

a) adult is still alive, and b) the SAB know or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect. SABs can also arrange discretionary reviews in any other case.

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### Purpose of the SAR

Agencies who were involved with the adult are required to co-operate and contribute to the carrying out of a review with the aim not to re-investigate or apportion blame but to identify any lessons to be learnt to improve practice from the adult's circumstances and applying those lessons to future cases.

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## **Making a referral**

Any agency, professional, or individual may refer cases for consideration of a SAR.

The case can be referred to the Safeguarding Adults Review Committee (SARC) by completing a [Safeguarding Adult Review Form template](#).

The referrals must have been discussed with your organisations Safeguarding Adult Board Lead prior to submitting. If your organisation does not have a SAB representative then the Local Authority SAB Lead, should be contacted.

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## **Who decides when to hold a SAR?**

The Safeguarding Adults Board has a Safeguarding Adults Review Committee that considers referrals for SARs. The group makes recommendations to the Safeguarding Adults Board on whether a SAR should be held or if other steps can be taken to respond to the issues that a case has raised.

## How is a SAR carried out?

If the decision is to proceed with a Safeguarding Adults Review, an independent author will be appointed to conduct this appropriately.

Once completed the findings of the review will be reported back to the SAB with any action plans identified. The SAB then monitors the implementation of these plans with the help of the Safeguarding Adults Review Committee. The executive summary and agreed action plan is published and made available to the public, which is agreed with the family members or appropriate others.



## Additional Resources and further Reading

[SAR Policy and Procedure 2018 \(Updated 2020\)](#)