



## North Tyneside and Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board

### COVID-19 related Safeguarding Adults Review referrals

#### Position Statement:

All members of the North Tyneside and Northumberland Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) wish to express their condolences to anyone who has lost a loved one during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

As we now move into a new phase of the response to the pandemic, there has been much discussion about the possible increase in adult safeguarding concerns that may come to partners' attention. During the lockdown there has been less face to face contact with people with care and support needs by their family, friends, neighbours or professionals. Care homes have been a particular concern, since they have been closed to visitors during this time. **Raising a safeguarding concern for an adult continues to be a duty for all partners in accordance with the Care Act (2014).**

#### Safeguarding Adults Review:

The purpose of a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) is clearly outlined in the statutory guidance, to 'promote effective learning and improvement action to prevent future deaths or serious harm occurring again'. The aim is that lessons can be learned from the case and for those lessons to be applied to future cases to prevent similar harm re-occurring. A SAR is a **key tool to identify learning and improvement for North Tyneside and Northumberland's adult safeguarding systems.**

The SAR does not hold any individual or organisation to account. Other processes exist for that purpose, including criminal proceedings, disciplinary procedures, employment law, and systems of service and professional regulation run by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), the Nursing and Midwifery Council, the Health and Care Professions Council, and the General Medical Council, Social Work England etc.

It is suspected there may be many potential cases from the pandemic which will give North Tyneside and Northumberland critical learning to help improve adult safeguarding. To enable the best learning possible and to avoid duplication in relation to COVID-19 related SAR referrals, for cases which meet the statutory criteria for a review the SAB will:

- consider where appropriate, whether a **thematic approach** to identifying common themes and learning can be used to develop system-wide learning for North Tyneside and Northumberland. This means cases would be reviewed together as a group, rather than individually
- look to share locally, regionally and nationally any emerging learning points as they arise, in recognition that the COVID-19 emergency continues and that lives may be saved by rapid dissemination of emerging learning.

The SAB will review and if appropriate step down this approach, in the light of any national enquiry into which individual cases can be referred to develop nationwide learning.

North Tyneside and Northumberland SAB wishes to **remind all partners** of the following:

- **If you know of a case where a person has died / suffered serious harm, and adult abuse was known or suspected, you must refer it for consideration as a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR).**

#### **How to make a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) referral:**

Anyone can refer a case for consideration as a SAR, and referrals should be made by completing the 'Consideration Request Form for a SAR'. Please complete the referral form with as much details as possible. SAR referrals are considered by the Safeguarding Adults Review Committee (SARC), a multi-agency subgroup of the SAB. Once a decision has been made by SARC, we will advise you whether or not the case meets the criteria for a SAR.

[Click here](#) to find more information about the criteria for a SAR and referral form.

#### **Date of issue:**

1 July 2020

DRAFT