



Social Care Information Sheet

Guide to Safeguarding Adults Reviews

What is a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) and what is it for?

The Care Act 2014 introduces statutory Safeguarding Adults Reviews (previously known as Serious Case Reviews), mandates when they must be arranged and gives Safeguarding Adults Boards flexibility to choose a proportionate methodology.

Safeguarding Adults Boards (SAB) must arrange a SAR when:

- an adult* in its area who dies of abuse or neglect, whether known or suspected

AND

- there is concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult*.

They must also arrange a SAR if:

- an adult* in its area has not died, but the SAB knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious** abuse or neglect.

** adult must be in the SAB's area and have needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority has been meeting any of those needs).*

*** serious abuse or neglect occurs when, for example, the individual would have been likely to have died but for an intervention, or has suffered permanent harm, or has reduced capacity or quality of life (whether because of physical or psychological effects) as a result of the abuse or neglect.*

A Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) is a process for all partner agencies to identify the lessons that can be learned from particularly complex or difficult safeguarding adults cases and implement changes to improve services in the light of those lessons.

The aim of the process is to learn lessons and make improvements rather than blaming individual people or organisations. It relies on a spirit of openness to learning, about what went well, as well as what could be improved.

How is it decided when to hold an SAR?

The process for undertaking SARs should be determined locally according to the specific circumstances of the case. No one model will be applicable for all cases. The SAB will need to weigh up what type of review process is proportionate to the case and will promote effective learning and improvements in practice to prevent future deaths or serious harm occurring again. The ultimate decision to arrange a SAR is the responsibility of the Independent Chair of the SAB.

How is a SAR carried out?

Upon confirmation that a SAR is to be undertaken and which model is to be used, an independent facilitator/author will be identified, who will assist in establishing the terms of reference for undertaking the SAR.

Individuals and agencies who have had involvement in the case will be identified and a formal request will be made that relevant individuals and agencies prepare and submit a report outlining their involvement with the adult and/or the adult's family.

How might I be asked to help?

People who have been involved in a case which is the subject of an SAR may be asked to provide information to the independent facilitator.

How can I get more information?

The SAR Protocol is published on Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults web pages at : <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gsab>